



Iran begins rolling new phases at Bushehr nuclear plant

National Desk

Iran on Sunday started the implementation of the second phase of the second and third units of the Bushehr nuclear plant. The operation includes pouring concrete for the construction of a part of the second nuclear reactor. Overseeing the process, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami expressed hope that the second unit will be completed and inaugurated in less than 5 years and the third unit 1.5 years after that. He also expressed hope that the concrete pouring operation will begin at the third nuclear reactor soon. "The construction works in the sites of two Bushehr nuclear reactors have increased ten-fold compared to the previous years.

Those involved in the project have been working round the clock in three shifts," he added. Masoud Nasouri, the engineer in charge of the project for the construction of the second and third Bushehr reactors, said that the two units will save the country 10 million barrels of oil and 1,600 billion cubic meters of gas per year and prevent the emission of 7 million tons of toxic gasses. During the ceremony, Iran's nuclear chief noted that the Bushehr nuclear plant has so far produced more than 60 billion kilowatt hours (kw/h) of electricity, including 7 billion kw/h last year. According to the 20-year vision, it is necessary to produce 20,000 megawatts of electricity, which will be realized with an investment of \$50 billion, he said.

Eslami noted that the government's support had accelerated the construction of the two reactors under deals worth €1.8 billion. According to the facility's authorities, the nuclear plant has produced 3.5 million megawatt hours of electricity since the beginning of the Iranian year, which begins on March 21. The nuclear plant was built by Russia after years of delay and officially handed over in September 2013. Over the past years, Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program has recorded many achievements in defiance of US sanctions as well as hurdles created by the West. The country has also been closely cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Tehran denies involvement in Hamas attacks

'Crushing response' vowed to any foolish move against Iran

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Iran has rejected the accusations that Tehran was involved in the Palestinian surprise attack against Israel, adding that the large-scale operation was carried out "solely" by Palestine. Iran's mission to the United Nations said on Sunday that Tehran was not involved in the Saturday attacks launched by members of Hamas and other Gaza-based resistance fighters against Israel, which resulted in the death of at least 800 Israelis and the capture of dozens more until Monday. "Iran unwaveringly stands in solidarity with Palestine; however, it is important to note that Iran is not involved in Palestine's response as these actions are solely determined by the Palestinians themselves," Iran's UN mission said in a statement.

'Legitimate defense'
The mission also called the attack a wholly legitimate defense, saying the resolute measures taken by Palestine constitute "a completely legitimate response to seven decades

of oppressive occupation and the numerous atrocities committed by the Israeli regime". Meanwhile, dismissing the threats against Iran, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani warned that any "foolish move" would draw Iran's devastating response. In the aftermath of the attack, senior US officials maintained that it was too early to determine whether Iran had any direct role in planning and supporting Hamas' attack. "It is early" and a matter of direct interest to determine, one senior official said, CNN reported. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Sunday that he had "not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack, but there's certainly a long relationship". However, US Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on X accused Tehran of being behind the attack, writing that "Iran should pay dearly for any escalation directed at Israel". The American lawmaker added that an attack by Hezbollah "would be



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devastating to Israeli defense systems". "If such an attack occurs, Israel and the United States should go after the Iranian oil refineries and oil infrastructure — which is the lifeblood of the Iranian economy." Kanaani said accusations of Iran's involvement come in the wake of Israel's humiliating defeat and are meant to justify Washington's and its Western

allies' support for the misadventures of the Tel Aviv regime. He underscored that the hostile claims against Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement will not reduce the accountability of the UK and the US for the 75-year-old-long crimes that Israel has been perpetrating against Palestinians and other nations in the West Asia region. He warned of attempts by Israel's supporters, chief among them the US, to

swap the oppressor and the oppressed through their propaganda war. They are turning a blind eye to the crimes of the occupying regime while leveling accusations against the innocent people of Palestine, he said. The Hamas assault on Saturday, the biggest in decades, coincided with US-backed moves to push Saudi Arabia towards normalizing ties with Israel in return for a defence deal between Washington and Riyadh.

Hamas fighters' attack on Israeli towns on Saturday was the deadliest such incursion since Egypt and Syria's attacks on Israel in the Yom Kippur War 50 years ago and has threatened to ignite another conflagration in the long-running conflict. Israel stepped up its ferocious pounding of the besieged Gaza Strip as its troops struggled to clear out Hamas fighters more than two days after they burst across the fence from Gaza and overran Israeli bases. Pentagon Chief Lloyd Austin said he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel. Israeli warplanes bombed a densely populated neighborhood at the Jabalia refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. In Gaza, more than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, some of which have been designated emergency shelters. The Health Ministry in the Palestinian enclave said the death toll in the Gaza Strip rose to 560 on Monday, as Israel pounded Hamas targets for the third consecutive day. The ministry also urged the international commu-

nity to exert pressure on Israel to resume electricity supply to the besieged strip as a power outage has left hospitals and medical facilities in a tight spot, amid a shortage of medicines and medical equipment. **Prisoner swap**
Qatar is leading the talks to swap Hamas-held prisoners in exchange for the release of 36 Palestinian women and children from Israel's prisons, a source told Reuters. The negotiations, which Qatar has been conducting in coordination with the United States since Saturday night, are "moving positively" said the source, who has been briefed on the talks. But there are no signs of breakthroughs as both sides dig in. A Hamas member said that the group is not open to negotiating a prisoner exchange with Israel during hostilities, AFP reported. The military wing of the Hamas resistance movement said late Sunday that its fighters have managed to capture a new group of Israeli forces, as "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm" continues against the occupying regime.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



First Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH) // 54000 kg

Tabrizpetrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH) for ABS production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until Oct 22.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: Nov 04, 2023
 Email: M.iranmakani@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-41-34282973

Tender	No	Quantity
POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH)	PVS-0241033	54000 kg

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