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MIDDLE EAST

IRAN RETALIATES AFTER US STRIKES



MAJID ASGARIPPOUR, WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY

People ride past a billboard depicting the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and the late Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Saturday in Tehran.

Mediator Pakistan reportedly sends official to Tehran for talks

AHMED ELIMAM, JANA CHOUKEIR
AND PHIL STEWART
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran retaliated Saturday after the United States downed drones and struck the country's coastal radar sites. The Iranian foreign ministry said the U.S. strikes broke an April 8 ceasefire, adding such repeated violations showed Washington has no intention of reducing tensions.

It also warned that the U.S. would bear responsibility for the consequences of its "illegal actions" and further escalation.

The U.S. military believed the four Iranian drones targeted regional maritime traffic, a U.S. official told Reuters. U.S. Central Command said on social media that the U.S. then struck Iran's surveillance sites in Goruk and Qeshm Island, both on the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it attacked U.S. bases in Kuwait and Bahrain in retaliation for U.S. strikes and fired at four tankers trying to cross the strait without its permission.

Kuwait's army said Saturday it engaged seven ballistic missiles that passed over

residential areas, resulting in material damage but no casualties. In Bahrain, sirens sounded and residents were urged to seek shelter. Kuwait and Bahrain condemned the strikes. Iran later said it hit U.S. bases in both countries with ballistic missiles, but the U.S. military said six missiles were intercepted and a seventh did not reach its target.

The U.S. will make Iranian assets available to Persian Gulf allies to support rebuilding and repairs for future damage caused by Iran, a source said. The U.S. also will consider using those assets to support repairs for past damage, the source said, adding U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent directed a team to assess costs of damage Iran inflicted on Gulf allies.

The U.S. and Iran have engaged in largely indirect negotiations for an interim deal that would halt the war but leave issues including Iran's nuclear program to further negotiations. A deal remained elusive as the two sides periodically skirmished.

Tehran wants access to billions of dollars in oil revenue, waivers on sanctions on crude exports, the lifting of a U.S. blockade on its ports and leverage over the Strait

of Hormuz. Iran effectively blocked the waterway, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies transited before the war.

Iranian state media reported that Mohsin Naqvi, the interior minister of mediator Pakistan, arrived Saturday in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. A Pakistani source said Naqvi would carry a message from Pakistan to the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

After the U.S. and Israel launched the war against Iran on Feb. 28, Tehran attacked Gulf states hosting U.S. bases and largely stopped shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict drove up oil and gas prices and disrupted supply chains for other goods, including humanitarian aid.

U.S. President Donald Trump faces mounting domestic political pressure to end the unpopular war. He told NBC that while most of Iran's drone and missile manufacturing facilities were destroyed, Iranians still had access to about a fifth of their missiles.

Please see IRAN, Page A2

Events for America's 250th highlight nation's disunity

As two main organizations vie for attention, scores of others make their own plans

MIKE MAGNER
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — One month from America's 250th birthday, events and celebrations to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence are as fragmented as the nation's politics and culture in 2026.

President Donald Trump's plans for a concert affiliated with the Great American State Fair in the weeks leading up to July 4 have been replaced by a campaign-style MAGA rally after most of the artists invited

to perform on the National Mall opted out because of the partisan nature of the event.

America250, the bipartisan commission established by Congress to plan for the "semiquincentennial," remains the central organizer, but its efforts to get all 350 million Americans to participate in various ways have been overshadowed in recent weeks by the White House sponsor of events, Freedom 250.

And while the two main 250 organizations vie for attention, scores of other groups, both local and national, are planning their own activities, some of them presented as attempts to counter the "Trump whitewash" of the United States' first two-and-a-half centuries.

Please see 250TH, Page A2



ANNE LEBRETON, AFP

Cranes work on the construction of a structure on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, on May 29, for the upcoming UFC fight that President Donald Trump will host as part of the 250th anniversary of the United States.