

TEHRAN -- Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Muhammad Esلمي said Monday the country's nuclear power plants are 100% secure due to a "powerful defense and security system" guarding the facilities.

"With a powerful security system in place, the security of the country's nuclear power plants and centers is now 100% established, and there is no concern in this regard," Esلمي told reporters in the southern city of Bush-ejr. He vowed that Iran's armed forces will counter any attack on the country's nuclear facilities.

Kayhan International



KUWAIT (Dispatches) -- Iranian Border Police chief Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi and Director General of Kuwait's Directorate General of the Coast Guard commander Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah have discussed increasing efforts to ensure maritime border security.

The two discussed ways to enhance the search and rescue capabilities of commercial and fishing vessels, as well as how to combat drug smuggling and piracy at sea. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining security and stability in maritime navigation, including securing maritime borders and commercial maritime routes.

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Viewpoint

Iran's Historical Operations Hailed all over the Islamic World

Iran Vows 'Stronger' Response to New Israeli Aggression



Iran Stun Turkmenistan 7-0 at CAFA U-18 Women's Championship



Resistance Continues to Target U.S., Israeli Positions



Promoting Iran-Pakistan Ties at All Levels

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday Islamabad and Tehran had committed to strengthening bilateral relations across political, economic, trade, and cultural domains through the signing of eight accords and memorandums of agreement.

Raisi arrived here on a three-day visit, accompanied by a high-level delegation of cabinet members and businesspersons.

The Iranian president was presented with a guard of honor by a Pakistan army contingent upon his arrival at the Prime Minister's House. He subsequently held meetings with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The MoUs and agreements cover different fields including trade, science technology, agriculture, health, culture, and judicial matters. They include an MoU on the establishment of the Rindan-Gabd joint free/special zone; cooperation between the ministry of cooperative labor and social welfare of Iran and the ministry of overseas Pakistani and human resources development of Pakistan; on judicial assistance and legal cooperation at the ministry levels; on cooperation for animal hygiene and health; on mutual recognition in the field of quarantine and phytosanitary; and on the promotion of culture and films.

The signing ceremony also marked the ratification of a security cooperation agreement between the governments of two countries.

"Today in our meeting with [Pakistani] prime minister, and other members of the respective cabinet, we decided to promote the bilateral relations between the two countries at political, economic, trade, culture, including others, at all levels as far as possible," Raisi said at a joint press



Iran, Pakistan Sign Eight Memoranda of Understanding Agree to Increase Bilateral Trade to \$10 Billion PM Shehbaz: Opportunity to Forge Friendship Into a Catalyst for Progress President Raisi to Also Visit Cities of Lahore and Karachi

This combination of pictures shows President Raisi arriving in Islamabad, walking with Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif during a welcome ceremony, witnessing signing of MoUs of cooperation in different fields and unveiling the plaque of renaming of an avenue of Islamabad as Iran Avenue on Monday.

stakeout with Pakistani premier Sharif.

The Iranian president said both countries were committed to combating terrorism, organized crime, narcotics, and various forms of insecurity that threatened not only the neighbors but the wider region.

"There are a number of common positions and stance between our two countries when it comes, for instance, to fighting against terrorism," he said, adding that Iran and Pakistan shared a lengthy common border, which presented an opportunity to create and bring about welfare for the people residing in border areas and regions.

"The economic and trade volume between Iran and Pakistan is not acceptable at all and we have decided at the first step to increase the trade volume between our two countries to \$10 billion," Raisi added.

Speaking at the press conference, Sharif said both countries collectively needed to work to strengthen bilateral relations, transforming their shared border into a

"beacon of development and prosperity."

"Today presents an opportunity to forge our friendship into a catalyst for progress and prosperity and the decisions made today regarding economic progress and connectivity will yield visible results," the prime minister said.

He also commended the "resolute stance" taken by the Iranian nation against Israeli actions in Gaza, where more than 34,000 people have been martyred in Israeli air and ground invasion since Oct. 7. Sharif called on Iran and Pakistan to unite

at the OIC and other international forums alongside fellow Islamic nations to push for a complete ceasefire.

During his visit from April 22-24, the Iranian president would also meet the Pakistani president, Senate chairman and National Assembly speaker. He will also visit the cities of Karachi and Lahore to meet the country's provincial leadership.

Raisi's visit is the first by any head of state to Pakistan after the South Asian nation's contentious elections of February 2024 and the formation of a new government headed by Sharif. The visit also comes as tensions are high in the Middle East after Iran launched airstrikes on Israel a week ago.

Pakistan and Iran have a number of commercial pacts. Their highest profile agreement is a stalled gas supply deal signed in 2010 to build a pipeline from Iran's South Fars gas field to Pakistan's southern provinces of Balochistan and Sindh.

Former diplomat Naghmana Hashmi said the Iranian president's visit with a large delegation indicated that both countries had put aside "all sources of irritation," particularly the recent border skirmishes.

"He is also visiting the commercial centers like Lahore and Karachi, which absolutely is a very clear signal that we want to take the economic relationship that the two countries have, to greater heights, and to increase the flow of trade, to encourage the barter trade and the border markets that we have recently established," she told Arab News.

Hashmi added that both countries were important forces for peace and security in the region.

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Aftershocks of Operations True Promise & Al-Aqsa Storm

Head of Israeli Military Intelligence Resigns

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- The head of Israeli military intelligence has resigned over his handling of the October 7 attack in southern occupied territories.

Aharon Haliva, chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate, said he took responsibility along with his department for the Hamas attack, which killed around 1,163 Zionists and saw more than 200 taken captive.

"We did not live up to our mission, I bear full responsibility for the failure," he said in his resignation statement.

"The Intelligence Division did not live up to the task we were entrusted with. Throughout my duties, I knew that alongside authority comes heavy responsibility."

Haliva is the highest-ranking official to step down over the October 7 attack, which was unprecedented in Israel's history and has provoked much anger among the populace that it was allowed to happen.

While accepting his own responsibility, Haliva also called for the establishment of a state committee "that can investigate and find out in a thorough, in-depth, com-

prehensive and precise manner all the factors and circumstances that led to the difficult events".

The October 7 attack has been followed by six months of Israeli bombardment and a suffocating blockade of the Gaza Strip. More than 34,000 Palestinians have been martyred so far, and the coastal enclave has been plunged into a humanitarian catastrophe.

The latest food security report by a UN-backed initiative found that the entire population of Gaza, estimated to be around 2.3 million, is enduring "acute" food insecurity while half the population suffers from a greater level of food insecurity classified as "catastrophic".

While Haliva has accepted blame for the failures, others have not, most notably extremist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has never acknowledged direct responsibility for his failures.

Netanyahu has also not indicated that he will step down, although surveys indicate that most Zionists blame him for failing to do enough to prevent or defend against it.

Observers say Haliva's resigna-

tion could set the stage for more resignations among the regime's senior figures.

The Israeli media reported that the military's central command chief, Yehuda Fuchs, is also expected to step down in the summer.

Fuchs, according to the reports, notified the military chief of staff on Monday of his intention to resign at the end of his three-year term in August.

The head of the armed forces, Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi, and the head of the domestic intelligence agency Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, both accepted responsibility in the aftermath of the operation but have stayed on while the war on Gaza has continued.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid on Monday called on Netanyahu to step down.

"The resignation of the military Intelligence Chief is justified. It would have been appropriate for prime minister Netanyahu to do the same," Lapid wrote on X.

A poll showed on Sunday that two-thirds of Zionists do not believe Netanyahu's claim that Israel

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Number of Bodies in Israeli Mass Graves Rises to 283

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- Health workers have uncovered at least 283 bodies of people from a mass grave at the Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, Gaza's civil defense agency said Monday.

"Civil defense crews retrieved 73 more bodies from the mass grave, bringing the total figure to 283 bodies since Saturday," Anadolu Agency reported the agency said in a statement.

According to the statement, civil defense crews are still searching for more bodies in the grave.

A mass grave was found in the hospital's courtyard on Saturday after the Israeli military withdrew from the city on April 7 following a 4-month ground invasion.

Ismail al-Thawabteh of Gaza's government media office said around 700 people have been unaccounted for since the Zionist military's withdrawal

from the city.

"We believe that there are hundreds of bodies still missing after being executed by the Israeli occupation and buried in mass graves," he told Anadolu.

At least 34,151 Palestinians have been martyred and 77,000 others injured in Israel war on Gaza since October 7 last year, amid mass destruction and severe shortages of necessities.

The Israeli war has pushed 85 percent of Gaza's population into internal displacement amid acute shortages of food, clean water and medicine, while 60 percent of the enclave's infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

The occupying regime of Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. An interim ruling in January ordered Tel Aviv to stop genocidal acts and take

measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza.

Israel is preparing to expand what it calls a "humanitarian zone" for Palestinian civilians ahead of a planned ground invasion of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, Israeli media said on Monday.

According to Israeli Army Radio, the humanitarian zone will extend from the southern town of Al-Mawasi along the coastal strip to the outskirts of Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

"The humanitarian zone will accommodate around one million people," the broadcaster said.

Despite growing global opposition, the Zionist regime has approved plans to launch a ground invasion of Rafah, where more than 1.5 million people have taken refuge from Israel's brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip.