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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

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MFA DIGEST

UNBREAKABLE WILL





MFA News



Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Iraq, Pakistan, Qatar, Turkiye, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan Republic, Russia, South Africa, Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Spain, Germany, France, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, India, and Republic of Korea.



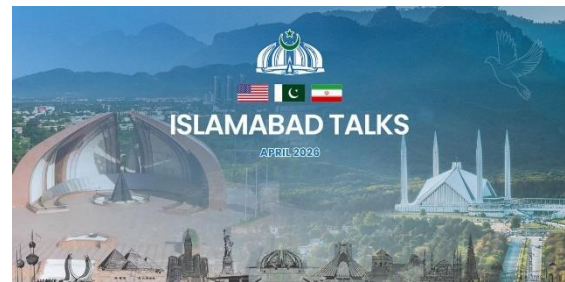


Iran, US Delegations Meet in Islamabad

A high-ranking Iranian delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, traveled to Islamabad for talks with US officials.

Washington was represented by US Vice President JD Vance, along with Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

In intensive talks at highest level in 47 years, Iran engaged with US in good faith to end war.



But when just inches away from "Islamabad MoU", Iran encountered US maximalism, shifting goalposts, and blockade. This round of talks ended with no tangible result as the result of the insistence of the US delegation on their excessive demands.





Science & Tech



Bushehr nuclear power plant safely generating electricity

The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is safely continuing its electricity production despite several missile strikes by the US and Israel near the facility over the past weeks.



In a statement, the Public Relations Office of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant emphasized that the 1,000-megawatt plant is fully operational and continues to contribute to Iran's national electricity grid.

The statement highlighted that the plant is adhering to the highest international safety standards, ensuring the secure generation of electricity.

"This colossal national facility is operating safely and is currently feeding power into the national electricity grid system according to the maximum international standards," the statement read.



Since becoming operational 12 years ago, the Bushehr plant has produced more than 78 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, significantly reducing the emission of seven million tons of polluting and greenhouse gases annually.

The plant's continued operation has played a vital role in helping Iran meet its domestic energy needs while reducing its environmental footprint.

However, areas surrounding the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant have been targeted by aerial and missile attacks by US and Israeli forces on several occasions.

The latest of these occurred on Saturday morning, when a projectile struck an area near Unit 1 of the plant. Despite the attacks, the plant's operations remain unaffected.

310 students, teachers martyred in US-Israeli war on Iran

Iran’s minister of education says 310 students and teachers have been martyred and over 750 schools have so far been damaged in the ongoing war of aggression launched by the US and since late February.

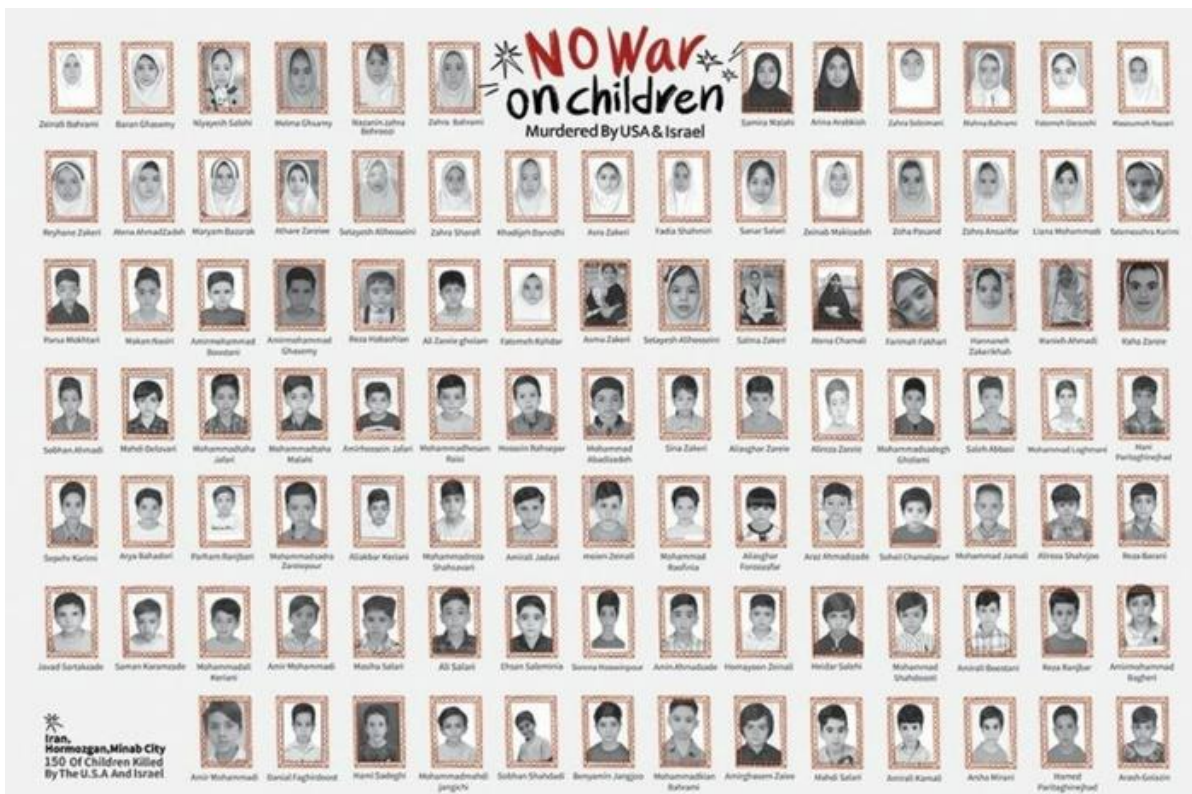
Alireza Kazemi provided the grim figures during a televised interview on Monday night, adding that more than 210 students and teachers were also wounded during this period.

The US and Israel launched their latest unprovoked war on Iran on February 28, assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, senior military officials, and targeting nuclear facilities, schools, and hospitals.

Referring to the infrastructural damage inflicted on the country’s education, Kazemi said, “Some 900 educational and administrative units as well as camping and sporting facilities have been either damaged or demolished.”



He stressed that of these, 750 schools sustained damage.



AEOI condemns US-Israeli attack on Ardakan yellowcake plant

Condemning the US and Israeli attack on Ardakan Yellowcake Plant in Yazd, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) described it ‘as a clear violation of the immunity of peaceful nuclear facilities.’



In a post on its X account, the organization wrote, “US-Israeli attack on Ardakan yellowcake plant in Yazd is a blatant violation of the immunity of peaceful nuclear facilities, targeting the reactor fuel supply chain & nuclear medicine.”



“Iran’s nuclear tech serves global peace & human health – a path heavy bombs will never halt,” it added.

FM Araghchi reacts to US-Israeli attacks on Sharif University



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reacted to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran’s Sharif University of Technology(SUT), emphasizing that the aggressors will witness the strength of the Iranian people.



In a post on his X account, Araghchi said, “Israeli-US aggressors have bombed the MIT of Iran. This follows attacks on other universities.”

“1,400 years ago, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that even if knowledge was situated in the distant Pleiades, Iranians would be capable of attaining it. Aggressors will see our might,” he added.

A hostile US-Israeli attack on the Sharif University of Technology campus in the early hours of Monday destroyed one of its buildings, as well as damaging nearby structures.

Over 30 Iranian universities have been directly hit: minister

Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simayi Sarraf said Saturday more than 30 universities have been directly targeted in violation of human rights and international law.



The minister emphasized the importance of scientific infrastructure, noting that civilian sites and essential facilities for education and research have been violated.

“According to international documents, attacking such infrastructure not only constitutes a violation of international law but also a crime against humanity,” he added.



He warned of the human cost of these attacks: “Millions of students and researchers are now deprived of education and study. Our country, as a key provider of scientific talent for the world, has suffered serious damage from these assaults.”

“More than 60 students also lost their lives [in the aggression],” he added.

desperate enemy bombs Iran's century-old biomedical research center

On April 2, American and Israeli warplanes deliberately struck the Pasteur Institute of Iran in central Tehran, a 105-year-old biomedical research center and national heritage site.



In moments, laboratories that had produced life-saving vaccines for generations were reduced to rubble. International legal experts have condemned the attack as a war crime and an assault on the very foundations of public health sovereignty.

The ongoing US-Israeli aggression against Iran, now in its sixth week, has taken a dark and unmistakable turn lately with targeted attacks on scientific and academic centers.

The war – unprovoked and unjustified – has expanded into a systematic campaign against the country's civilian infrastructure – with a particular focus on healthcare, pharmaceutical production, and medical research.

The attack on the Pasteur Institute, one of the oldest and most prestigious public health institutions in West Asia, represents an escalation in this war of aggression.



As experts assert, this is not merely an attack on a public building. It is an assault on a century of scientific achievement, on the right of a nation to produce its own medicines and vaccines, and on the very principles of international humanitarian law that distinguish civilian from military targets.

The World Health Organization has documented more than twenty attacks on Iranian healthcare facilities since March 1, resulting in a number of casualties.

The pattern is unmistakable: this is a deliberate strategy to dismantle Iran's public health infrastructure, to deprive its people of essential medicines, and to weaponize disease and suffering in the service of political objectives.



The Pasteur Institute, a symbol of Iran's scientific resilience through epidemics, revolutions, and sanctions, now stands as a monument to the brutality of a war that respects no red lines and no international norms.



Trade & Economy

Cost of US aggression against Iran surpasses \$42 billion

The cost of the US military aggression against Iran has surpassed \$42 billion over the past 37 days, according to media reports citing a specialized tracking website.

According to the Iran War Cost Tracker, the expenses have exceeded \$42 billion since the start of the military campaign.



The report stated that the figures are based on Pentagon statements and reports to the US Congress compiled as of March 10, which indicated that the first six days of the operation alone cost more than \$11 billion.

Following that, the Pentagon announced it was seeking to allocate \$1 billion per day to the war effort.

So far, Iran has destroyed expensive US equipment in the region, including a \$500 million aircraft and the country's advanced radar systems.

Iranian trucks can enter Afghanistan visa-free

Iranian trucks can now enter Afghanistan without visas or entry fees under a new arrangement announced by trade officials.

Head of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, Mahmoud Siyadat, said normal foreign trade procedures remain in place along Iran's eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, Iran and Afghanistan have historically maintained economic exchanges regardless of security and political developments.



Referring to military tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said both countries now view Iran more closely as a transit route and as a source for meeting goods demand.

India makes 1st unrestricted Iran oil purchase in 7 years

Indian refiners have purchased Iranian oil amid the Middle East conflict that has disrupted supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, the oil ministry said on Saturday.



The world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, India has not received a cargo from Tehran since May 2019, following U.S. pressure not to buy Iranian crude, but supply disruptions from the U.S.-Israel war have hit the South Asian nation hard.

"Amid Middle East supply disruptions, Indian refiners have secured their crude oil requirements, including from Iran; and there is no payment hurdle for Iranian crude imports," the oil ministry said on X, according to CNBC.



Last month, the United States temporarily removed sanctions on Iranian oil and refined products to ease supply shortages.

India has also bought 44,000 metric tons of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas loaded on a sanctioned vessel. The ministry said the vessel, which berthed at the western port of Mangalore on Wednesday, is discharging the fuel.

US, Israel attack 4 petrochemical companies in Iran

The US and the Israeli regime attacked four petrochemical companies in Iran's Mahshahr on Saturday.



Valiollah Hayati, the province's deputy governor for security and police affairs, told reporters on Saturday that Fajr 1 and 2, Rajal, and Amir Kabir petrochemical companies were hit during the airstrike on Mahshahr.

He added that the likelihood of casualties, including deaths and injuries, from the attack is very high.

Iran local currency to be used in Strait of Hormuz

A senior Iranian lawmaker says the plan for the tolling system in Strait of Hormuz is concluded, adding that the ships will have to pay in the local Iranian currency as their tolls.

The chairman of the Parliament's National Security Commission Ebrahim Azizi announced the conclusion of the "Strategic Action to Ensure the Security and Sustainable Progress of the Strait of Hormuz" scheme in the parliament, saying that "Based on the scheme, comprehensive control of the Strait will change for the benefit of the Iranian people, and payment for any transit rights will be made only in Iranian local currency."

He said that the smart management of the strait is in Iran's national interests. According to the lawmaker, "The Strait of Hormuz will not return to the previous control system."

He stressed that Parliament and armed forces seek to meet the demands of the people as they kept their presence on the streets in cities across the nation to show their support for the military and the Islamic Establishment.

The passage of Israeli vessels in the strait is prohibited in the management system, he continued to highlight.

During 2023–2025, 20% of the world's liquefied natural gas and 25% of seaborne oil trade passed through the Strait, illustrating its important location for trade.





Persian Cuisine



Traditional food of Kermanshah; Dande Kebab

Dande Kebab (lamb ribs kebab) is one of the original, official, and delicious Kebabs in Kermanshah, and it can be considered as one of the most famous, delicious, and popular foods in the province and Iran.



Dande Kabab is a food like Shishlik with different tastes cooked with the special method in most restaurants, especially those around Taq-e Bostan. Kermanshahi chefs prepare a sauce with a combination of tomato paste, salt, pepper, lemon juice, and saffron and pour it on kebabs repeatedly during the cooking and preparation process. After cooking the food, it can be served with rice or bread decorated with onion, lemon, or sour orange.

Preparing this very delicious Iranian Kebab needs special expertise. Here is one of the ways to make it!

Ingredients:

- Lamb Ribs,
- Kebab Skewers,
- Tomato Paste,
- Lemon Juice,
- Salt and Pepper,
- Oil,
- Saffron.

**Recipe:**

First, cut a large piece of around one kilogram of lamb ribs as wide and long as shown in the photo. Then, put three to four skewers vertically through the meat to bear both the weight and the shape of it. Then hit the meat repeatedly with a sharp knife and put the meat in the refrigerator for a few hours.



Now the meat is ready to grill. Heat some oil in a container and then add tomato paste and sauté it. By adding salt, pepper, lemon juice, and saffron make a thick sauce.



When grilling, place the lamb ribs on medium-heat coal, and at the same time rub the thick sauce on both sides continuously until the Kebab is ready.



Dandeh Kebab is very yummy and popular. Hope when you visit Kermanshah, try this Iranian specialty and enjoy the hospitality of the people of Kermanshah.

Notes:

- Grilling the calf's ribs takes 2 minutes longer than those of sheep.
- To get a better Kebab, you can create small cuts with a knife on the meaty parts of the ribs.
- There is no need to turn the skewers very much on the heat, but be careful not to let the meat burn.
- For your convenience, you can use grilling nets instead.
- Put the rib pieces from one direction through the skewers for a steady grill.
- It is better to keep the ribs in the fridge for a week to make it drier. It reduces the grilling time.
- There is one layer of fat on the ribs. Do not remove it to get a better Kebab.
- It is better to put the skewers or the net at least 8 centimeters above the heat and occasionally circulate the air.





Iran Sports



Iran freestyle & Greco-Roman team crowned in Asian competitions

Iran Greco-Roman team claimed the title of the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championship.

Meanwhile Iran freestyle team defended their title at the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships.



The Iranian team, headed by Hassan Rangraz, came first with 201 points, followed by Uzbekistan and Japan, Tehran Times reported.

The Iranian wrestlers won five gold and three silver medals in the competitions in Kyrgyzstan.

Iran freestyle team finished in first place with 178 points, followed by India (162 points) and Japan (127 points). The Iranian freestylers claimed four gold medals, one silver and three bronzes.

Iran demolish Costa Rica in friendly match for World Cup

Iran national football team defeated Costa Rica 5-0 in a friendly match on Tuesday.

Ali Gholizadeh opened the scoring in the 10th minute in Mardan Stadium in Antalya, Turkey; Tehran Times reported.

Mehdi Taremi made the scoreboard 2-0 from the penalty spot in the 19th minute.

Mohammad Mohebbi scored Team Melli's third goal in the 31st minute.

Taremi completed his brace three minutes later from the spot once again.

Mehdi Ghaedi scored in the 54th minute to seal Iran's 5-0 win over Costa Rica. Iran are drawn in Group G along with Belgium, New Zealand and Egypt.



Iran's NOC sends letter to IOC

Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) has sent a letter to International Olympic Committee (IOC) headed by Kirsty Coventry.



The letter emphasizes the role of the Olympic Movement in prompting peace and human values, calling on international sports organizations to uphold their moral responsibilities more than ever in the current sensitive situation, Tehran Times reported.



Parts of the letter state that the Iranian nation “has never been the initiator of war,” and the history of this land is a testament to its longstanding commitment to peace, culture, and humanity.

The letter also refers to the human dimensions of the crisis, mentioning the tragic incident involving schoolchildren in Minab, noting that children who left home in the morning to attend school but were given to their families only as lifeless bodies—a heartbreaking account that reflects the depth of the tragedy and its direct impact on civilians, especially children.



Further in the correspondence, it highlights the extensive consequences of the situation on the sports community, pointing out that, beyond the human toll, it has also affected sports infrastructure and placed the future of athletes under serious threat.

Lastly, the letter recalls the central slogan of the Olympic Movement—“Peace through Sport”—and stresses the need for the International Olympic Committee to play a more active role in defending human values and supporting nations in times of crisis. It concludes that international sports entities are expected to take a fair stance toward a country that has suffered two unjust aggressions within less than a year.

Iran's FIFA World Cup participation still not confirmed

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup approaches, the world is experiencing a number of conflicts. For the past month, the Middle East has found itself in a world of turmoil. As the conflict amongst the USA, Israel, and Iran continues, Iran's World Cup participation continues to remain questionable.



With just months left for the tournament to begin, Iran's Minister of Sport, has shared an important update on their nation's potential participation in the upcoming 2026 World Cup. Ever since the conflict started in Feb. 2026, Iran's World Cup dreams have remained dicey.

Gaining qualification in the tournament, Iran is currently scheduled to play all of its games in the USA rather than in the other host countries of Canada or Mexico.



While Trump previously welcomed Iran to take part in the World Cup, his recent threat to the nation of Iran prompted a quick response from Donyamali, who called for FIFA to change their playing location from the USA to either Mexico or Canada.

“Our request to FIFA to move Iran's matches from the United States to Mexico remains in place, but we have not yet received a response. If the request is accepted, Iran's participation in the World Cup will be confirmed. However, FIFA has not issued any response as yet. As Minister of Sport, and in cooperation with the Iranian Football Federation, we will ensure the national team remains ready for the World Cup. However, the final decision will be taken by the Cabinet. Should their matches be moved, Iran will take part this summer,” he said.



Tourism & Nature

Iranians embrace beauty of spring on Norooz 'Sizdah Be-dar'

An Iranian National Nature Day, locally known as 'Sizdah Be-dar', is held on the 13th day of Farvardin (the first month of the Iranian calendar) to bid farewell to the Norooz holidays.



The celebration of Norooz needs a happy ending to make it perfect, so on the last day of this celebration people go outdoors to celebrate the end of the Norooz holidays.

On the 13th day of Farvardin, which falls on April 2 in normal years and April 1 in leap years, every Iranian people try to spend and enjoy this day in the best possible way.



'Sizdah Be-dar' is known on the Iranian calendar as Nature Day and is one of the official holidays.

Tens of millions of people will mark the 13th day of the Persian New Year or Norooz, leaving their houses to picnic in parks and countryside all over the world. The occasion has deep roots in Iranian history.

Like many Iranian celebrations, 'Sizdah Be-dar' has its own customs.



On the eve of 'Sizdah Be-dar', many are thinking about choosing an appropriate place to spend the day. Some choose parks, some go to the countryside and others come together in a garden to celebrate the day. Usually, several families plan to gather in a place to spend the day outdoors. It is believed that joy and laughter clean the mind from all evil thoughts, and a picnic is usually a festive, happy event.

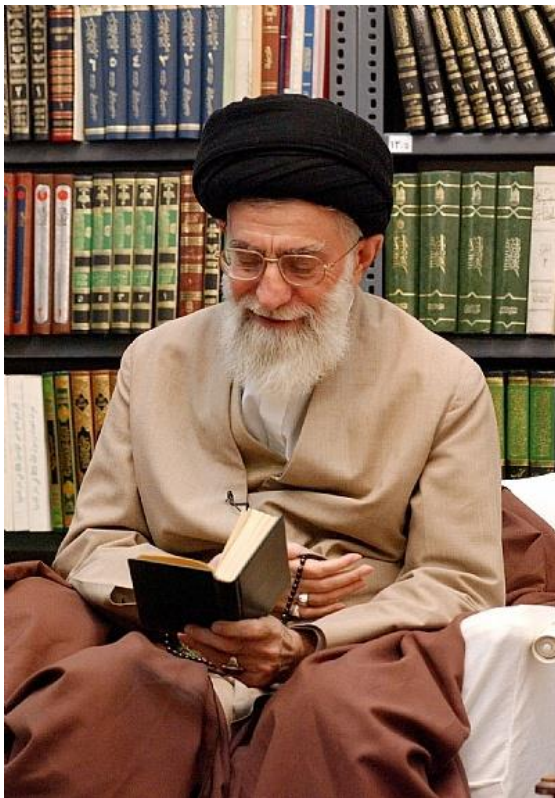


Society & Culture



Book on Iran's martyred Leader to be unveiled in Indonesia

The book "Future Vision of Iran's Martyred Leader" will be unveiled in Indonesia alongside a conference titled "New World Order: 40 Days After War and Martyrdom" of Seyyed Ali Khamenei.



According to a report by Mehr News Agency, the book "Future Vision of Iran's Martyred Leader" will be unveiled simultaneously with a conference titled "New World Order: 40 Days After War and Martyrdom" of Imam Khamenei in Indonesia.



This event, which has received widespread attention in Indonesia's academic and media circles, will begin with a message of condolence from Hojjat al-Islam wal-Muslimin Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), and will continue with the presence of prominent Iranian and Indonesian figures.

At this conference, Mohammad Boroujerdi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Indonesia, along with Subhi Ibrahim, Director of PGSI University, will deliver speeches.



Iranian filmmakers urge global focus on Minab school strike

Twenty prominent Iranian filmmakers have issued a statement marking the 40th day since the attack on the Shajareh Tayyebah school in Minab, where 168 primary school students were killed.

The statement called on the international community to pay attention to what the signatories described as a war crime.

Among those who signed the text are Narges Abyar, Homayoun As'adian, Asgarpour, Kianoush Ayari, Mohammad Ali Bashe Ahangar, Abolhassan Davoudi, Davood Nejad, Ebrahim Hatamikia, Jeyrani, Khajeh Pasha, Reza Kianian, Mahdavian, Majid Majidi, Seyed Reza Mir

Karimi, Parviz Parastui, Rasul Sadr Ameli, Kamran Shirdel, Behrooz Shoeibi, Kamal Tabrizi and Haroun Yeshayaei.

Here is the full text of the statement:

On February 28, even the sun seemed to withdraw its bright gaze from one corner of this earth...

In Minab, in southern Iran, 168 schoolchildren were killed by two American Tomahawk missiles. Their small bodies were pulled from beneath the rubble of a place that should have been a shelter for their dreams. At the height of lawlessness and brutality, an elementary school was destroyed in a “double-tap” attack—a calculated act that targets not only human lives, but the very meaning of humanity itself.



China regrets damage to Iran's historical sites amid war

China deeply regrets the damage caused to Iran's cultural relics and historical sites amid the ongoing war, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Tuesday.



China deeply regrets the damage caused to Iran's cultural relics and historical sites amid the ongoing war, and urges all involved parties, especially the United States and Israel, to fully cease military operations immediately, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Tuesday.

Mao made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a media query.



World cultural heritage is a precious treasure for all humanity, Mao said, adding that China urges all parties to start dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible, and bring an early end to the war that should never have broken out.

'Assault on humanity's shared heritage'

Iran's minister of culture has warned UNESCO over threats issued by the Israeli regime against the Iranian national railway, a World Heritage site.



In a letter addressed to the international body on Tuesday, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi-Amiri, identified the railway as "among the most prominent examples of contemporary architecture and engineering in the country, constructed over many years."

Earlier, Tel Aviv threatened to target the railway, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List five years ago during the organization's 44th session in China, with full consensus from member states.

Salehi-Amiri described the threats as a direct assault on humanity's shared heritage and called for UNESCO to take an explicit, immediate, and deterrent stance.

The railway stretches across the Iranian provinces of Golestan, Mazandaran, Semnan, Tehran, Qom, Markazi, Lorestan, and Khuzestan, passing diverse landscapes, including the Hirkanian forests, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, in northern Iran.

“It is a prime example of territorial connectivity and the civilizational memory of a nation,” the letter noted.

The minister cautioned, “Any aggression, destruction, or attack on this valuable site constitutes an attack on the cultural heritage of the Iranian people and damages an asset that belongs to all humanity.”

“From moral, human, and international cultural law perspectives, such actions are strongly condemned.”

He, meanwhile, highlighted the risks posed to civilians, noting that any attack targeting the railway would have extensive humanitarian consequences.



Events & Occasions

Pro-Gov't Rallies Continue in Iran





In memory of Schoolgirls of Minab Elementary School in Iran