

President warns gov't offices of summer blackouts unless solar panels installed

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday warned government agencies that they would be denied electricity during the summer unless they install and use solar panel systems.

In remarks outlining the government's energy plans, Pezeshkian stressed, "All public offices must install solar panels. Electricity will not be provided to agencies this summer unless they use solar panels. Ministers are required to submit progress reports on this initiative by next Wednesday."

Government offices are required to source at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy. The president issued a two-month compliance period for government agencies to install solar panels, effective June 21.



According to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA), efforts are underway to equip a significant portion of executive and government agencies with solar power systems by this summer.

Iran's vice presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy was among the offices that launched a 40-kilowatt solar power plant on the rooftop of its main building, aligning with the government's mandate for executive bodies to transition toward electrical self-sufficiency and promote renewable and clean energy adoption.

Meanwhile, the deputy energy minister predicted peak electricity demand could surpass 85,000 megawatts, despite the fact that the country's thermal power plant capacity has risen by 10% compared to last year.

Homayoun Haeri, during a joint meeting of senior officials from the ministries of Industry and Energy to coordinate maximum power supply for industries, warned of an unprecedented surge in electricity consumption this summer.

He noted that early and extreme heatwaves — projected to be 3 to 6 degrees above long-term averages — will sharply drive up demand. Meanwhile, Iran's hydropower plants, with a capacity of 12,500 megawatts, face severe operational constraints due to a over 40% decline in water reserves. These reserves are being safeguarded for July and August, when the grid will experience its most critical shortages.

"Last year's average electricity demand was 936,062 megawatt-hours, which has climbed to 1,021,000 megawatt-hours this year — a 9% increase in national power consumption," Haeri added.

Iranian exports to Iraq fetch \$12b Iraq stands as second-largest non-oil export market

A board member of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, Hamid Hosseini, highlighted the growth of Iran's exports to Iraq, stating, "By the end of the Iranian calendar year 1403 (began on March 20, 2024), Iran's exports to the neighboring country exceeded \$12 billion, placing Iraq as Iran's second-largest non-oil export market after China."



Hamid Hosseini



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

In an interview with Iran Daily, Hosseini emphasized, "A positive aspect of Iran's exports to Iraq is that, among our top trading partners, Iraq is the only country with a trade balance entirely in Iran's favor. In contrast to Iran's \$12 billion in exports to Iraq, our imports from the country amount to \$500 million, creating a significant trade surplus for Iran."

"For comparison, our exports to the UAE — one of our largest trading partners — stand at approximately \$7 billion, while imports from the UAE total \$22 billion. Similarly, our exports to China amount to \$14 billion, but imports from China reach \$19 billion, tilting the trade balance scale in their favor," he added.

Hosseini noted, "Iraq and Afghanistan are key markets that help balance Iran's overall trade deficit, as both maintain trade surpluses in Iran's favor."

Regarding the \$20 billion trade target with Iraq, he stated, "Achieving a \$20 billion trade volume with Iraq is entirely feasible in the short term. In fact, this goal has already been met if we include unofficial exports, the value of electricity exports, transit of Iraqi petroleum products through Iran, and goods shipped from Bandar Abbas to Iraq's Kurdistan Region alongside official trade figures."

"The potential for Iran-Iraq trade far exceeds current levels, but reaching higher figures requires penetrating new sectors



Iraq

of Iraq's market. Iraq has significant demand for goods such as tires, automotive parts, tobacco, and gold — areas where Iranian presence remains limited," said the board member of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce.

He further underlined, "Iran holds substantial untapped potential in exporting technical and engineering services to Iraq. Activating this sector could significantly boost our exports. Previously, challenges with bank guarantees hindered participation in Iraqi tenders, but the current administration has resolved this by issuing government-backed guarantees. If this progress continues, Iran could export up to \$4 billion annually in technical and engineering services to Iraq."

On Iraq's position among Iran's top trade partners, Hosseini said, "Iraq currently ranks as Iran's third-largest trading partner after the UAE and China. In 2024, increased exports to Iraq

allowed Iran to surpass Turkey's market share in Iraq, securing a larger portion of the Iraqi market."

He concluded, "Within the region, Iran faces no major competitors — aside from Turkey — in exporting technical services and heavy industrial goods, positioning us to meet regional demand in these sectors."

Regarding export composition, Hosseini explained, "Iran's primary exports to Iraq include construction materials, food products, fruits and vegetables, household appliances, chemicals, and petrochemicals. In contrast, imports from Iraq largely consist of metal scrap."

On recent bilateral engagements, he added, "Last week's Iran Expo exhibition saw the participation of 100 Iraqi business delegates, alongside 10 Iraqi governors and heads of chambers of commerce, resulting in several promising cooperation agreements between the two countries."

Knowledge-based firms set \$500m record in last year's exports: Official



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The director general of the evaluation office for knowledge-based companies at the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy emphasized the pivotal role of such companies in advancing Iran's technology and industry, announcing their significant \$500 million export of products in the last Iranian calendar year 1403 (began on March 20, 2024).

In a specialized meeting titled "Next Steps in Formulating the National Industrial Progress Document", which was held at the 14th INOTEX Exhibition's Governance and Legislation Forum in the capital Tehran, the participants stressed the critical importance of knowledge-based companies and

the necessity of industrial policy for the country's economic development.

Among the attendees were Amir Younesian, Barzin Jafartash Amiri (industrial policy researchers), and Mohsen Mohammadi (assistant to the deputy minister for industrial policy affairs).

During the meeting, Younesian highlighted the key role of knowledge-based companies as drivers of science and technology in Iran's industrial progress.

He noted their \$500 million export achievement last year, calling the figure "remarkable given the fledgling status of many of these firms."

Younesian also underscored "the urgent need to develop science and technology infrastructure to support knowledge-based companies."

Tehran, Dushanbe target \$500m in trade: Iranian official

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Secretary of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission Mohammad Vali Alaeddini announced a \$500 million target for trade between the two countries under joint cooperation frameworks.

In an interview with ISNA, Alaeddini stated, "The 17th meeting of the Joint Economic Commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan commenced on Monday, coinciding with Shiraz Day, in this metropolis," ISNA reported.

The head of the International Affairs Center at the Ministry of Energy described the meeting's purpose as "expanding joint economic, cultural, social, and tourism cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan."

Alaeddini referenced President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent visit to Tajikistan, adding, "During this trip, 23 cooperation documents were signed between the two



nations, with a target to increase our economic exchanges with Tajikistan to \$500 million."

The official emphasized, "Iran possesses exceptional capabilities in technical and engineering services, manufacturing, and equipment — particularly in water, electricity, roads, oil and gas, petrochemicals, knowledge-based industries, and health-care. We can leverage these capacities to deepen bilateral collaboration."