



Islamic Republic of Iran
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MFA DIGEST



*Holy Defense in
Holy Ramadan*

Enghelab St.; Tehran

MFA NEWS

Iran's FM in Telephone talks with Counterparts

Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Thailand, France, Sri Lanka, India, UN Secretary General, Russia, Egypt, Turkiye, Japan, Senegal, Malaysia, Cuba, Azerbaijan Republic, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Afghanistan, China, Armenia and Oman.





Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei Appointed New Iran's Leader



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei has been appointed as the 3rd Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The Assembly of Experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei as the third Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the second Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred in a joint American-Israeli terrorist attack on Tehran on Feb. 28. In a statement late Sunday, the Assembly of Experts said that immediately after the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and despite wartime conditions, enemy threats, and a bombing of the Assembly's offices, it did not hesitate in selecting a new leader.

In line with its constitutional and internal duties, the Assembly swiftly took the necessary steps to convene an extraordinary session and appoint the successor, the statement added. Following Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's assassination, a three-member temporary leadership council—including President Masoud Pezeshkian and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei—led the country until a new leader was chosen.

Iranians Pledge Allegiance to Ayatollah Khamenei



Iranian officials and citizens pledged allegiance to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the third Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. In statements, different officials and organizations within the Islamic Republic of Iran declared their loyalty to the newly-selected leader. Issuing a statement, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran affirmed that it would stand against the enemies conspiracies and spare no effort in defending the country, while pledging allegiance to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf also hailed the decision of the Assembly of Experts in selecting Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution, saying that the move was a precise decision. Issuing a statement, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) stressed that it is ready the execute the orders and directives which will be issued by the third Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Other Iranian officials, including Mohammad Mokhber, aide to the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei, and different lawmakers also issued early messages to voice support for Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei. Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref also offered congratulations over the selection of the new leader, saying that the move would open new ways to strengthen unity and solidarity among the nation.

Iranians Rally in Support of New Leader, Islamic Establishment







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Zeinab Hamzehlouei



irna
images

PHOTO: Vahid Khademi



SCIENCE & ART

No disruption in supply of radiopharmaceuticals despite US-Israeli aggression

The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says production and distribution of Iranian radiopharmaceuticals continue uninterrupted despite the US-Israeli military aggression against the country.



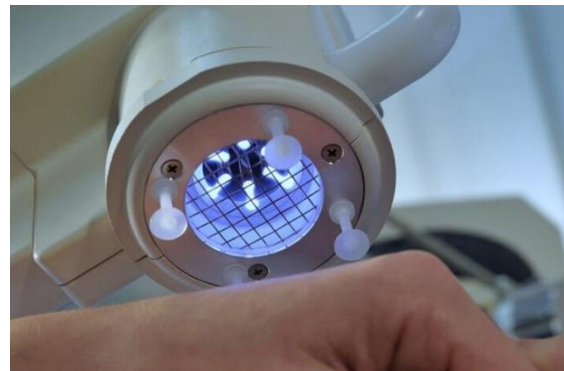
Mohammad Eslami said on Monday that the Iranian nuclear program is advancing without any interruptions as the know-how is entirely homegrown and belongs to all Iranians.

"We have made appropriate planning in the field of providing services to the people," he stated, emphasizing that the raw materials required for the processes have been stored in sufficient quantities.

The Iranian nuclear chief further noted that alternative routes have also been arranged so that the production

of pharmaceuticals does not cease, and the treatment process of patients does not stop.

The United States and Israel launched a large-scale and unprovoked war of aggression against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and high-ranking military commanders, even as Tehran was in the midst of nuclear negotiations with Washington.



The engineering feat behind Iran's record gas output

Minister of Petroleum Mohsen Paknejad announced a new record in gas extraction from the South Pars field, which is the world's largest shared gas field.

According to him, Iran's daily gas extraction from the field has reached 730 million cubic meters, a milestone that came despite the harsh

conditions of draconian Western sanctions.

This achievement is particularly remarkable as the field, which straddles the border between Iran and Qatar, has long been a focal point of intense competition.

Qatar, with its access to international companies, has often seemed to have the upper hand. Yet, over the past decade, Iran has not only managed to keep up but has pulled ahead, surpassing its neighbor in daily gas production.

Pioneering efforts by Iranian engineers and technicians have played a crucial role in this success.

In recent years, despite sanctions and limited resources, these professionals have made impressive strides in gas extraction and processing, achieving results that would have seemed impossible just a few decades ago.

In fact, the developments at South Pars have become a symbol of Iran's industrial strength, its ability to overcome challenges, and its determination to remain independent, even in the face of external pressures.



South Pars is the backbone of Iran's energy strategy. The field provides more than 70% of the country's natural gas and serves as the feedstock for the production of about 40% of Iran's gasoline.

This makes South Pars a vital component of Iran's economy, providing energy for industry, power generation, and households alike.

With each new phase of development, the field has brought Iran closer to self-sufficiency and strengthened its ability to withstand global economic pressures.

Iran joins int'l renewable energy certification system

Iran has been registered as a new member of the International Electrotechnical Commission's (IEC) system for evaluating renewable energy conformity, the Iranian National Standards Organization announced.



Farahnaz Qalasi, the deputy for standardization and promotion at the organization, stated that the IEC Secretariat officially recognized Iran's membership in the IECRE System.



She added that the membership covers wind and photovoltaic energy sectors and aims to strengthen Iran's presence in international conformity assessment mechanisms and develop technical cooperation on renewable energy equipment.



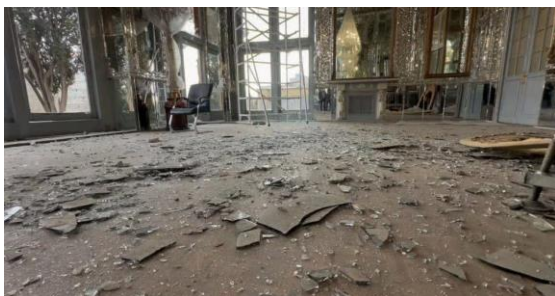
"This marks the third IEC conformity assessment system Iran has joined, demonstrating the expansion of the country's international interactions in this field," Qalasi said.

56 historical sites across Iran severely damaged

In a statement on Saturday, Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts condemned military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran's historical buildings, museums, and sites, announcing that at least 56 museums, historical monuments, and cultural sites across various provinces have sustained severe damage.



The ministry labeled this military aggression “a crime against the nation's historical identity and a blatant assault on the shared heritage of humanity”.



The statement further emphasized that Tehran Province, as Iran's political and cultural heart, tops the list of these crimes with 19 damaged sites. Peerless landmarks such as the Golestan Palace, the Tehran Historic Citadel (Arg), the Tehran Grand Bazaar, the Marble Palace, the historic Shahr bani Palace, the former Senate Building, the Sepahsalar Mosque, and the Farahabad Palace-Museum are among the structures targeted by direct strikes.

The statement also detailed the extent of the damage in other provinces. For example, in Kurdistan, 12 prominent structures, including the Salar Sa'id Mansion (Sanandaj Archaeological Museum), the Khosrowabad Museum, and the Asef Vaziri Mansion, have been damaged.



In Isfahan, the “jewel of world architecture,” the UNESCO-listed Naqsh-e Jahan Square complex, along with the Chehel Sotoun Palace,

the Jameh Mosque, and parts of the city's historic fabric, were targeted.

In Lorestan Province, the historic Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress and its museums sustained damage. In Kermanshah, the Tekyeh Biglarbeygi and the historic Kozazi High School were targeted in the assault. In Bushehr Province, the Sabzabad Mansion and the historic Whitehouse building in the Port of Siraf were damaged, just like the Darreh-Shahr Archaeological Museum in Ilam Province.

Isfahan's historic heart damaged by nearby airstrikes

Explosions triggered by recent US and Israeli strikes have damaged several historic monuments across Iran, with the most extensive impact reported in the historic city of Isfahan, where blast waves struck parts of the Safavid-era Chehel Sotoun Palace and surrounding heritage complexes.

The attacks, which began on February 28, have raised alarm among cultural authorities who say the shockwaves have endangered key elements of Iran's architectural heritage, including Safavid

mirrorwork, historic wall paintings and delicate wooden lattice windows known as orsi,

Among the most heavily affected sites is the Chehel Sotoun garden palace in Isfahan, part of the UNESCO-listed "Persian Gardens" ensemble. Field inspections on March 9 reported shattered wooden doors and windows, damaged mirrorwork and Safavid decorative layers, and harm to sections of the palace's double-layered roof. The central pavilion's columns were also pushed slightly out of alignment, raising concerns about structural stability.

Officials said explosions near the Isfahan governor's compound, located in the heart of the historic district, caused additional damage across the wider Safavid-era Dowlatkhaneh complex surrounding Naqsh-e Jahan Square.



TRADE & COMMERCE

Iran's foreign exchanges surpass \$103b

The deputy head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced that the country's foreign trade is continuing without disruption and that the import of essential goods remains stable under the current conditions.

Morteza Salehi emphasized the strategic role of the Trade Promotion Organization in managing exports and imports, stating that the organization has focused all its efforts on reducing the challenges facing trade so that merchants and traders can carry on their business activities with minimal concern, according to ISNA.

Salehi reaffirmed the organization's readiness to respond to the needs and questions of economic actors, announcing that necessary measures have been implemented to facilitate trade processes — particularly regarding the import of essential goods required by society.

Concluding his remarks, the TPO deputy and advisor noted that trade cycles are operating smoothly and

that the organization continues to support producers and traders.

“Our main priority under current conditions is to accelerate trade processes, and so far, no major issues have been reported in this regard,” he said.



Automakers produced 735,334 passenger cars in 11 months

Over 11 months this Iranian year (ends on March 20) automakers produced 735,334 passenger cars, a drop of 74,634 units, equivalent to 9.2%, compared to the same period last year.

If the production situation had proceeded according to the targets, by the end of 11 months, these automakers' production should have reached 916,663 units. Therefore, car production at the end of 11 months is 181,329 units behind the announced plan, equivalent to 19.8%.

IRANIAN SPORTS

Iran proposes relocating World Cup matches to Mexico

Iran's Ambassador to Mexico, Abolfazl Pasandideh, has called on FIFA to relocate the Iranian national team's 2026 World Cup matches from the United States to Mexico, citing the US government's refusal to cooperate on visas and logistical support.



In a recent interview, Pasandideh clarified that while Iran remains committed to participating in the tournament, the US has failed to provide the necessary administrative and logistical backing for the team. "We emphasize once again that the US is not cooperating regarding visas. We are keen to participate, but they are not providing the required support," he stated, according to IRNA.

The ambassador proposed that FIFA intervene to facilitate Iran's

participation by moving their fixtures to Mexico, one of the tournament's three co-hosts alongside Canada and the United States.



"FIFA can intervene to ensure the Iranian national team can compete, but in Mexico," Pasandideh said, noting that while the final decision rests with Iran's Ministry of Sport and Youth, the alternative would be immediately welcomed. "We have no animosity toward the American people; our issue is with the US government. We have great affection for the Mexican people, and for us, the ideal scenario is to play our matches in Mexico."



He added that if such a proposal is formally tabled, Iran would accept it, though the reaction of other teams in the group would need to be considered.

Under the current schedule, Iran is placed in Group G alongside Belgium, New Zealand, and Egypt. All of Iran's group-stage matches are currently slated to be held on US soil, specifically in Los Angeles and Seattle. FIFA has yet to issue an official response or condemnation regarding the administrative hurdles mentioned by the Iranian diplomat.

Iran to play friendly matches to prepare for 2026 Asian Beach

Iran beach soccer coach Ali Naderi said on Friday Team Melli are going to play several friendly matches as part of preparation for the 2026 Asian Beach Games.



The preparation camp of the Iran national beach soccer team will be held from Feb. 29 to March 5 at the National Football Center in Tehran, Tehran Times reported.

The camp is aimed at preparing the national team for participation in the Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China. Seventeen players will take part in this camp, and based on the players' physical condition and the experience gained from previous camps, the training process is progressing well and showing an upward trend.



He added that three more training camps are planned before the start of the competition, all of which will be held in Tehran. The coaching staff is also seeking to arrange several international friendly matches. Although these matches have not yet been finalized, playing against European teams such as Russia or

Belarus national beach soccer teams, or other teams, would greatly benefit Iran's preparation process.



In response to a question about the players' condition in previous camps, Naderi said that after the conclusion of the domestic league—where players performed at a high level—the coaching staff did not allow their fitness to drop. Through continuous and well-organized camps, the players' readiness has been maintained at a high level. He noted that the national team players are currently in good condition and well prepared for the Asian Beach Games in Sanya.

Iran's three-man team captures triple gold at UWW ranking series in Tirana

Iran secured three gold medals at the Muhamet Malo 2026 United World Wrestling (UWW) Ranking Series in Tirana, Albania, on Thursday.



The Iranian freestyle team dominated the final day of competition in the Ranking Series event, part of the international calendar organized by United World Wrestling. The tournament brings top wrestlers from around the world to earn ranking points ahead of major championships.

The Iranian team was comprised of three wrestlers, all of whom received gold medals. At 79kg, Mohammad Nokhodi shut out Dean C. Hamiti Jr. (USA) with a 10-0 technical superiority win to take the title.

In the 74kg final, Younes Emami secured a 5-0 win against Kyrgyzstan's Orzobek Toktomambetov to win gold.

In the 92kg final, Amirhossein Firouzpour overwhelmed Georgia's Miriani Maisuradze 11-1 to complete the Iranian golden sweep.

US-ISRAEL WAR

Over 1,500 Iranian women, children injured in strikes

The head of Iran's Emergency Medical Organization said that among those who have been injured by the US-Israeli air strikes on the country, 1,044 are women, 584 are under 18 years old, and 54 are under five.



Regarding fatalities, Jafar Miadfar stated that 190 of the deceased were under 18, and six were under five. Among the total number of recorded fatalities, 198 were women, none of whom had any connection to military activities.

Miadfar noted that the youngest victim was an eight-month-old girl, while the oldest was an 88-year-old man.



He added that the health sector itself has also suffered damages: about 11 emergency stations and two healthcare centers have been damaged, 12 ambulances have been severely damaged, and 19 hospitals have sustained minor to severe destruction.

Referring to casualties among medical personnel, he reported that unfortunately, around 11 healthcare workers have been martyred, three of

whom were pre-hospital emergency staff killed in the line of duty.

Furthermore, around 33 health workers were injured in the incidents, several of whom remain hospitalized and under treatment.



Despite all of this, Miadfar assured that various sectors of Iran's health system have been fully mobilized. "From health centers and emergency stations to hospitals and pharmaceutical facilities, all parts of the health sector have been on duty since the first day of the Zionist-American war, making every effort to provide services to the public," he concluded.

At least 36,000 civilian buildings hit in US-Israeli strikes

More than 36,000 civilian structures have been damaged in the targeted attacks carried out by Israeli and American forces, according to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

The organization has released an updated report detailing the extent of human and material losses resulting from the strikes as of March 13, 2026.



According to the report, 36,593 civilian units have sustained damage in the attacks, most of them residential buildings and public service centers.



In total, 21,520 homes across various provinces were completely or partially damaged, of which 10,000 residential units were located in the Tehran Province alone. Moreover,

4,827 commercial buildings were either destroyed or seriously affected. The health sector also suffered significant losses. A total of 160 medical and health facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, were damaged or targeted — an act the IRCS described as a “blatant violation of international humanitarian law and the principle of medical neutrality”.

Damage was also reported in the education sector, with 69 schools destroyed or damaged.

Human losses in the healthcare system were also confirmed. Twelve medical personnel were killed, and 78 health workers were injured during the attacks.

Emergency and rescue operations were not spared. According to operational data, 17 Red Crescent relief centers were hit, along with 21 rescue vehicles that were either damaged or destroyed. Nineteen ambulances from the IRCS and emergency services were also rendered inoperable, and one rescue helicopter sustained severe damage during operations.

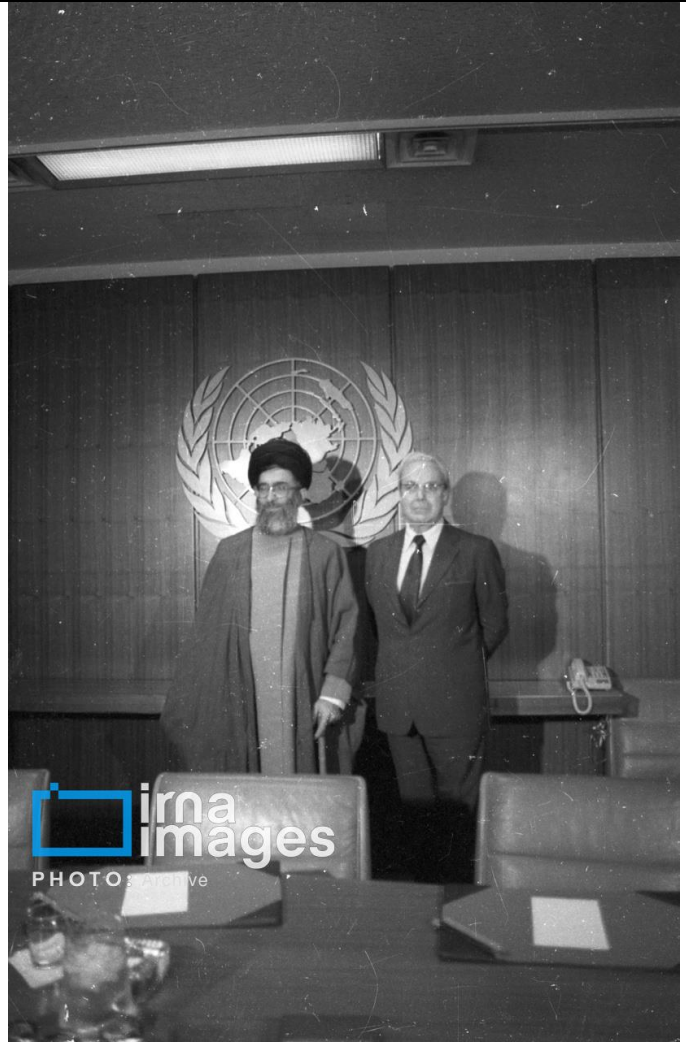
Among first responders, 10 relief workers were injured in Tehran, Mahabad, and Khomein cities, while one rescuer, Hamidreza Jahanbakhsh from Isfahan Province, was killed in the line of duty while assisting civilians.

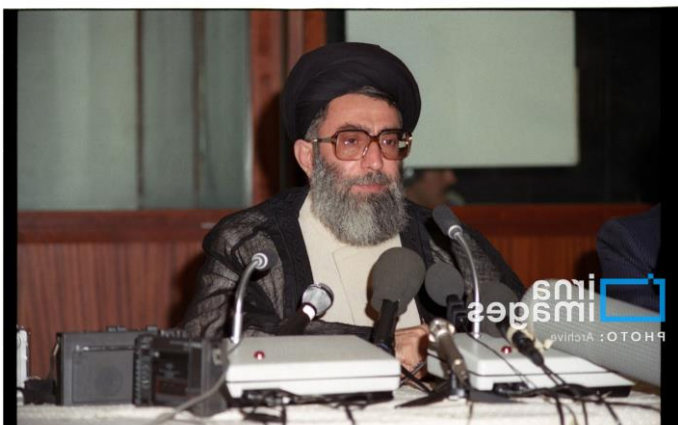
The IRCS president highlighted the humanitarian dimension of what he called a “catastrophe,” declaring that strikes on residential areas, schools, hospitals, medical centers, and relief workers constitute clear acts of war crimes and gross violations of international humanitarian law.

Pirhossein Kolivand added that the Iranian Red Crescent has launched comprehensive legal actions at the international level to defend the rights of the victims, with full documentation of the alleged crimes being compiled and submitted to relevant bodies.

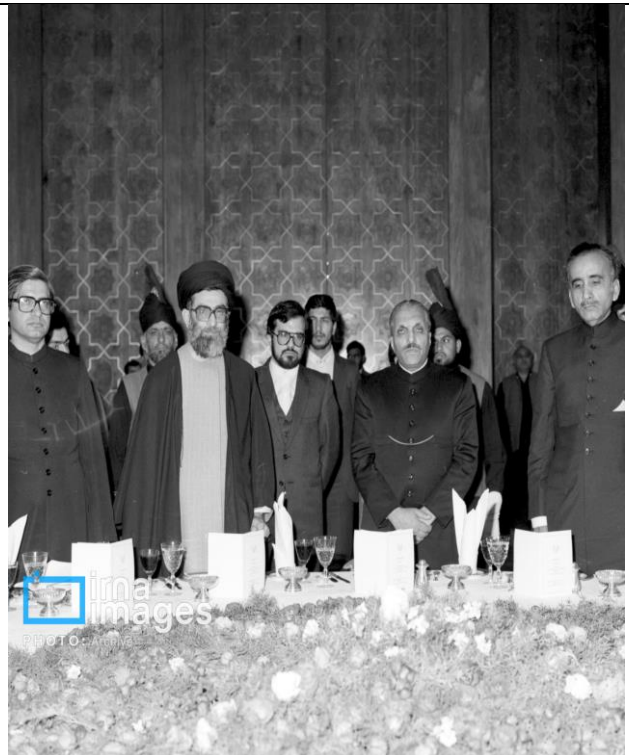
Reports have already been sent to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations, and its Human Rights Secretariat.

Ayatollah Khamenei Memories











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