VP: Iran not powerless in face of US naval blockade



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) speaks during a meeting with officials to review the status of reserves of essential goods in Tehran on November 28, 2026.
fvpresident.ir

International Desk

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref described essential goods reserves in the county as "satisfactory", stressing that Iran is not powerless in the face of a naval blockade imposed by the United States during its aggression against Iran.

Addressing a meeting with officials to review the status of reserves of essential goods and medicines in the country on Saturday, Aref noted that the country's essential goods reserves are above levels stipulated by the Supreme National Security Council.

He said the country's trade exchanges are also in a favorable position, with imports of essential goods continuing through ports and eastern and western entry points.

"We have proved that our hands are not tied in the face of the enemy's naval blockade," he said.

Aref also stressed the need to continue developing the country's northern ports and other corridors, saying Iran would make up for any restrictions imposed on its southern ports through alternative border crossings.

"The enemy must understand that if it imposes restrictions on southern ports, the country will not face difficulties, and we will compensate for those restrictions through other border entry points," he said.

Washington imposed a naval blockade on Iran's ports in April on the pretext of Iran's attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz which was closed by Iran following the US-Israeli aggression in February.

The Strait of Hormuz has become the focus of the conflict, with Iran continuing in its efforts to blockade the waterway, vital to global energy supplies.

The US has also announced a raft of economic sanctions, and launched a task force to disrupt land routes into Iran.

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

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

International Desk

Iran's Defense Ministry is stepping up efforts to equip the country's Navy with more advanced technologies and modern maritime defense systems, the defense minister said, citing the strategic importance of maritime security and the need to strengthen the country's deterrence capabilities.

In a message marking Navy Day on Saturday, Mehrdad Akhlaghi said the ministry was drawing on Iran's scientific, industrial, and technological capacities to develop more indigenous technologies, supply necessary equipment, and reinforce defense production infrastructure.

He described strengthening national defense capabilities and providing sustained support to the Armed Forces as among the ministry's strategic missions.

Akhlaghi noted that the Navy has played a decisive role since the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979 in protecting the country's territorial waters, national security, and interests.



Mehrdad Akhlaghi
IRNA

The defense minister also highlighted the importance of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, the Caspian Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz, describing them as areas that have long been at the center of regional and extra-regional attention and rivalries.

Major General Ahmad Vahidi, commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), also in a message on Saturday said that all of Iran's naval forces are ready to confront any threat or act of aggression against the country's national security and maritime sovereignty.

Vahidi vowed that, by drawing on their past experiences during the US-Israeli-imposed war, the two forces will continue to defend the country.

IRGC chief stressed that strengthening Iran's maritime power would send a message of the country's determination to protect its sovereignty to "interventionist powers" that threaten regional security, particularly following the US-Israeli war on Iran.

He further praised the Army's sailors for their "tireless efforts," while paying tribute to the commanders, personnel, and their families, as well as the martyrs of the Navy, particularly those who lost their lives aboard the Dena warship.

The Dena was targeted and sunk by the US Navy in international waters off the coast of Galle, Sri Lanka, on March 4, while returning home after participating in the International Fleet Review 2026 naval exercise hosted by India. The vessel was unarmed and had 136 crew members on board, 104 of whom were killed and 32 others injured.

The IRGC's Navy also vowed to avenge Iranian sailors killed in the attacks on the country's naval forces during the US-Israeli aggression.

It paid tribute to the martyred sailors of the warships Joshan, Sahand, Sabalan, and Dena, praising the Army Navy's role in defending the country during the US-Israeli aggression.

Leader's adviser warns Iraq not to become tool for implementing Trump's policies



International Desk

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, urged Baghdad to remain vigilant over border issues, warning against becoming a tool for implementing the policies of US president, following recent border-related actions by the Iraqi government.

"Sharing a common destiny with our neighbors is a fundamental principle of our foreign policy", Mokhber said in a post on X on Saturday, stressing that in the "darkest days" of Iraq, Iran stood by the people of Iraq with all its might and proved its friendship.

He was referring to Iran's military assistance to the Arab country during its fight against the Daesh terrorist group which had brought large parts of the country under its control for years.

"This unbreakable bond requires Baghdad to remain vigilant on border issues so that it does not become a tool in the hands of the enemies of Islam and an instrument for implementing the policies of the criminal Trump," Mokhber said.

His comments came after US President Donald Trump backed Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's order to federal authorities to take over border crossings and several oil fields run by the Arab country's Kurdistan region after an oil smuggling investigation at the state-run North Oil Company.

Trump said in a Truth Social post on Friday that Washington supports Al-Zaidi's efforts to "stop the smuggling of Iraqi oil, end corruption, and bring all weapons under the exclusive control of the state".

He said the US wants a "united, prosperous, and strong Iraq that makes its own political decisions".

Iraq closed two crossings in the region on Thursday, one with Syria and one with Iran. Iraq's highest court ruled on Wednesday that Baghdad can deploy federal forces along all international borders, including those of the Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

Commander reiterates warning of geographically unlimited response to new aggression

International Desk

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari reiterated Iran's warning of geographically unlimited response to any new aggression, saying that any source of threat, regardless of its location in the world, will be considered a legitimate target.

Speaking on the sidelines of an exhibition of documents related to the US-Israeli wars on Iran, Heydari said the Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to respond to any renewed hostile action.

"If the enemy makes a mistake and commits an act of aggression against our country, any point from which a threat against us emerges, in any country in the world, will be a legitimate target for us, and that source will be targeted," he said.



Kioumars Heydari
IRNA

Iran has repeatedly warned that any military action against the country would prompt a response against the source of the attack, regardless of its geographical location.

The senior commander also dismissed US President Donald Trump's threats and attempts to set deadlines for Iran.

"Trump setting a deadline for us through threats means that he has lost his senses, because his actions and words have never been decisive for us or been of any importance," Heydari said.

He said the global balance of power is undergoing a fundamental transformation, arguing that the United States no longer holds the position of the world's leading power.

Heydari added that Iran's resistance had compelled the international community to recognize the country's special standing in global power equations.

He also highlighted Iran's unique geopolitical position, describing its influence as extending across economic, political, and social spheres.

Addressing the outcome of the war against Iran, Heydari said the United States and Israel suffered a humiliating defeat despite their nuclear capabilities and the support they received from some regional countries.

He added that the two sides sought to impose a hybrid war on Iran with the assistance of some countries in the region, but the outcome has been a major setback for them.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

