

Leader: Iran to determine 'new legal rules' in Strait of Hormuz

Persian Gulf's future 'bright' and without US presence

International Desk

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, declared the dawn of a "new chapter" for the strategic waterway, asserting that Iran will implement new management rules over the Strait of Hormuz following recent US-Israeli aggression against the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a message on Thursday marking National Persian Gulf Day. On April 30, Iran annually commemorates its historic 1622 triumph over colonial occupation along its southern coastline.

This year's observance comes exactly two months after the US and Israeli regime launched an unprovoked military aggression against Iran on February 28. Ayatollah Khamenei described the Persian Gulf as an "irreplaceable blessing" for the Muslim nations of the region, noting that this body of water and the Strait of Hormuz have "shaped a part of our identity and civilization and, in addition to being a connecting point for nations, create a vital and unique route for the global economy."

"This strategic asset has provoked the

greed of many devils in past centuries, and the history of repeated aggressions by European and American foreigners, insecurities, damages, and numerous threats to the countries of the region are only a fraction of the ominous plots of the world's arrogant powers against the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf region, the latest example of which was the recent thuggery of the Great Satan," he added, referring to the US-Israeli aggression on Iran which began on February 28.

Possessing the longest land coast of the Persian Gulf, he continued, the Iranian nation has made "the greatest sacrifices for the independence of the Persian Gulf and the confrontation with foreigners and aggressors; from the expulsion of the Portuguese and the liberation of the Strait of Hormuz to the struggle against Dutch colonialism and the epics of resistance against British colonialism, and so on."

The Islamic Revolution, he stressed, has been a "turning point of these resistances in severing the hands of the arrogant powers from the Persian Gulf region."

"Today, two months after the largest military expedition and aggression by the world's bullies in the region and Ameri-



Three people are seen on the rocky beach of Iran's Kish Island in the Persian Gulf in a picture published by Tasnim News Agency on the occasion of the National Persian Gulf Day on April 30, 2026.

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ca's humiliating defeat in its plot, a new chapter for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is unfolding," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader noted that nations of the region witnessed the "vigilance" of the Iranian naval forces in the past 60 days.

"The nations of the Persian Gulf region, who for many years had grown accustomed to the silence and submissiveness of their rulers in the face of bullies and aggressors, have witnessed with their own eyes over the past sixty days the beautiful manifestations of solidarity, vigilance, and endeavor by the brave men of the naval forces of the Army and the IRGC, alongside the zeal and gallantry of the people and youth of the southern region of dear Iran, in rejecting foreign domination," he wrote.

Following the latest imposed war on Iran, it has been "proven not only among glob-



al public opinion and the nations of the region, but even to the rulers of countries, that the presence of American foreigners and their nesting and establishing footholds in the lands of the Persian Gulf is the most important factor of insecurity in the region," he added.

"America's hollow bases do not even have the endurance and capability to secure

themselves, let alone there being any hope for America to secure its regional dependents," highlighted the Leader as Iran's retaliatory missile and drone strikes devastated US bases in the region during the 40-day war.

He noted that the future of the Persian Gulf will be "bright" and without the presence of the US.

Pezeshkian conditions talks revival on US shift from 'maximalist' stance

US advised to drop 'inflammatory' rhetoric, 'provocative' actions

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi that Iran is ready to resume diplomacy if the United States drops its "maximalist" demands and stops its "maritime piracy" against Iranian ships in the Persian Gulf.

Pezeshkian said the US and Israeli regime committed war crimes against the Iranian nation during the recent war of aggression, by assassinating Leader of the Islamic Revolution and senior political and military officials, and attacking vital public infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and safeguarded nuclear facilities.

These actions were clear examples of war crimes and violations of international law, he added. The president also noted that the provocative measures by Washington in imposing an illegal blockade on Iranian ports were unacceptable and in breach of international regulations. "These actions will further escalate the situation in the region," he said. Reiterating that the Iranian Armed Forces are determined to defend the legitimate rights of the country, Pezeshkian said Tehran was nonetheless ready to resume the diplomatic process aimed at finding a "fair resolution" to the war and restoring



Sanae Takaichi

Masoud Pezeshkian

Alexander Lukashenko

peace and security to the region. He stressed that achieving that goal was contingent upon the US abandoning its "maximalist approach" and stopping its "provocative actions."

In turn, the Japanese premier called for efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region through diplomacy.

She also asked for the safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz for ships of all nations after a recent passage of a Japanese ship through the strait. Takaichi said Japan views bilateral relations with Iran as important and expressed hope that negotiations between Tehran and Washington would resume soon and lead to an agreement.

Also on Thursday, the Iranian president held a phone conversation with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko.

Pezeshkian said Iran's trust in the US has been "completely destroyed" after

two US and Israeli military strikes on Iran during negotiations, and called on Washington to halt "provocative" rhetoric and actions.

"Efforts to resolve differences through dialogue and diplomacy with Iran's responsibility have always been on the agenda," Pezeshkian said. "But during the negotiations, the United States and the Zionist regime attacked Iran twice, and there is a possibility of such actions being repeated - which has led to Iran's complete distrust of the United States."

Pezeshkian said Iran needs to see a halt to "inflammatory rhetoric" by US officials and "provocative actions" as a prerequisite for building Iranian confidence. He urged Washington to demonstrate seriousness in pursuing negotiations aimed at a definitive end to the war and not repeating past experiences.

Iran floats new initiative via Pakistan amid stalled US talks

International Desk

Iran delivered a new proposal for peace talks with the US via mediator Pakistan, with negotiations between the two sides frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire.

According to a report by IRNA on Friday, the text of the proposal was handed over to Islamabad on Thursday evening.

The war, launched by the United States and Israel with a vast wave of surprise strikes on February 28 has been on hold since April 8, but only one failed round of direct talks has taken place between Iranian and US representatives.

In the meantime, Iran has maintained its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz while the United States has imposed a counterblockade on Iranian ports.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that US President Donald Trump had told security officials to prepare for the blockade to last months, causing oil prices to spike.

Despite the failure to negotiate an end to the war, the ceasefire has held.

On Friday, judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said, "The Islamic Republic has never shied away from negotiations." Ejei, however, said, "We certainly do not

accept imposition," in a video shared by the Judiciary's Mizan Online website.

Tehran, though, does not want a return to war, he said.

"We do not welcome war in any way; we do not want war, we do not want its continuation."

Since the failure of the first round of the negotiations in Pakistan, regional countries have been trying to get the US and Iran to the second round of negotiations. Iran 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.

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

Washington, meanwhile, is gripped by a legalistic debate over whether Trump had passed a deadline for requesting congressional approval for his war with Iran.

Administration officials, including defense secretary Pete Hegseth, insisted that the ceasefire meant that the clock was paused on a 60-day deadline requiring the president to seek war powers authorization from Congress.

Tehran urges accountability for states complicit in US-Israeli onslaught

International Desk

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir-Saeid Irvani reiterated that all governments that played a role in the illegal aggression by the US and Israel against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be held accountable.

Irvani made the remarks in a letter addressed to the UN chief and the Security Council president on Thursday in response to anti-Iran letters sent by six Arab countries, including, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, to the world body.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once again its clear and consistent position that all States whose internationally wrongful acts have played a role in the United States' and the Israeli regime's aggression against its sovereignty and terri-

torial integrity must be held accountable," he said.

Irvani also stressed that the Persian Gulf littoral states are under an obligation to make full reparation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including compensation for all material and moral damage caused by their internationally wrongful acts.

He warned of threats to international peace and security amid the continued failure of the UN Security Council to address the unlawful use of force by the US and the Israeli regime, as well as the complicity of states that have either facilitated or directly participated in the military assault.

The envoy categorically rejected as unfounded and unsubstantiated the anti-Iran claims made by the six Arab countries regarding the premeditated and unprovoked US-Israeli aggression that killed more than 3,375 people and

damaged over 125,630 civilian structures across the country.

Attempting to distort the factual and legal context, the aforesaid countries falsely attributed responsibility for the war to Iran, which has been the target of the savage war of aggression, he added.

Irvani highlighted the complicity of Arab countries in the US-Israeli attacks against Iran, citing assessments conducted by the Iranian armed forces, along with the recent statement by the commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), Admiral Brad Cooper, who recently hailed Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Jordan for being "exceptional teammates."

He noted that the failure of the Security Council to uphold Iran's legitimate right of self-defense does not negate the nation's inherent right of self-defense under general international law.



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