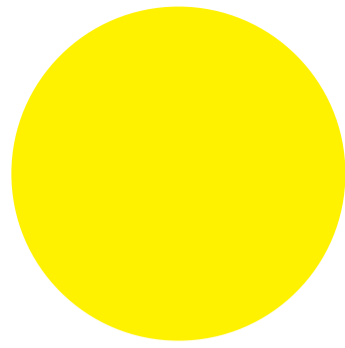


Iran's ancient Rab'-e Rashidi academic complex to be restored

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Pezeshkian: Iran ready to boost ties with Africa in various fields

Minister says \$10b leap in Africa trade on agenda

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Iran mourns tragic blast at major southern port

90% of fire under control 2 >



An air tanker drops fire retardant on a key port in Bandar Abbas, southern Iran on April 27, 2025, a day after a huge explosion caused several infernos. IRNA

Iran, Azerbaijan can build on commonalities to cement ties



By Bahram Amir-Ahmadian
Central Asia, Caucasus affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Azerbaijan is a major milestone in his government's regional diplomacy. The visit, due to take place today, is particularly important as relations between Iran and Azerbaijan had soured for some time due to misunderstandings or certain forces on both sides. However, Pezeshkian places a great deal of importance on this trip to Iran's northern neighbor.

One issue that has lingered is the incident in which an armed man entered the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran in 2023, which nearly led to a severance of diplomatic ties. Azerbaijan closed its diplomatic mission, and it took some time for the situation to settle down. Baku has expressed the desire for the matter to be addressed. Iran's Judiciary has also confirmed that it is following up on the case, stating that investigations are still ongoing and that those responsible will be prosecuted, meaning that the judicial process is progressing and has not been forgotten or swept under the rug.

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Europe's gamble in Syria

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

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Iranian Hazfi Cup: Esteghlal edges Paykan to remain on course for silverware

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Chogha Golan Hill illustrates dawn of agriculture in Iran

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No evidence of foul play found so far in port explosion



By Mohammad Tala Mazloumi
Iranian lawmaker

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims of the Shahid Rajaei port explosion and wish a swift recovery to the injured. Undoubtedly, such a tragic incident at one of Iran's largest commercial and transit ports has set off alarm bells.

From what has come to light, and based on available evidence, the explosion appears to have stemmed from a failure to adhere to basic safety protocols—something that officials had already warned about on several occasions regarding operations at Shahid Rajaei port and its various sections.

The devastating event is a wake-up call for those responsible for maintaining safety standards in workplaces and for safeguarding the lives of workers across industrial, commercial, and production sites. A thorough and prompt investigation must be carried out to get to the bottom of the incident, and those found guilty of negligence must be held to account in line with the law to prevent such tragedies from rearing their head again in the future.

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