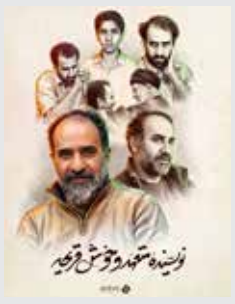
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8



VP: Iran not powerless in face of US naval blockade

2

Iran to enhance Navy with advanced maritime defense systems: *Minister*

Armed Forces vow to avenge sailors killed in US-Israeli aggression

2



A crew member of the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena gives a military salute aboard the ship as other comrades stand at attention on the deck of the destroyer in this undated photo. The vessel was sunk on 4 March 2026 by a US submarine near the southern coast of Sri Lanka.

IRNA

Strategic pragmatism or strategic resistance?

Iran's economic diplomacy in age of constraint



By Pourya Zarshenas

Researcher in energy policy & security

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

For Tehran, the challenge is no longer simply surviving economic pressure. It is deciding what survival should ultimately accomplish. Governments under pressure tend to develop a remarkable vocabulary. Words such as resilience, self-sufficiency, strategic independence and resistance acquire almost magical properties. They are expected to explain difficulties, justify decisions and, occasionally, reassure an economy that would much rather receive investment than another motivational speech.

Iran is no exception. For years, its economic diplomacy has navigated the difficult intersection of sanctions, geopolitical confrontation, regional security and domestic economic pressures. Yet the central question increasingly concerns not whether Iran can withstand external pressure, but whether the policies designed to withstand it can also generate sustainable economic development.

Strategic resistance and strategic pragmatism are often presented as competing philosophies. The former emphasizes independence, deterrence and the preservation of strategic autonomy. The latter stresses flexibility, negotiation, economic engagement and the ability to adjust policies to changing circumstances. In practice, however, countries rarely have the luxury of choosing one while entirely abandoning the other.

Page 3

The real challenge is determining where resistance becomes costly rigidity and where pragmatism becomes strategically shortsighted.



Iran commissions five oil projects to raise daily gas production capacity by 32mcm

3



Europe faces faster cyberattacks than ever

Many of solutions long known

OPINION 4



FIBA World Cup Asian qualifiers:

Jamshidi rues offensive shortcomings as Iran falls to Australia

6

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