

# Pezeshkian places premium on discovery of port blast causes



Firefighters try to extinguish fire caused by an explosion at Iran's Shahid Rajaei Port in southern province of Hormozgan on April 30, 2025.

● FARS

## National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on officials to prioritize the discovery of causes behind Saturday's tragic explosion in the country's main southern port instead of identifying culprits or potential suspects involved in the deadly incident.

At least 70 people have lost their lives and more than 1,200 others wounded in the explosion and ensuing fire which rocked the Shahid Rajaei Port in the southern province of Hormozgan. The government will do its utmost to resolve the problems facing the families of the victims of the incident, the president said, while addressing a national commendation ceremony for seasoned laborers and elite workers. The president asked the relevant authorities to assess the damage and carry out compensation payments as

quickly as possible so that the affected individuals do not suffer further losses.

During a Wednesday cabinet meeting, Pezeshkian also said that cargo shipments should not be permitted to stay on site for months at a time and said distribution processes need to be accelerated.

On Monday, the interior minister said that the fire likely started due to "negligence" because the cargo was improperly stored.

Eskandar Momeni said there were "shortcomings, including noncompliance with safety precautions and negligence."

Authorities said on Tuesday that the port has resumed its activities after firefighters managed to fully contain a fire caused by the blast.

Despite the serious damage to the Bandar Abbas desalination plant and

power plant, vital facilities have been restored in the shortest possible time, according to the authorities at the country's main port.

Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization Saeed Rasouli on Tuesday announced the docking of 35 ships carrying various types of cargo at the port.

The customs at the port also announced that it has resumed its activities since Sunday.

An investigation is underway to determine the main cause behind the incident.

The port's customs office said the blast may have started in a depot storing hazardous and chemical materials. The port of Shahid Rajaei lies near the major coastal city of Bandar Abbas on the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which one-fifth of global oil output passes.

## Iran blames 'wrong policies' for dwindling E3 role in nuclear talks

Next round of talks to be held in Rome



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi talks to reporters after a cabinet meeting in Tehran on April 30, 2025.

● ALI HADDADI ASL/MEHR

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi blamed the wrong policies adopted by France, German and Britain for their diminished role in the ongoing nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington.

However, he said that Iran is not willing for this to happen, and that is why the Islamic Republic has proposed a meeting with the three European countries which are party to the 2015 nuclear agreement. Iran will hold talks with France, Britain and Germany in Rome on Friday, Araghchi told reporters on the sidelines of the Iranian administration's weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday.

Underlining that Tehran is keen to resolve its peaceful nuclear issue within a "global understanding," the top diplomat said, "We are continuing our negotiations with Europe, but the main talks are currently underway with the United States ... and the International Atomic Energy Agency will have an important role in the future if an agreement is reached."

Since April 12, Iran and the United States have held three rounds of negotiations to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

## Fourth round of talks in Rome

Araghchi said the fourth round of negotiations will be held in the

Italian capital of Rome on Saturday. The two sides have so far described the talks as "positive and constructive."

In response to a question about whether the exclusion of European countries from the negotiations was Iran's or the US's decision, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday, "Neither, it was their own choice."

The three European countries had key roles in the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear deal from which the US withdrew in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions against Iran. A move that left the future of the agreement in limbo specially after the three European countries failed to fulfill their commitments envisaged in the nuclear agreement which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Despite their inability to fulfil their commitments under the JCPOA, Iran has called for cooperation on different areas including the nuclear issue.

Since September, Tehran and the three European powers have met several times to discuss their ties and the nuclear issue.

The most recent meeting in March was held at the technical level, looking at the parameters of a future deal to secure a rollback of Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

Despite Iran's goodwill, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot warned that Paris will not think

twice about reimposing United Nations sanctions on Iran if negotiations with the US do not succeed. The 2015 nuclear deal with Iran expires in October and the E3 has the power to initiate its mechanism for reimposing sanctions, called snapback, at the Security Council. In response, Iran's ambassador to the UN lambasted the French foreign minister's open threat.

## 'Economic blackmail'

"Resorting to threats and economic blackmail is entirely unacceptable and represents a clear breach of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter," Amir Saeid Iravani wrote in letters to UN chief General Antonio Guterres and Security Council head Jérôme Bonnafont.

Iravani said France's threat to trigger the so-called snapback mechanism despite its own failure to honor its commitments contradicts the fundamental principles of international law that preclude a party from claiming rights under an agreement while simultaneously failing to fulfill its obligations.

"Such an action is legally and procedurally flawed, unacceptable, and invalid, and would undermine the credibility of the Security Council," he added.

The snapback mechanism is triggered simply by the assertion of significant non-compliance on the part of a participating state, a prerogative the West might abuse based on its accusations.

## Nukes hold no place in Iran's defense doctrine: *Security chief*



Ali Akbar Ahmadian (2nd R), the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, speaks at the BRICS National Security Advisors meeting at Itamaraty Palace in Brasilia, Brazil on April 30, 2025.

● IRNA

## International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian said nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defense doctrine, and the reports of international monitoring bodies prove the issue.

Addressing a meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors in Brazil on Wednesday, Ahmadian said, "Iran will not back down from its absolute rights, including the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Ahmadian emphasized that threats posed by certain countries against

BRICS and its members reflect their deep-seated concern over BRICS' immense potential to bring about a powerful economic, political, and cultural bloc. "The Islamic Republic suggests rolling out a BRICS digital currency and a secure, dedicated banking messaging system for intra-group trade, as a symbol of economic independence," he said. He added that Iran proposes setting up a Supply Chain Security Committee tasked with focusing on transport insurance, establishing an anti-sanctions corridor, and launching a support fund to counter external sanctions.

## Israel's anti-Palestinian policies equal genocide, war crimes: *Iran deputy FM*

## International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Israel's policies against Palestinians amount to clear examples of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Gharibabadi made the remarks during a hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) into Israel's obligation to "ensure and facilitate" humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories and particularly in Gaza. The Iranian official called on the international community to act responsibly in response to the ongoing atrocities committed by the Israeli regime against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He pointed to the "undeniable evidences of genocide" in Gaza, saying that despite repeated ICJ orders, the regime continues its deadly policies, and that the international community has failed to live up to its moral and legal obligations in this regard.

He noted that since the beginning of Israel's large-scale attacks on Gaza in October 2023, more than 52,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 123,000 in-

jured, with the numbers rising on a daily basis.

Gharibabadi also referred to the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the Israel's blockade on the Palestinian territory, saying that no humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter into the region since March 2. Citing UN reports, the Iranian official said, "Vital medicines are running out. Water and electricity networks have been destroyed, and aid workers have been targeted."

He called Israel's measures as clear examples of "genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity."

The UN's highest court has begun a week of hearings into Israel's obligation to "ensure and facilitate" humanitarian assistance to Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories and particularly in Gaza.

The hearings come in response to a resolution passed last year by the UN General Assembly asking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to weigh in on Israel's legal responsibilities after the regime blocked UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, from operating on the occupied territories.