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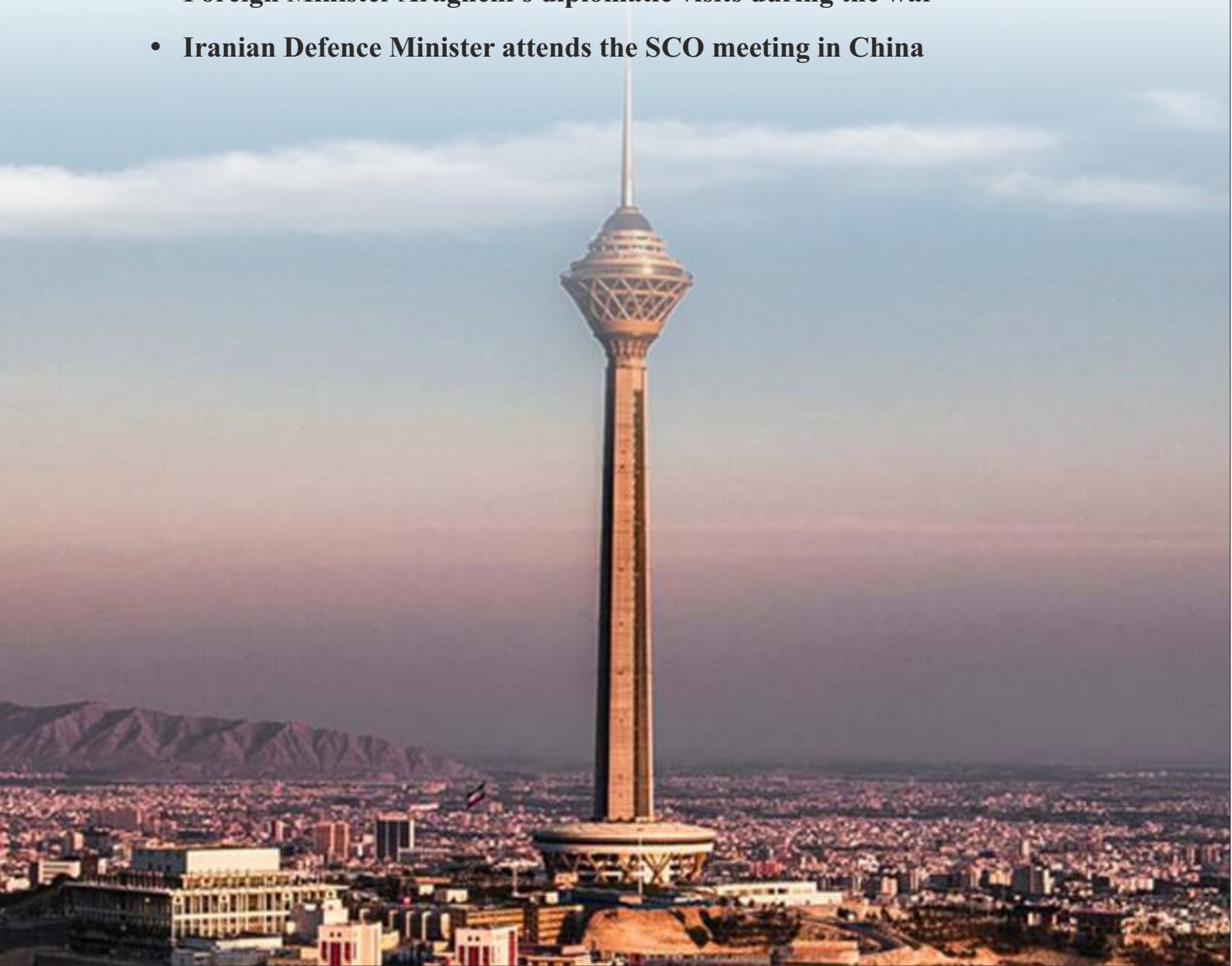
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Digest

June 2025

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Israeli and the US attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities

On 13 June, Israel launched a series of strikes on Iran's nuclear and military sites and carried out assassinations of top military officials and nuclear scientists by deploying warplanes and drones previously smuggled into the country. During the 12 days of hostilities, a total of 11 nuclear scientists and over 20 Iranian commanders, including Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp. (IRGC) commander-in-chief Hossein Salami, chief of staff of armed forces Mohammad Bagheri, and head of the IRGC Aerospace Force Amir Ali Hajizadeh, were killed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a video statement announcing the launch of the military operation dubbed 'Rising Lion,' stated, "We will reach all our objectives and we will eliminate the double existential threat," referring to Iran's nuclear program and its ballistic missile capabilities. Making a direct appeal to the Iranian people, he said, "This is your opportunity to stand up [to the regime]." He also noted that he ordered plans for the attack last November, soon after the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Though initially the United States (US) Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the Israeli attack as a "unilateral action", President Donald Trump claimed that the attacks came at the end of a 60-day ultimatum he had given Iran to "make a deal" on its nuclear programme. Following Israeli attacks, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei stated that Israel's strikes had "initiated a war" and would not be allowed to conduct "hit and run" attacks without consequences. On the 13th night, Iran launched three separate waves of attacks and hundreds of missiles at Israel, hitting an apartment building in Tel Aviv. After Iranian retaliatory strikes, Israel expanded its targets in Iran to include industrial and energy infrastructure, as well as air bases and missile production factories across the

country. On the 14th night, the Israeli military struck 80 targets in Tehran, including several residential buildings. Israeli air strikes on the South Pars gas field resulted in a partial suspension of production. Iran's third round of missile strikes caused a fire at the Haifa power plant. Over the first three days, Israeli armed forces hit 250 targets across 18 provinces, mostly in western Iran. However, on 15 June, a suicide drone attack was reported at the airport in Mashhad in north-eastern Iran. Iran's retaliatory strikes, codenamed Operation True Promise III, involved over 20 waves of targeted attacks against Israeli infrastructure and strategic assets, including the Weizmann Institute of Science, in a strike that came after the US attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. According to Iran's judiciary, Israeli strikes on Tehran's Evin jail housing Iran's political prisoners killed 71 people in the last day of the war. On 13 June, Israel launched multiple strikes at the Natanz nuclear complex, destroying the above-ground enrichment plant and electricity infrastructure, which caused a power outage and damage to the centrifuges in the cascade hall. Israeli strikes also damaged critical buildings at the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre. Israel targeted the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, buried deep in the mountains near Qom and housing advanced centrifuges used to enrich uranium to high purity levels. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) statement at the United Nations (UN), the plant was not impacted. On 22 June, the US attacks on Iran's three nuclear facilities—codenamed Midnight Hammer—involved 125 US military aircraft, including B-2 bombers and submarines. The US strike team included 7 B-2 stealth bombers, which flew from an air base in Missouri, protected by fighter jets. As the bombers neared Iranian airspace, a US submarine with the Carl Vinson strike group in the Arabian Sea launched two dozen cruise missiles at the

Isfahan and Natanz sites. B-2 bombers dropped fourteen GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators on the Fordo site. Iranian officials said, “The site has long been evacuated and has not suffered any irreversible damage.” On 23 June evening, Iran launched missiles against a US base at Al-Udied in Qatar and Iraq. Notably, Iran gave [early warnings](#) to the two countries, allowing them to prepare their air defences. Hours later, Trump announced a ceasefire between Iran and Israel that was facilitated by diplomacy involving Qatar, the US and Iran.

Foreign Minister Araghchi's diplomatic visits during the war

On 20 June, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi held talks with Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom (UK) -- called the E3, in Geneva in an attempt to prevent an escalation in the country's conflict with Israel, after Donald Trump said he would decide within two weeks whether to join the assault on Tehran. Two days earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron said European nations were planning to suggest a negotiated solution to end the Iran-Israel conflict. He noted that offer to Iran will have four aspects including resumption of work done by the IAEA with "the capacity to go to all the sites", so that Iran moves to zero enrichment of uranium, oversight over Iran's ballistic missile program and its financing of regional proxies, and liberation of "hostages" by Iran referring to foreigners jailed by Iran on espionage charges. Araghchi, in his meeting with the European Foreign Ministers, stated that Tehran was ready to "consider diplomacy" again only once Israel's "aggression is stopped". On 21 June, on the side lines of a meeting of foreign ministers from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states, Araghchi met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who supported restarting the diplomatic process between Iran and the US.

Araghchi also met the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey. Araghchi and his Qatari counterpart Abdulrahman Al Thani emphasised the need for [continued consultations](#) between Iran and Qatar, and also at the regional level, to exert pressure on Israel. A day after the US bombers struck three Iranian nuclear and military sites, Araghchi visited Moscow and met President Vladimir Putin. Putin condemned the US' "unprovoked aggression" against Iran assuring Russian support to help the Iranian people. Putin mentioned that he saw the visit as a chance to explore "how we can get out of today's situation." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia had offered to mediate.

Iranian Defence Minister attends the SCO meeting in China

On 27 June, Iran's Defence Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China. Nasirzadeh also met with senior military officials from China to discuss bilateral developments. Nasirzadeh was among the defence chiefs received by Chinese defence minister Dong Jun on the PLA Navy's Type 052D destroyer Kaifeng. Nasirzadeh thanked Beijing for "supporting Iran's legitimate position following the recent attacks" by Israel and the US. He stated, "We hope that China will continue to stand on the side of justice, help maintain the current ceasefire, and play a greater role in de-escalating regional tensions." In his address to the assembled ministers, Dong reportedly stated, "unilateralism, protectionism, and hegemonic and bullying acts are on the rise, seriously disrupting the international order and becoming the greatest source of chaos and conflict." The Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that the attacks on nuclear facilities under the supervision of the IAEA seriously violated the UN Charter and its principles.