

Mine blast claims over 50 lives in eastern Iran



Miners and security forces gathered at the scene of a blast at a coal mine in Tabas in Iran's South Khorasan Province on September 22, 2024.
● Iran's Red Crescent Society

National Desk

A gas explosion in a coal mine in Iran's South Khorasan Province killed at least 51 people and injured 20 others. The incident was caused by a methane gas explosion on Saturday night in

two blocks, B and C, of the mine run by Madanjoo company. "There was an explosion and unfortunately 69 people were working in the B and C blocks of Madanjoo mine. In block C there were 22 people and in block B there were 47 people," said

Javad Ghenaatzadeh, South Khorasan governor. Online footage carried by IRNA showed the bodies of some of the victims, wearing their work uniforms and being carried out of the site on mining carts. Iran's Red Crescent Society said search and rescue

operations were underway in the mine but "gas accumulation in the mine" has made the search operations difficult. It said the operations will continue to retrieve workers still trapped beneath the rubble at some 250 meters below the surface.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed condolences to the victims' families and ordered that all efforts be made to rescue those trapped and to help their families. He also said an investigation into the incident had begun. Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref also spoke with cabinet members to ensure "emergency follow-up" and support for the victims and their families. Authorities in South Khorasan announced three days of mourning across the eastern province following the tragic incident.

Leader's condolences

In a message on Sunday, Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei extended his condolences on the tragic incident and underscored the need for maximum efforts to provide relief to those affected by the mine blast. "I offer my condolences to the families of these dear ones and the people of that area for the bitter and sad incident in the coal mine in

Tabas, in which a number of workers were killed or injured," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "I emphasize to the relief team that went to the accident site on behalf of the government authorities to do their best to rescue them and to take all necessary measures to reduce the scale of this calamity. Immediate attention to the situation of the injured should also be taken care of." Last year, an explosion at a coal mine in the northern city of Damghan killed six people, also likely the result of methane leak. A blast in 2017 also killed 43 miners in Azad Shahr city in northern Iran. "76% of the country's coal is provided from this region and around 8 to 10 big companies are working in the region including the Madanjoo company," the governor of South Khorasan Province Ali Akbar Rahimi told state TV on Sunday. Mineral-rich Iran has around 1.5 billion tons of proven coal reserves, according to state media.

President hopes to be Iran's justice-seeking voice at UNGA



Masoud Pezeshkian

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says he hopes to be the voice of his country's people during his visit to the United Nations to convey their justice-seeking messages to the international body's member states. Pezeshkian made the remarks before leaving Tehran for New York to take part in the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He described the United Nations as an important organization and one of the greatest achievements of humanity. Pezeshkian said that if the UN fulfills its obligations properly, there should not be a country or an entity which drops bombs on other countries and kills women and children and destroys their homes, hospitals and schools and then claims that it has targeted terrorists. The Iranian president said that he will hold meetings with Iranian expatriates in the US to depict an accurate image of Iran. "Iran belongs to all Iranians, and the expatriates have also a share in the country," he noted. Pezeshkian said he will express Iran's stances in talks with American media outlets and discuss various issues including security, economy, investment and tourism industry. Pezeshkian added that he will hold talks with officials and presidents of other countries and discuss various issues including security, economy, investment, tourism and other issues. The Iranian president is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Tuesday.

Hezbollah, Israel exchange heavy fire amid fear of widening conflict

Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets early Sunday across a wider and deeper area of northern occupied territories, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon. The rocket barrage overnight was in response to Israeli attacks in Lebanon that have killed dozens, including a veteran Hezbollah commander, and an unprecedented attack targeting the group's communications devices. Air raid sirens echoed across northern occupied territories, sending thousands of people scrambling into shelters, AP reported. One rocket struck near a building in Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa, wounding several people and setting buildings and cars on fire. Lebanon's Health Ministry said that three people

were killed and another four wounded in Israeli strikes near the border. The barrage came after an Israeli airstrike in Beirut on Friday killed at least 45 people, including one of Hezbollah's top leaders as well as women and children. Hezbollah said that it had launched dozens of Fadi 1 and Fadi 2 missiles — a new type of weapon the group hadn't used before — at the Ramat David airbase, southeast of Haifa, "in response to the repeated Israeli attacks that targeted various Lebanese regions and led to the fall of many civilian martyrs." Hezbollah also said it had targeted the facilities of the Rafael defense firm, which is headquartered in Haifa, calling it retaliation for the wireless devices attack. Friday's air attack on the densely populated area

followed explosions of thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday, which was also blamed on Israel and killed at least 39 people while wounding close to 3,000 others.

War in 'new phase'

Hezbollah legislator Hassan Fadlallah, speaking at a funeral for a Hezbollah member on Sunday, said that the war had entered a "new phase" and that the resistance group would keep up its attacks until there is a cease-fire in Gaza. "We have a strong and capable resistance," he said. "All of its options are on the table, and it is prepared for any scenario, war or confrontation." Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire since the outbreak of the war in Gaza



nearly a year ago, when the resistance group began firing rockets in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. The low-level fighting has killed dozens of people in Israel, hundreds in Lebanon, and displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the frontier. The UN envoy for Lebanon

called on all parties to pull back. "With the region on the brink of an imminent catastrophe, it cannot be overstated enough: there is NO military solution that will make either side safer," Jeanine Henis-Plasschaert said in an X post.



A member of the Israeli security forces stands guard inside a cordoned-off area in Kiryat Bialik in the Haifa district of Israel, targeted by a strike by Lebanon's Hezbollah on September 22, 2024.
● JACK GUEZ/AFP

Israel subverting human values through West's dual approach: Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the West's dual policies have encouraged the Israeli regime to violate international law and disregard common human values in the Gaza Strip. In a post on his Instagram on Saturday, Araghchi gave a brief account of the first day of his diplomatic meetings on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Press TV reported. He said the "humanitarian

situation in Gaza is very horrible" and called on the international community and the Security Council to deal with this situation. In his meetings, Araghchi said, "I emphasized the necessity of confronting the Zionist regime's warmongering policies in West Asia as a serious and urgent threat to international security." "The interesting point was that everyone in the meetings admitted the failure of the Zionists' sinister policies," he added. Araghchi met with the for-

eign ministers of Kuwait, Cuba and Bahrain, the sides discussed regional and international developments and stressed the need to boost bilateral cooperation and relations. The top Iranian diplomat had also meetings with the UN special envoy for Syria, the Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the UN Secretary General's representative for humanitarian aid to Gaza and the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The foreign minister emphasized that Iran will continue its multifaceted diplomacy and consultations to pursue national interests and attract the attention of the international community to contain Israel's machine of crime and killing in the region. Araghchi's remarks came amid the regime's ongoing genocidal war against the Gaza Strip and escalated attacks across the occupied West Bank as well as its intensified deadly aggression against Lebanon.

At least 22 people, including 13 children, six women, and a three-month-old baby, were killed after Israel's military forces once again attacked the Zeitoun School in the eastern part of Gaza City sheltering displaced Palestinians on Saturday. At least 41,431 Palestinians, mostly children and women, have been killed and 95,818 people wounded in the war that Israel began on October 7, 2023, following a retaliatory operation by the Palestinian territory's resistance movements.



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