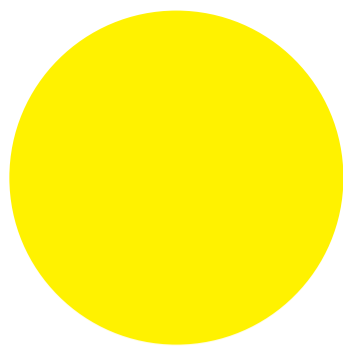


Araghchi starts three-leg diplomatic tour with Pakistan

2 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 8100 • Saturday, April 25, 2026 • Ordibehesht 05, 1405 • Dhu al-Qadah 07, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

Leader: Remarkable unity among Iranians shatters enemy ranks

Top officials hit back at Trump's ramblings

2 >

Iran's 700m-ton transport hub, Chabahar rail progress in focus at SCO

3 >



Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd, addresses the 13th Transport Ministers' Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via videoconference near the bombed-out B1 bridge, which was damaged in US strikes earlier this month, in Karaj, Iran on April 24, 2026.

IRNA



Jask Port busts US blockade, funnels oil to China
CBI pockets first revenue from Hormuz transit tolls

3 >



Why Trump decided to extend Iran cease-fire indefinitely

INTERVIEW

4 >



Kuhsorkh poised to become major tourism hub in Khorasan Razavi

7 >



'Moral bankruptcy': Backlash emerges over proposed Iran-Italy World Cup swap

6 >



Iranian architecture seen as mirror of civilization amid war damage

8 >



Leader: Remarkable unity among Iranians shatters enemy ranks

Top officials hit back at Trump's ramblings



International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei lauded the profound impact of the Iranian nation's extraordinary unity, saying that it has

inflicted a significant fracture on the enemy while urging practical gratitude to forge even stronger national cohesion. "Due to the remarkable unity created among compatriots, a fracture has occurred in the enemy," the Leader stated

in a message published on the X network on Thursday, highlighting how this unprecedented solidarity has disrupted the calculations of those seeking to undermine the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the need to express gratitude for this divine blessing through concrete actions, affirming that such efforts will render national cohesion "greater and more steely," while leaving the enemies "more wretched and diminished."

The Leader also drew attention to the enemy's ongoing psychological warfare, warning, "The enemy's media operations, by targeting the minds and psyches of the people, intend to undermine national unity and security; may our negligence not allow this sinister intent to come to fruition."

Ayatollah Khamenei's message comes at a critical juncture as the Islamic Republic stands resilient against multifaceted acts of aggression, including sanctions, threats, and propaganda campaigns orchestrated by the United States, the Zion-

ist regime and their Western allies.

This unity, born from the Iranian nation's deep-rooted faith and revolutionary spirit, has repeatedly proven to be an invincible shield, turning every hostile plot into an opportunity for greater advancement.

Earlier on Thursday, the three heads of Iran's executive, legislative, and judicial branches issued a collective response to US President Donald Trump, denouncing his remarks about "divisions between extremists and moderates" in Iran as unwarranted provocations.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei conveyed a powerful message to Trump, emphasizing a common theme of national unity and defiance.

In their statements, they dismissed the US president's classification of Iranian officials to extremists and moderates, asserting that all citizens in Iran identify as "Iranians" and "revolutionaries."

"In Iran there are no 'hardliners' or

'moderates'. We are all Iranians and revolutionaries. With ironclad unity of nation and state and obedience to the Leader, we will make the aggressor regret," Pezeshkian wrote on X.

"One God, one nation, one leader, one path; victory for Iran, dearer than life," he added.

Qalibaf also released a matching statement in a coordinated effort to showcase unity across Iran's three branches of power.

The judiciary chief echoed the view, using a stronger language.

"Despicable US president should know that terms like 'hardliner' and 'moderate' are meaningless constructs in Western political discourse. In Iran, all groups stand united in full alignment with the Leader," the top judge wrote.

Army chief Major General Amir Hatami also in a post on X said Iranians with the unity of the nation, the armed forces, and the three branches of government will make the criminal aggressor regret its actions.

Araghchi starts three-leg diplomatic tour with Pakistan



International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has embarked on a diplomatic journey to three countries of Pakistan, Oman and Russia amid prospects of holding another round of peace talks between Tehran and Washington.

IRNA reported that Araghchi's trip, beginning Friday, is focused on "bilateral consultations and discussions on ongoing regional developments, as well as the latest situation surrounding the imposed war by the United States and Israel against Iran." Before his departure, the Iranian foreign minister held phone calls with Pakistan's military chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and the country's top diplomat, Ishaq Dar. Araghchi also spoke to President of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, Nechirvan Barzani.

The trip to Pakistan comes as officials have been trying to get the United

States and Iran to a second round of negotiations, with questions persisting for days on whether Iran would agree to participate in further negotiations.

Iran has refused to participate in the second round due to the US violation of a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire by imposing a blockade on Iran's ports. Earlier on Friday, two Pakistani officials told The Associated Press about the visit. They declined to provide any other details, other than to say he would be accompanied by a small government delegation and could arrive as soon as Friday. The visit by the Iranian top diplomat to Islamabad has raised optimism about the second round of the negotiations after the first round failed to lead to an agreement which could put an end to the tensions in the region which have been caused by the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Iranian officials have blamed the US side for putting forward excessive demands and shifting its position at the negotiating table for the failure of the first negotiations.

Regarding the possibility of second round of the negotiations, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Wednesday that diplomacy is a tool for securing national interests and security. "Whenever we conclude that the necessary and logical grounds are prepared for using this tool to realize national interests and consolidate the achievements of the Iranian nation in frustrating the enemies' evil goals, we will take action," Baqaei added. The US and Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several top military commanders.

Iran's Armed Forces responded with 100 waves of retaliatory strikes under Operation True Promise 4, launching hundreds of ballistic and hypersonic missiles, as well as drones, against American military bases across West Asia and Israeli positions throughout the occupied territories.

On April 8, a ceasefire was brokered by Pakistan between the two sides, though tensions remain high over a US naval blockade and Iran's firm control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry dismisses Arab League's anti-Iran resolution



International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei vehemently dismissed a resolution issued by the Arab League against Iran's defensive operations during the recent illegal US-Israeli war of aggression.

His remarks came two days after an extraordinary ministerial-level meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States, which issued an anti-Iran resolution purportedly condemning Iran's reprisal attacks on locations hosting American forces and demanding compensation. Categorically rejecting the provisions of the statement, Baqaei called on the bloc to "adjust its approaches away from the influence of the one-sided and unconstructive positions of certain members."

He underscored the Islamic Republic's unwavering commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, particularly the prohibition of the use of force and the respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. Addressing the recent strikes, the spokesman clarified that Iran's actions were strictly defensive.

"The defensive actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran against US military bases and facilities

stationed in certain countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf were carried out within the framework of the inherent right to legitimate self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, and in response to the military aggression of the US and the Zionist regime against Iran," Baqaei stated.

Pointing to the established rules of international law regarding non-intervention, he warned neighboring countries about allowing their territory to be used for attacks against Iran. "Those regional governments that have in any way—whether by facilitating access, providing bases, or offering logistical or intelligence support—placed their territory and facilities at the disposal of the military actions of the United States and the Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, bear international responsibility for the consequences of these actions and must be held to account," he said. Rejecting the accusations leveled against Tehran in the Arab League statement, Baqaei redirected the focus toward the root causes of regional turmoil.

"Chronic instability and insecurity in the West Asia region are the result of the presence and military interventions of extra-regional actors, as well as the continuation of occupation and the colonial plan to annihilate Palestinians," he said, warning that "feigning ignorance of this obvious reality will merely cause the continuation and escalation of insecurity. The unprovoked US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders.

The Persian Gulf Arab countries allowed the aggressor regimes to use their soil and airspace to launch anti-Iran attacks.

Iran warns US of severe response if it resumes aggression

International Desk

Iranian officials said that their fingers remain on the trigger with a designated bank of targets, warning the United States of a devastating "eye for a head" reprisal if it resumes its military aggression.

The warnings follow renewed threats from US President Donald Trump to destroy Iranian civilian infrastructure, such as bridges and power plants if Tehran rejects his terms during the current fragile ceasefire.

The commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace and Navy forces issued a joint message late on Thursday, underscoring the nation's readiness and unyielding unity.

"The bank of targets is specified, fingers are on the trigger, and our backing is the unity of the streets and the cohesion of officials," the commanders wrote.

They vowed to make the "criminal aggressor" regret its actions through the iron unity of the state and the people, adding, "One God, one Leader, one nation,



and one path; and that is the path of victory for an Iran dearer than life."

Addressing a gathering in Islamshahr, a city south of Tehran, vice president and head of the Organization for Optimization and Strategic Management of Energy Esmail Saghab Esfahani outlined a severe shift in Tehran's retaliatory doctrine.

Highlighting Iran's high military capabilities, Saghab Esfahani stated, "Our first strategy is 'an eye for an eye', but if the enemy makes a mistake again, our response will be 'an eye for a head'."

He linked this warning to the energy sector, noting that if a single Iranian oil well is struck, an oil phase of the aggressor countries will be targeted. He urged the

public not to fear Trump's rhetoric, assuring them that the necessary response will be delivered.

The US-Israeli aggression began on February 28, when unprovoked airstrikes of the invading coalition assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders.

In response, Iranian armed forces launched 100 waves of successful retaliatory strikes against sensitive American and Israeli targets across the region.

On April 8, forty days into the war, a Pakistan-brokered two-week ceasefire went into effect but the first round of Tehran-Washington negotiations failed to reach an agreement due to excessive demands put forward by the US.

While Trump has unilaterally extended the truce, declaring his administration will await an Iranian proposal for a second round of talks in Islamabad, Tehran has firmly refused to commit.

Iranian authorities cite Washington's continued excessive demands and an ongoing US naval blockade as the primary impediments to concluding the war.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Iran's 700m-ton transport hub, Chabahar rail progress in focus at SCO

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd said on Friday that the country's unique position at the intersection of North-South and East-West transport corridors enables the annual movement of more than 700 million tons of goods, speaking at the 13th meeting of transport ministers from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in Kyrgyzstan.

Iran's roads and urban development minister said on Friday the country's strategic position at the crossroads of major transit corridors enables it to handle more than 700 million tons of goods annually, as Tehran seeks to boost its role in regional trade.

Speaking at the 13th meeting of transport ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Kyrgyzstan, Sadegh Malvajerd said Iran's location along the North-South and East-

West corridors provides unique transit potential.

"Sixteen commercial ports with a capacity of 273 million tons along the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, 15,000 kilometers of railway network, more than 250,000 kilometers of roads, and 26 land border terminals that ensure uninterrupted transit. This infrastructure enables the annual transportation of more than 700 million tons of various goods, and the volume of goods transiting through Iran exceeded 20 million tons last year."

Sadegh Malvajerd pointed to measures taken by Iran to improve transport and transit efficiency, including commercializing regional transit corridor networks, coordinating border procedures with neighboring countries, deploying smart monitoring technologies, standardizing cargo transit procedures and using integrated corridor management systems. She described the development



Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd delivers a video address from the site of the bombed B1 bridge near Karaj while attending the 13th meeting of SCO transport ministers in Kyrgyzstan on April 24, 2026.
● IRNA

of Chabahar Port in the south-east of Iran as a milestone in providing SCO member states, particularly landlocked countries, access to open waters.

"Establishing a rail connection between this port and Iran's railway network in the coming months will be a turning point in the port's international role." Sadegh Malvajerd also stressed the importance of digital transformation in simplifying logistics processes, saying Iran has implemented smart technologies in managing transit flows. In her closing remarks, she expressed Iran's readiness to deepen cooperation with SCO member states.



"We hope to jointly create conditions for exchanging knowledge and experience and discovering

innovative solutions to address shared challenges in transport and transit. Together, we can

build more resilient transport systems and enhance regional connectivity."

Jask Port busts US blockade, funnels oil to China

CBI pockets first revenue from Hormuz transit tolls



Economy Desk

Iran has used the Jask Port on the Sea of Oman to bypass a US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, helping maintain steady oil exports to China despite restrictions, according to data cited by Tasnim news agency. Statistics show that despite the US blockade imposed on April 13, Iran's oil exports to China remained stable, averaging 985,000 barrels per day in the first half of April. Iran has been able to circumvent restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz by using the Jask Port, which allows tankers to load oil and access open waters without transiting the strait, ensuring continued energy exports to China. Between April 13 and April 22, data analytics firm Vortexa recorded 34 crossings through the US blockade zone, including movements of vessels linked to Iran or under US sanctions.

At least 34 tankers linked to Iran have been able to bypass the blockade by the US Navy, the Financial Times reported on

Wednesday, citing data from Vortexa, an analytical company that tracks cargo shipments. As Vortexa reported, at least 19 tankers linked to Iran have broken the blockade and left the Persian Gulf. At least 15 more entered the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Sea, bound for Iran.

These operations enabled at least 10.7 million barrels of Iranian crude to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. At a discount of \$10, such a volume would have brought about \$910 million in revenue, the FT writes.

This week, Iran said it had tightened control over the Strait of Hormuz by collecting transit fees and depositing the revenue into the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Parliamentary board member Abbas Papizadeh told ISNA on Thursday that the first revenues from ship transit fees in the strait had been transferred to the state treasury.

"Transit tolls from ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz have been officially deposited into the

Central Bank and entered the national treasury."

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran would not allow other countries to pass freely through the route while its own exports face restrictions.

Tensions have remained high following the joint US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28.

Under new conditions set by Tehran, only commercial vessels that have obtained prior authorization from Iran are allowed to transit the strait, while ships linked to the United States, Israel and other hostile states are barred.

Iran says the measures reflect its key role in the global economy, noting that around 20% of the world's oil and 35% of its gas pass through the waterway, which it is using as leverage in response to Washington's failure to uphold a ceasefire.

The US Central Command said on April 21 that the US Navy has forced 28 ships to return to Iranian ports since the blockade began.

"The blockade has been a huge success," US President Donald Trump said in an interview with CNBC, adding that it would remain in place until a "final deal" with Iran is reached.

In response, Iran refused to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, citing the blockade.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said the US blockade of Iranian ports "is an act of war and thus a violation of the ceasefire."

Beijing opposes US interference in int'l trade relations

Economy Desk

China rejected on Friday an accusation by US President Donald Trump that an Iranian-flagged cargo ship intercepted by US forces was a "gift from China," saying international trade relations should not be subject to interference.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the claim after Trump told CNBC on Tuesday that the ship "had some things on it, which wasn't very nice. A gift from China perhaps, I don't know."

The US military said it fired on and seized an Iranian cargo ship that tried to evade its blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran's military said the vessel had been traveling from China and vowed retaliation against what it called "armed piracy by the US military."

"China opposes any accusations and associations that lack a factual basis," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters in Beijing, Reuters reported.

"Normal international trade relations between countries should not be subject to interference and disruption," he added.

The container ship *Touska* was



Guo Jiakun

boarded and seized by US forces on Sunday. US maritime security sources claimed on Monday it was likely carrying what Washington deems dual-use items that could be used by the military.

Separately, Iran's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday strongly condemned the US military's "illegal and savage act" on the ship in the Sea of Oman.

The US, in an attempt to force Iran to conclude a peace agreement after a 40-day war with Iran, imposed a blockade on all vessels entering or leaving Iranian coastal waters on April 13. The blockade

was later expanded to include all Iranian vessels on the high seas, as well as vessels carrying goods that could be used by Iran in the conflict.

China has called the US naval blockade of Iranian ports "irresponsible and dangerous."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said last week the move would "undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement," and further jeopardize the safety of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway Iran effectively closed in response to US-Israeli strikes.

Renewable capacity tops 4,500 MW despite \$1.5b war damage: SATBA

Economy Desk

Iran's renewable power capacity has surpassed 4,500 megawatts despite about \$1.5 billion in damage from attacks on solar energy facilities, the country's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) said. According to a report by IRNA on Friday, SATBA said the expansion of renewable power plants has continued without interruption and is expected to soon push installed capacity to 5,000 MW, underscoring the resilience of development plans in the sector even during the 40-day war that began on February 28.

The report said construction and grid connection of renewable plants have proceeded steadily, including in the final days of the past year when parts of the country were under attack, with



IRNA

around 1,200 MW of renewable capacity brought online across the country in the presence of the energy minister, Abbas Aliabadi.

The expansion comes as President Masoud Pezeshkian's government aims to install 30,000 MW of renewable energy capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year. Separately, SATBA said an attack on a storage facility for solar power plant equipment caused about \$1.5 billion in

damages.

The organization said equipment including panels, cables and inverters were damaged in the incident.

In response, the energy minister sent a letter to the secretary-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency outlining the dimensions of the attack and providing a detailed report of the damage as an example of actions contrary to international law.

Aliabadi condemned US-Israeli strikes on the country's renewable energy infrastructure, stating that an attack on a warehouse of small-scale solar equipment caused approximately \$1.2 million in losses and destroyed supplies intended to provide electricity for 3,500 households in deprived rural areas, according to a letter to the director-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in mid-April.



US President Donald Trump (L) and Vice President JD Vance chat during an event at the Oval Office of the White House to sign an executive order creating an anti-fraud task force headed by Vance.
 ● JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

Why Trump decided to extend Iran cease-fire indefinitely

INTERVIEW

Is the foreign policy of the United States toward Iran reflecting confusion, or are we confronting an entirely personalized and novel approach? From the initial slogans about changing Iran's established political regime and dismantling its nuclear program, to the peculiar strategy of a unilateral cease-fire prolongation, the behavior of the White House has engendered an incalculable multitude of questions. Whereas, according to the admission of numerous international relations experts, the United States and the Zionist regime failed to achieve any of their objectives in the 40-day war with Iran, the American president upon the expiration of the two-week cease-fire deadline with Iran, extended said cease-fire indefinitely. Has the policy of Donald Trump's administration, from its inception to the present day, been one of military and economic tension escalation with Iran, aiming for regime change, while simultaneously utilizing the diplomatic table for buying time? To what extent is the cessation of hostilities and the establishment of durable peace between Iran and the United States possible? What is Washington's objective behind the sudden announcement of the cease-fire extension? These questions were put to Rahman Ghahremanpour, a senior foreign policy expert and international relations analyst, in an interview, excerpts of which are translated below:



Rahman Ghahremanpour

Numerous experts have talked to international media about the chaos and confusion visible in United States foreign policy vis-à-vis Iran. For this claim, examples can be given as well, including the fact that Washington, over the last 18 months, has experienced negotiation, warfare, and now a cease-fire, all cyclically with Iran. Some believe that past negotiations were a ruse, and that the Trump administration's objective from the outset was a military assault upon Iran. Others consider the objective to be the weakening of Tehran and its coercion into conceding greater advantages at the negotiating table. What is your analysis of the White House's behavior toward Tehran?

GHAHREMANPOUR: A differentiation must be instituted between political rivalries and the analysis of American foreign policy. A portion of those who believe that American policy is confused, in actuality, propound this claim within the framework of intra-American partisan rivalries; for example, the Democrats consistently perceive Republican foreign policy as devoid of coherence, and conversely, the Republicans likewise assert to the Democrats that you lack a coherent foreign policy. The truth is that, for a multitude of American foreign policy behaviors, and especially those of Trump, we currently lack adequate explanatory concepts. For instance, what Trump executed in Venezuela — was that a confusion? A success in foreign policy? A classical regime change, or a regime change of a novel type? In other words, if we transcend the level of political rhetoric and attend to the sociologically relevant aspects and internal roots

of this novel team without considering what Trump and his team are executing as merely a transitory incident, we must acknowledge that Donald Trump's contribution to foreign policy and the influence of his attitudes and behaviors have become more pronounced. On the other hand, the actions that Trump is undertaking in relation to the Middle East, Europe, China, and other nations, will not be comprehensible within the structure of American foreign policy anytime soon.

To what extent do you believe that regime change in Iran was a shared objective of Israel and the United States? Did the White House, in truth, with that degree of intelligence and security apparatus, surmise that an attack upon Iran and the targeting of its political and military leaders would signify the termination of the established political order?

If we examine the totality of American foreign policy and Trump's behavior during his presidency, it appears that, with reasonable certainty, one can claim that the project of nation-state building and classical-style regime change (i.e., analogous to what transpired in Iraq in 2003 and in Afghanistan in 2001) was fundamentally not on Trump's agenda. Although, according to the exigencies of situations and events, he may have endeavored to test his luck; for example, certain individuals asserted that this could be accomplished, and, especially during the recent war, he made statements indicating that he was contemplating this matter. However, in terms of practical policymaking, it appears that Trump and his team fundamentally do not believe in the project of na-



When we juxtapose Trump's statements with those of his like-minded associates in this new team, we comprehend that their understanding of regime change is not that which transpired, for instance, in Iraq in 2003. The majority of them seek a type of regime change that is executed with minimal expenditure, does not disintegrate military institutions, and does not plunge the country into chaos. Their ideal model, in simple terms, is the very model that transpired in Venezuela; namely, the country does not descend into disorder, and merely the apex of the system is substituted.

tion-state building, regime change, and the obliteration of existing institutions. Therefore, when we juxtapose Trump's statements with those of his like-minded associates in this new team, we comprehend that their understanding of regime change is not that which transpired, for instance, in Iraq in 2003. The majority of them seek a type of regime change that is executed with minimal expenditure, does not disintegrate military institutions, and does not plunge the country into chaos. Their ideal model, in simple terms, is the very model that transpired in Venezuela; namely, the country does not descend into disorder, and merely the apex of the system is substituted. Trump awaits the rectification or transformation of the system from above, by individuals who themselves played a role in, and established, that system. In contrast, however, it appears that Israel's policy is precisely classical regime change in Iran because, from the perspective of Israeli officials, that which Trump defines as regime

change does not eliminate the Islamic Republic's threat against Israel.

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the termination of the war, not a temporary cease-fire. To what extent do you believe that, fundamentally, given the presence of a third-party actor named Israel upon this scene, the attainment of a cessation of hostilities between Iran and America, and the establishment of durable peace, are achievable?

It appears that the realization of a cessation of hostilities between Iran and America, and the establishment of durable peace, in the short term (i.e., within the forthcoming three to four months) are not attainable. This matter is attributable not only to Israel's acts of sabotage but also to the internal situation within Iran, the changes in domestic policy, and the transformations of the power structure. Likewise, both in Trump's statements and in those of his team, one can clearly observe that they believe the transformations they are pursuing will not materialize with this rapid-

ity nor anytime soon. Therefore, when a "comprehensive agreement" is discussed, its signification is that both parties have arrived at the conclusion that, in the short term and with this rapidity, a cessation of hostilities is impossible; rather, a series of actions must be undertaken by both parties to prepare the groundwork for this endeavor in the medium term.

What do you believe was Donald Trump's impetus for the unilateral cease-fire extension, and what signification does this situation hold for Iran and the ongoing war?

The creation of suspension or the preclusion of decision-making constitutes one of the methods of power exercise, recognized in political science as the "second face of power"; namely, the powerful party prevents the party it perceives as weaker from being able to decide, and, in effect, holds it in a state of suspension and irresolution.

It appears that Trump, through the unilateral cease-fire extension, also seeks to exercise power over Iran, so

as to create this irresolution in Iran's political and even economic decision-making. On the other hand, this cease-fire extension could, in actuality, signify a potential preparedness for the infliction of a military blow, under circumstances and at a time that America deems advantageous to itself. That is, with the cease-fire extension, if Iran maintains a state of high alert, naturally, over time, it cannot sustain that elevated state of readiness and experiences a kind of attrition; whereas, for instance, American forces are not in a state of high alert, and thus this matter itself, likewise, is a method of pressure application upon Iran. Now, the cease-fire extension and the creation of a state of suspension, irresolution, and indecision, can both lead to an augmentation of internal political and economic pressures upon Iran's political system, and can, on the external and military level, lead to an augmentation of the probability of future military engagement.

The full interview first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



US Navy sailors heave on a line during a fueling at sea on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) as part of Operation Epic Fury, on March 10, 2026.
 ● US NAVY

Last rounds?

Status of key munitions at Iran war cease-fire

By Mark F. Cancian
Senior adviser with the CSIS

By Chris H. Park
Research associate at the CSIS

ANALYSIS

Concern about the status of US munitions inventories has intensified as reports emerge about high expenditures of Tomahawks, Patriots, and other missiles in the Iran war. As Operation Epic Fury remains paused

in a shaky cease-fire, there is an opportunity to assess whether the US military nears the point of going “Winchester” — or running out of ammunition.

Analysis of seven key munitions shows that the United States has enough missiles to continue fighting this war under any plausible scenario. The risk — which will persist for many years — lies in future wars.

In the 39 days of the air and missile campaign before the cease-fire, US forces heavily used the seven munitions

in Table 1. For four of them, the United States may have expended more than half of the prewar inventory. Rebuilding to prewar levels for the seven munitions will take from one to four years as missiles in the pipeline are delivered. These missiles will also be critical for a potential Western Pacific conflict. Even before the Iran war, stockpiles were deemed insufficient for a peer competitor fight. That shortfall is now even more acute, and building stockpiles to levels adequate for

a war with China will take additional time.

Diminished inventories will also affect the US supply of Patriot, Terminal High Altitude Area Defenses (THAADs), and Precision Strike Missiles (PrSMs) to Ukraine and other allies and partners that use them. The United States will compete with those countries that also want to replenish and expand inventories.

For ground attack munitions, available alternatives are far cheaper but with the same explosive yield. To illustrate the cost difference, a Joint Direct Attack Munition guidance kit costs less than \$100,000 while a Joint Air-to-Surface Stand-off Missile (JASSM) costs \$2.6 million. Both accurately deliver 1,000-pound payloads. These munitions, however, have a shorter range and, thereby, put launch platforms in more danger. Air superiority is required to use them extensively.

Table 1: Status of Key Munitions

Munition	Unit Cost (USD)	Estimated Prewar Inventory	Estimated Use in the Iran War	Delivery Timeline (Months)
Tomahawk	\$2.6M	3,100	650+	47
JASSM	\$2.6M	4,400	1,000+	48
PrSM	\$1.6M	90	40-70	46
SM-3	\$28.7M	410	130-250	64
SM-6	\$5.3M	1,160	190-370	53
THAAD	\$15.5M	360	190-290	53
Patriot	\$3.9M	2,330	1,060-1,430	42

The estimates are the authors' calculations based on "Defense Budget Materials," US Department of Defense, and rounded to the nearest ten for readability. CSIS

Deliveries take many years

There are many steps before these FY 2027 budget proposals become missiles in the field and on ships. First, Congress must pass an appropriation — difficult in the best of times and particularly challenging this

year when much defense procurement spending is in a FY 2026 supplemental and a FY 2027 reconciliation bill.

Then, there is the manufacturing lead time for the first delivery. Historically, that has been about 24 months, but as munitions

orders have outstripped production capacity in recent years, lead times have stretched to 36 months or more. Production time for the entire lot is another 12 months. That is about 52 months in all — over four years.

Many of these systems are constrained by production capacity, so manufacturing lead time is even longer. On the bright side, previous funding going back to the Biden administration supported the expansion of production rates for many systems, so the cycle time will come down.

Risk in the next war

If inventories are so depleted, how can the analysis conclude that the United States has enough munitions for this war? The answer lies in the dramatic drop in usage from the early days of the war. For ground attacks, the less expensive and more plentiful munitions of Figure 1 have largely replaced the long-range munitions (TLAMs, JASSMs, and PrSMs).

The diminished munitions stockpiles have created a near-term risk. A war against a capable peer competitor like China will consume munitions at greater rates than in this war. Prewar inventories were already insufficient; the levels today will constrain US operations should a future conflict arise.

President Trump has accepted this munitions risk — alongside other tradeoffs like the diversion of forces from the Western Pacific. The theory here appears to be that it is important to decisively win the current war you are in, rather than to hold back and preserve capability for a future war that may never happen. Once Operation Epic Fury ends, the naval assets sent to the Middle East will return to the Pacific. Munitions inventories will start to recover, but restoring depleted stockpiles and then achieving the desired inventory levels will take many years.

The full article was first published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Figure 1: Alternative Strike Munitions, Estimated Inventory

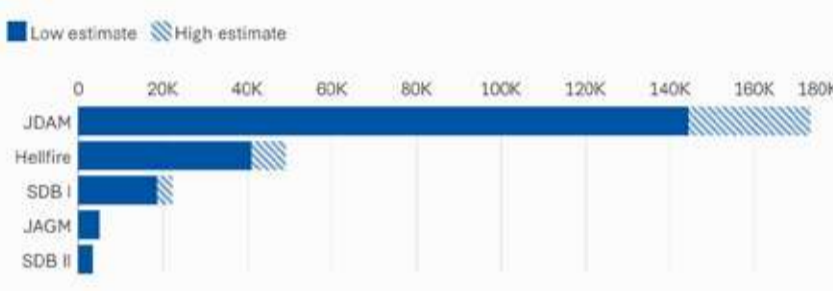


Figure 2: Alternative Air Defense Munitions, Estimated Inventory

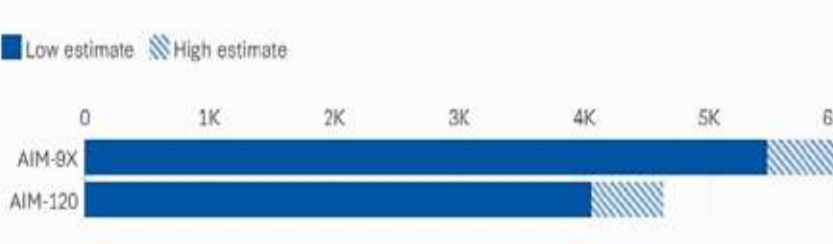


Figure 3: Tomahawk, Estimated Inventory

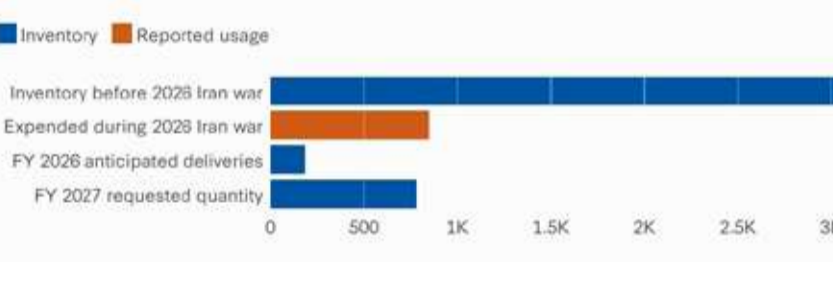


Figure 4: JASSM, Estimated Inventory

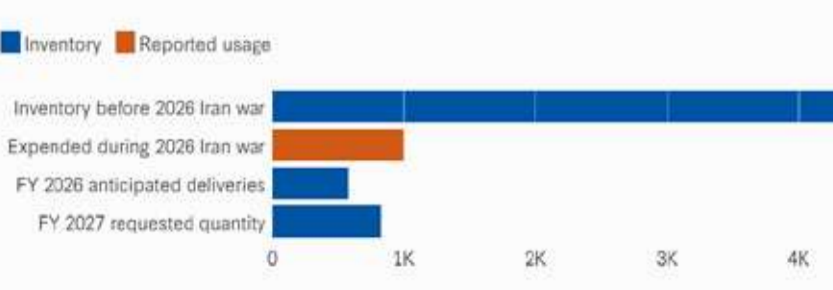


Figure 5: PrSM, Estimated Inventory

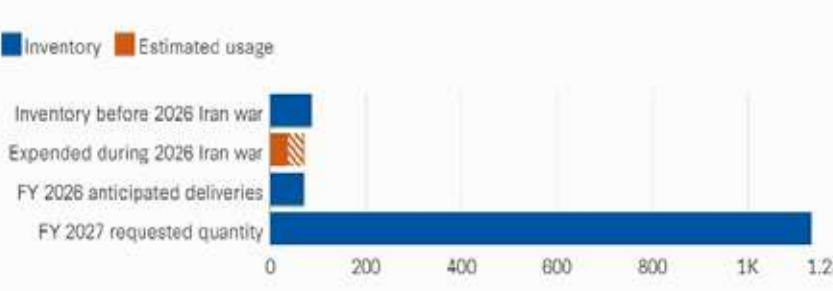


Figure 6: SM-3, Estimated Inventory

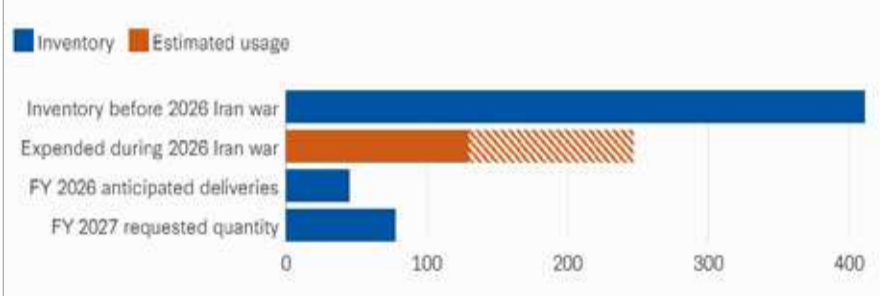


Figure 7: SM-6, Estimated Inventory

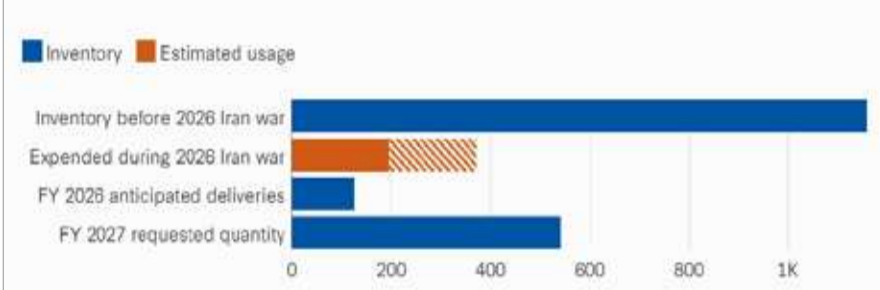


Figure 8: THAAD, Estimated Inventory

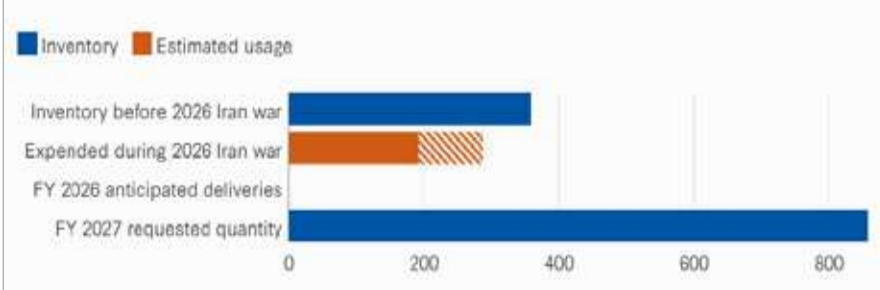
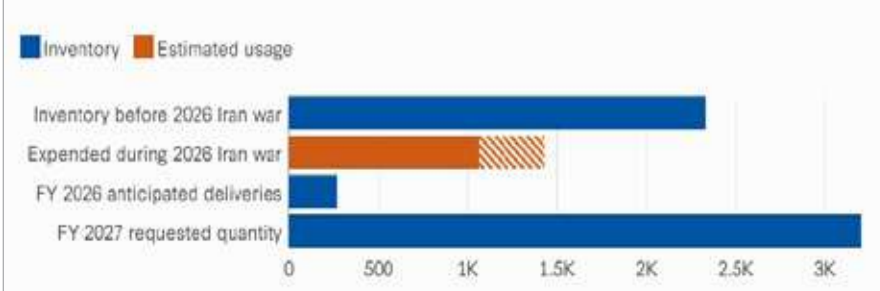


Figure 9: Patriot, Estimated Inventory



The shaded area shows the estimated range, based on "Defense Budget Materials," US Department of Defense. Actual use depends heavily on the munitions mix and allied air defense contributions. CSIS

'Moral bankruptcy': Backlash emerges over proposed Iran-Italy World Cup swap



Iranian players celebrate a goal during a friendly victory over Costa Rica in Antalya, Türkiye, on March 31, 2026. **FFIRI**



Italian players react during a shootout defeat against Bosnia and Herzegovina in the World Cup qualifying playoffs in Zenica, Bosnia, on March 31, 2026. **AP**

Sports Desk

A controversial proposal to replace Iran with Italy at this summer's World Cup – co-hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada from June 11 – has been met with criticism from both countries. The controversy broke out when Paolo Zampolli, the U.S. special envoy for global partnerships, confirmed to the Financial Times that he had suggested the switch to U.S. President Donald Trump and FIFA chief Gianni Infantino amid a military conflict between Iran and a U.S.-Israeli coalition. Iran, one of the first national teams to qualify for the global showpiece, has been drawn alongside Belgium, Egypt, and New Zealand in Group G, with all of Team Melli's matches set to be staged on American soil. Italy, meanwhile, has missed out

on a place in the finals for a third successive edition – courtesy of a shootout defeat against Bosnia and Herzegovina in the European playoffs in March. "I'm an Italian native and it would be a dream to see the Azzurri at a U.S.-hosted tournament. With four titles, they have the pedigree to justify inclusion," Zampolli told the FT. According to the Financial Times, the proposed plan is an attempt to repair the strained relationship between the U.S. president and Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni – the pair had a falling out last week over Trump's comments about Pope Leo XIV and the Iran War. When asked by CNN to clarify his comments, the Italian-American said: "A World Cup without [Lionel] Messi is not a World Cup. Italy has the same merits after winning four times the World Cup."

The Iranian embassy in Italy was quick to respond to Zampolli's proposal, saying it showed "moral bankruptcy" by the United States. "Italy has earned its greatness in football on the pitch, not thanks to political privileges," the Iranian embassy said on X. "The attempt to exclude Iran from the World Cup only reveals the 'moral bankruptcy' of the United States, which is afraid even of the presence of eleven young Iranians on the field of play." Italian officials have also pushed back hard at the suggestion. "Italy's possible requalification for the 2026 World Cup ... is firstly, not possible, and secondly, not appropriate," Sports Minister Andrea Abodi told Sky News. "I don't know what comes first. Qualification is on the pitch." Luciano Buonfiglio, the presi-

dent of the Italian Olympic Committee, which oversees all sports in Italy, also dismissed the idea of taking Iran's place. "I would feel offended," Buonfiglio said. "You need to deserve to go to the World Cup." Italy's Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti called the idea "shameful." When asked at the White House on Thursday about Iranian players potentially not being allowed into the U.S. for the tournament, Trump deferred the question to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said: "Nothing from the U.S. has told them they can't come." "The problem with Iran would be, not their athletes. It would be some of the other people that they want to bring with them," Rubio said, suggesting that the Iranian team could bring in people loyal to militant groups disguised as journalists and trainers.

"We may not be able to let them in," Rubio said of people around the team. "But not the athletes themselves." He added that there had been "speculation that Iran may decide not to come, but then Italy could fill their spot," without adding details. "If they decide not to come on their own, it's 'cause they decided not to come," the secretary of state said of Iranian athletes. While Team Melli's training camp for the World Cup kicked off earlier this week, Iran's Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali has insisted that he is "definitely opposed" to Iran's participation, though he went on to confirm that the Iranian government will have the final say on the matter. "How can we have a sense of honor and, like so many, just say, 'Go ahead, play in the World Cup'? We cannot remain indiffer-

ent to these criminal events for the sake of football, sports, or the World Cup," Donyamali said on Tuesday. "Personally speaking, I am definitely opposed [to Iran's participation]." "Professionally, I have to do everything I can to make sure the team is prepared. That's why all our efforts, as it stands, are focused on making the necessary preparations for the squad. "If the government gives the green light, we will play in the World Cup, but if it says the conditions are not right, we will not go." Trump had said in March that he considers it not "appropriate" for Iranian players to visit his country "for their own life and safety," though Infantino insisted last week that Iran will play "for sure" at the World Cup, arguing that "sports should be outside of politics."

World Snooker Championship: 'Tough to be an Iranian,' Vafaei says after last-16 progress

Sports Desk

Iran's Hossein Vafaei opened up on the difficulty of playing as an Iranian at the World Snooker Championship amid his native country's military conflict with the United States and Israel. Vafaei won all four frames on Thursday to wrap up a 10-3 victory over China's Si Jiahui and become the first qualifier to reach the second round of this year's championship in Sheffield, Britain. "It's very tough to be an Iranian at this time. It's like you are lifting 10 people on your shoulders. It's very hard," Vafaei said. Vafaei went into Thursday's afternoon session with a 6-3 lead after winning five frames on the spin on Wednesday to come from 3-1 behind. He picked up where he left off, punishing a missed pink from Si to take the first frame of the session 81-22 before winning a



SAM BLOXHAM/GETTY IMAGES

safety battle in the next to go 8-3 up. Vafaei continued to punish his opponent's mistakes in the 12th frame, and a break of 78 took him within a single frame of the second round.

Si attempted to peg him back as he started the next frame strongly, but Vafaei made it nine in succession to book a last-16 meeting with world No. 1 Judd

Trump. "It couldn't be a better match for fans to watch," Vafaei said of his clash with Trump, who beat Gary Wilson to advance. "Of course, it's a tough opponent. I respect him a lot. Hopefully we both show a good performance and everyone enjoys it. Hopefully the game goes the way the fans want." Meanwhile, Vafaei claimed the Crucible must be

respected and called it snooker's answer to Wimbledon, two years on from his scathing criticism of the World Championship venue. In 2024, the Iranian described the Crucible as "smelly" and compared the practice facilities to "playing in a garage." But after last month's announcement that snooker's showpiece will remain in Sheffield until at least 2045, Vafaei highlighted the importance of the Crucible to the sport. "The Crucible is a historical place. You can't compare the Crucible to anywhere else because the Crucible is the home of snooker for all snooker players," said the Iranian. "The Crucible for us is like the Wimbledon Championships. We have to keep the history and then we have to give it respect, and hopefully we can make it bigger together, like Wimbledon, and we become like tennis as well."

Asian Beach Games: Iranian pairs sweep opening matches in men's beach volleyball

Sports Desk

The two Iranian pairs enjoyed an impressive start to their men's beach volleyball campaign at the 2026 Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, completing a clean sweep of five victories between them over the first two days of the competition. Abbas Pourasgari and Alireza Aqajani teamed up to beat the hosts' Zhang Tai and Zhou Chaowei in straight sets (21-18, 21-17) on Friday for their third successive win in the Games. They sit second in Pool G of the preliminaries with six points – one behind the Chinese duo, which has played four games. The Iranian pair had begun the day with a comfortable 2-0 win (21-8, 21-9) against Bhutan's Tshering Dorji and Jurme Rangdal, having previously defeated Anjana Manikkuhewage and Sadun Andibuduge in straight sets (21-12, 21-15) on Thursday. Elsewhere, Abolhassan Khakizadeh and Amirali Qalenovi celebrated a second successive victory in Pool B



volleyball.ir

on Friday, beating the Maldives' Adam Naseem and Sajid Ismail 2-0 (21-15, 21-10). The Iranian pair, which had overcome Uzbekistan's Azamat Dauilbaev and Dilshodbek Tolibaev in two sets (21-16, 21-18) on the opening day of the beach volleyball event, sits second in the group table – trailing Qatar's Cherif Younouss and Ahmed Tijan on set-point ratio. The top spot in the group will be at stake when Khakizadeh and Qalenovi go head-to-head with the formidable Qatari pair – bronze medalists at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics – later today.

Pourasgari and Aqajani, meanwhile, will be looking to secure the top spot in their group when they square off against Syria's Orwa Alsakka and Kutiba Albirini – bottom of the table with three defeats – later today. Iran will be represented by 57 athletes across 10 sports: beach wrestling, beach volleyball, beach handball, beach soccer, jiu-jitsu, beach kabaddi, athletics, 3x3 basketball, sport climbing, and water polo. The sixth edition of the multi-sport event officially began with the opening ceremony on Wednesday, returning after a decade-long hiatus, and will run until Thursday.

Kuhsorkh poised to become major tourism hub in Khorasan Razavi

Iranica Desk

In the vast and breathtaking expanse of Khorasan Razavi Province, a lesser-known but treasure-rich gem of natural, historical, and cultural potential lies hidden. The town of Kuhsorkh, whose name is rarely mentioned among the province's popular tourist destinations, has quietly concealed a wealth of attractions that can delight any curious traveler seeking new experiences. With its pristine nature, untouched historical villages, unique organic products, and hospitable people, Kuhsorkh has the potential to become one of the region's leading sustainable tourism destinations, ISNA wrote.

What sets Kuhsorkh apart from many other areas is the unique combination of natural and cultural elements. On the one hand, its mountainous landscape and fertile plains provide an ideal setting for cultivating products known for their rich taste and aroma — rhubarb, juicy fruits, and pure honey are only part of the region's agricultural abundance. These products hold great economic and cultural value, not only for consumers but for the region itself, and can serve as a reason and motivation for travel and discovery. Holding festivals that put these products in the spotlight is an effective step toward introducing and promoting them and attracting enthusiasts. On the other hand, Kuhsorkh has preserved history within the fabric of its traditional villages. Mud-brick houses that tell the stories of past generations, alleys where walking evokes a journey to the past, and architecture that tes-

tifies to the wisdom and taste of the people of this land in co-existing with nature — all of these have made Kuhsorkh an ideal destination for those interested in cultural and historical tourism. These villages are not merely old structures; they are living museums that showcase the region's identity and authenticity and provide visitors with a deep and impactful experience



● wikipedia.org

of rural life.

The head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Kuhsorkh, emphasizing that this town is poised to become one of the prominent tourism hubs in Khorasan Razavi Province, stated that holding cultural and tourism events is the main driving force behind this transformation. Reza Rabiei elaborated on the importance of these events, saying, "Festivals and cultural events, far beyond being mere entertainment programs, are powerful tools for introducing a region's identity, local culture,

agricultural products, and natural and historical attractions. The 6th Rhubarb Festival, recently held with enthusiastic participation from locals and tourists, is a brilliant example of this capacity."

He noted, "The Rhubarb Festival not only showcased the organic, high-quality rhubarb of Kuhsorkh to the public but also managed to draw attention to

nation on the tourism calendar." Referring to the unique diversity of agricultural products and local produce of this region, he called it one of the key strengths in attracting various types of domestic and foreign tourists and explained in this regard, "Kuhsorkh, thanks to its favorable climate and fertile soil, is a paradise of organic products. Alongside rhubarb, which has



● mizboon.com

gained national and even international fame, various high-quality seasonal fruits, rare medicinal herbs, natural honey with unique flavors, dairy products, and bread are among the other standout products of this land. Each of these products has the potential to stand alone as a tourist attraction."

Rabiei, emphasizing the need for modern marketing strategies, added, "Holding thematic and specialized festivals for each of these products will be a fundamental step toward branding and deeper introduction of them."

"Holding a national Kuhsorkh plum festival focusing on different varieties and their diverse uses, or a Kuhsorkh honey exhibition where different types of honey with therapeutic properties and distinct flavors can be introduced — these events not only provide an opportunity to introduce products but also create a platform for the exchange of technical knowledge, famil-

iarly with modern production methods, and the creation of new markets for local farmers and producers. Focusing on these flagship products will directly lead to the economic prosperity of the local community and an increase in sustainable income generation." Referring to the treasure trove of historical heritage in this town, he emphasized the importance of villages with traditional fabric and stated, "Kuhsorkh is proud to have numerous ancient and historical villages, each telling a part of the region's rich history and culture. The unique

terrace villages of the region, among others, with their distinctive traditional architecture and mud-brick houses, can be very attractive destinations for tourists interested in exploring history and culture." Stating that these villages are more than just tourist attractions and are a window into the identity and authenticity of Kuhsorkh, he continued, "The careful and principled preservation and restoration of the traditional fabric of these villages, along with the creation of basic tourism infrastructure such as eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, and proper access routes, can pave the way for the development of cultural and sustainable tourism."

The path of tourism development is also accompanied by challenges. One of the main obstacles is the lack of sufficient and standard accommodation and welfare infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of potential tourists. Additionally, there is a pressing need for skills development and training of expert human resources in various tourism sectors, from tour guides to eco-lodge managers and handicraft producers.

The developing town of Kuhsorkh is leveraging its unique natural, historical, and cultural capacities to become a major tourism hub in this province. Efforts are being made to turn Kuhsorkh into one of the main tourist destinations of Khorasan Razavi Province, and therefore, tourists from across the country are invited to visit this beautiful and pristine land. Kuhsorkh, with its combination of delightful nature, rich history, and dynamic culture, welcomes visitors throughout the year.

Efforts are being made to turn Kuhsorkh into one of the main tourist destinations of Khorasan Razavi Province, and therefore, tourists from across the country are invited to visit this beautiful and pristine land. Kuhsorkh, with its combination of delightful nature, rich history, and dynamic culture, welcomes visitors throughout the year.

Hormozgan's hot springs; Iran's therapeutic treasure

Iranica Desk

The natural hot springs of Hormozgan Province represent some of Iran's most valuable geological assets, combining scenic beauty with significant therapeutic properties. According to provincial statistics, 31 natural springs have been identified across the region, of which eight are cold mineral springs, while the remainder are thermal and predominantly sulfurous in composition.

These springs, nestled among rare mountain landscapes and picturesque valleys, have become destinations for both nature enthusiasts and health tourists seeking relief from various ailments. The mineral content — particularly sulfur compounds — has made them especially sought-after for treating skin diseases, rheumatism, joint pain, and certain respiratory conditions, according to chn.ir.

Geno: The Geno Hot Spring, located 33 kilometers northeast of Bandar Abbas along the Bandar Abbas-Sirjan road, stands as the province's most renowned thermal water source. The approach winds through a striking natural gorge scattered with trees, opening onto a spacious area at the foot of Mount Geno. The spring produces extremely hot sulfurous water. Due to

its chlorosulfate composition and sodium chloride content, it notably stimulates gastric secretions and aids digestive disorders. Bathing in these waters is said to help treat skin conditions, rheumatism, and respiratory system ailments. Separate pools have been constructed for men and women, and the surrounding area — adorned with palm trees and mountain vistas — offers a distinctive setting. The spring's outflow cascades down as a small waterfall, enhancing the site's natural beauty.

Khurgoo: The springs comprise three separate sources accessible via a secondary road branching from the Bandar Abbas-Sirjan highway. From

the turnoff, the first spring lies approximately 28 kilometers distant.

The first spring emerges through fissures in marly limestone rock, eventually flowing into the Khurgoo River. Its chemical composition falls into the calcium sulfate category, accompanied by magnesium and sodium chloride, with lukewarm temperatures.

The second Khurgoo spring sits about one kilometer east of the first, with water bubbling up through marly limestone fractures. A circular pool approximately three meters in diameter has been constructed near its source for bathing by tourists and local residents. This water is classified as warm sulfurous, containing various cations and

anions.

The third spring is accessible via the same secondary route. The distance from Bandar Abbas to the Khurgoo turnoff is about 30 kilometers, with an additional 20 kilometers to the spring site. A bathing pool has also been built alongside this source, with water similar to the second spring — warm sulfurous with diverse mineral compounds. Together, these three springs, set against Khurgoo's mountainous landscape, have established the area as a recognized destination for therapeutic bathing near Bandar Abbas.

Lashtan: The spring is located seven kilometers from Bandar Khamir. Water emerges through

fractures in marly rock and is channeled into two separate pools for men and women. Classified as warm sulfurous water, the spring has long attracted local residents and travelers seeking its therapeutic benefits for bathing. Shelters and basic facilities in the area allow for short-term visitor stays.

Chah-e Ahmad: Situated along the Bandar Khamir to Bandar Lengeh road, near the Khorak turnoff, Chah-e Ahmad Spring features a natural square-shaped pool approximately five meters on each side at its source. Warm sulfurous water emerges through dolomitic rock fractures. Small rooms built near the spring provide facilities for travelers.

Sayeh Khosh: Located 44 kilometers west of Bandar Khamir, near the village of Sayeh Khosh, a spring with the same name emerges through marly limestone fissures on the mountain slope. Its water is classified as calcium sulfate with significant magnesium and sodium chloride content.

Other springs

Beyond these well-known sites, Hormozgan Province hosts numerous other thermal springs distributed across various regions. Many lie at mountain bases or within riverbeds, their formation attributed to tectonic activity and the emergence of mineral waters through limestone and marly rock fractures. The mineral composition of these springs supports not only local bathing but also, in some areas, agricultural applications. Experts note that Hormozgan's thermal springs represent a significant natural and tourism asset for the province, with potential to drive development in health tourism and nature-based recreation. With over 30 springs offering therapeutic properties amid rare natural landscapes, the region has positioned itself as an attractive destination for visitors seeking both healing and scenic beauty.



Geno Hot Spring
● alibaba.ir



Khurgoo Hot Spring
● alibaba.ir

Iranian architecture seen as mirror of civilization amid war damage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Deputy Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali Darabi said on Friday that Iranian architects must reclaim their cultural and historical grounding as the country marked Architect's Day, warning that recent war damage has struck both physical heritage and the nation's collective memory.

Darabi, in a statement, described architecture as the material embodiment of human consciousness in dialogue with the world, where matter is shaped into meaning to reflect a civilization's identity, IRNA reported.

From the ancient Qanat of Gonabad to the intricate Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, he said Iran's built environment has long answered the fundamental question of how to live in a challenging landscape, turning climatic constraints into opportunities for creativity.

"Architecture, when rooted in culture, does not merely construct buildings; it cultivates people," Darabi said, adding

that Iranian architects have historically infused the land with spirit through both craft and conviction.

He warned, however, that over the past century contemporary architecture in Iran has drifted away from the depth and symbolism of its historical foundations, with modernization often reduced to imitation of Western models at the expense of indigenous traditions. This shift, he added, is reflected in quantity-driven urban management and shortcomings in architectural education.

Marking the occasion amid what he described as an "imposed war" involving Israel and the United States, Darabi said recent attacks have damaged not only infrastructure but also cultural and historical assets, in violation of international norms. Such destruction, he said, amounts to an attempt to erase the country's collective memory by targeting the physical expressions of its identity.

Yet Iran's cultural legacy would endure, he added, likening its heritage to constellations that continue to shine de-



spite the dust of conflict. Darabi called for a renewed development path grounded in a careful re-reading of the past and its integra-

tion into the future, urging architects to distinguish between what is merely old and what is enduring. He expressed hope that Iranian archi-

tecs would safeguard and revitalize the nation's heritage, allowing it to speak as a "truthful medium" of cultural richness for generations to come.

Iran restorers call for urgent response to war-scarred heritage sites

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian Association of Cultural Heritage Conservators said on Friday, citing ISNA, it stands ready to deploy immediately to safeguard and restore sites damaged in the recent war, after authorities reported at least 149 historical assets affected across Iran.

In a statement, the guild warned that destruction or neglect of cultural property, irrespective of geography or politics, erodes humanity's shared memory. It said it was tracking "extensive" damage to historic buildings, archaeological sites, museums and cultural centers during the past days of fighting, ranging from structural failures to the irreversible loss of architectural ornamentation and museum collections.



The association stressed its scientific neutrality and rejected any action that endangers heritage in times of crisis, urging all parties to adhere to relevant international law. It offered to engage across emergency protection, technical restoration and long-term rehabilitation, drawing on a nationwide network of specialists and field experience. Yet it said this organized capacity has not been effectively harnessed in crisis management, contrary to the principle of

maximizing national expertise beyond routine administrative structures.

The group added that, amid current economic conditions, many conservators have been left without work during the war and subsequent ceasefire, a trend it warned could hollow out the sector's professional base.

It called on the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts to fully utilize expert capacity, establish legal and executive frameworks for structured participation in national projects, and integrate conservators as a scientific and technical arm in short- and long-term protection strategies.

According to ministry figures, the conflict has damaged or destroyed at least 149 sites, with losses estimated at about \$48.6 million.

Calligraphy exhibition in Tehran frames Iran's cultural identity through art, collective memory

Arts & Culture Desk

The calligraphy exhibition 'Khatt-e Vatan' (Script of the Homeland) took center stage as Iranian officials visited the show in Tehran, opening on April 21, while highlighting the role of art in reinforcing national cohesion.

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, visiting the exhibition alongside senior officials, described art as both an instrument and a long-term strategy embedded in Iran's social fabric, Mehr News Agency reported.

She said artistic expression had historically travelled alongside society, helping reinforce unity through times of strain, adding that calligraphy, performance, and recitation converged in the exhibition to produce what she called a "refined cultural statement" in



defense of the homeland. Her remarks came amid broader official engagement with cultural programming, with state institutions including the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Roudaki Foundation signaling continued support for Iran-centric artistic projects.

The exhibition, dedicated to works by calligrapher Kaveh Teimouri, places Iranian calligraphy at its conceptual center while expanding into installation and performance. According to cultural

officials, the curatorial approach links visual art with literature and national memory, framing calligraphy not merely as aesthetic form but as a vessel of cultural meaning. In parallel remarks to state media, the Director General of the Visual Arts Office Aydin Mehdizadeh, said calligraphy carries an intrinsic cultural message beyond its visual form.

He described the exhibition's staging at Azadi Tower as a distinctive cultural event, enriched by conceptual installations referencing schoolchildren from Minab and integrated performance elements. Alongside the main display, eight conceptual installations referencing school-related incidents in Minab, woven into a broader narrative of collective experience.

'Yooz' animation enters Russian cinemas with strong debut



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian animated feature 'Yooz,' directed by Reza Arzhangi, hit Russian silver screens on April 16, marking its official entry into the country's theatrical circuit.

Produced by Soureh Animation Center and VistaMedia, and distributed by Ten Letters, the film is listed on ticketing platforms and screening schedules in multiple cities under its Russian title 'Толстяк Юзи' (2026), Mehr News Agency reported.

On its opening day, the adventure-driven animation secured a place among the top 10 highest-grossing films in Russian cinemas.

The family-oriented production, targeting children and adolescent audiences, follows an Iranian cheetah's arduous journey home, threading an environmental narrative through a fast-paced storyline. Its placement alongside international family titles underscores a push to capture broad audiences and compete directly within the global animation market.

Russian media coverage has spotlighted the film's domestic box-office performance in Iran and its ecological theme centered on protecting the endangered Asiatic cheetah, framing it as a commercially viable example of Iran's 3D animation output with cross-border appeal.

Second Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0440029

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING (USED AS TUBING), API GRADE L-80, "VAM", THREAD, RANGE 3, (MAX LENGTH: 40.5 FT), AS PER API SCT / ISO11960, PSL: 2, MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE SIZE (OD), WEIGHT (PPF), AS SPECIFIED. NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I:1) "GCP/MP'S DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "TTP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 4-1/2 IN., 13.5 PPF, DRIFT: 3.795 IN.	30,000 L E

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 99,398/19 EURO or 159,217,603,680 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.shana.ir | www.nisoc.ir | http://ets.mporg.ir | www.setadiran.ir

2157482