

Pezeshkian calls power cuts to industrial sector government's last resort

11,000 MW surge in electricity demand

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed energy consumption management strategies, stating, "Power cuts in production sectors and industries are a last resort," and his government would make every effort to avoid disrupting electricity supply to industries. During Wednesday's cabinet meeting, the president emphasized the urgency of accelerating solar panel installation in government offices and ensuring precise public communication on this matter.

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

Pezeshkian noted, "Cultivating public awareness is a critical and effective measure for managing electricity consumption." The president also stressed the importance of coordinating all provincial and local authorities to combat unauthorized electricity use, particularly in cryptocurrency mining, and urged public participation in such efforts.

Pezeshkian also ordered an immediate investigation into the energy minister's report on power sector challenges and alleged "SMS threats" against efforts to curb illegal mining activities.

Detailing regulatory actions, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said, "Over 258,000 illegal cryptocurrency mining devices have been seized and destroyed this

year. Each device consumed as much electricity as 10 households monthly."

Aliabadi reported that Iran's electricity consumption in the second Iranian month of Ordibehesht (began on April 21 last year was 46,000 megawatts (MW), adding, "This year, demand for the same period has reached 57,000 MW — an 11,000 MW increase compared to last year."

Power generation growth

During a Tuesday meeting with Tehran Province's parliamentary representatives at Tehran Regional Electric Company (TREC), Aliabadi outlined significant expansions in Iran's power infrastructure.

He highlighted that thermal power capacity has risen from 40,000 megawatts (MW) last year to over 45,000 MW this year. Renewable energy output, he noted, has more than doubled from 300 MW to 700 MW, while distributed generation systems — small-scale power plants — expanded from 1,000 MW to 1,300 MW over the same period. The minister also highlighted electricity imports from neighboring countries, which climbed from 300 MW last year to 500 MW this year.

On consumption management mechanisms, Aliabadi stated, "Electricity prices will rise incrementally under Parliament's approved law. This stepwise approach aims to incentivize high-consumption users to reduce usage and optimize efficiency."

Consumption measures

In line with enforcing consumption warnings, Head of Iran Pow-



IRNA

er Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said Wednesday, "Customers exceeding defined usage patterns will face one-hour power cuts for every 20 minutes of overconsumption." On Tuesday, electricity was cut in 700 major banks for surpassing consumption limits. Meanwhile, Aliabadi said, "These measures, aimed at optimizing consumption and addressing

supply-demand imbalances, will continue. However, maximizing their success requires collaboration with other institutions, particularly the parliament."

On adjusting official working hours during summer, he remarked, "Changing office hours alone is insufficient and may disrupt families. Shifting the national clock could reduce consumption by over 1,000 MW. We hope the parliament cooperates

on this."

According to the Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, the new working hours for government offices will be "from Saturday, May 10, from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM."

The government earlier stated that aligning work hours with daylight would help manage energy consumption and reduce grid strain.

A recent urgent bill proposing

state authority to set working hours was rejected by Parliament during expedited review.

Also last week, a member of the Parliament's Civil Construction Commission announced the initiation of Energy Minister Aliabadi's impeachment with 18 signatures.

According to Hamidreza Goodarzi, the number of signatures for impeaching the Energy Minister was "on the rise."

Import ban lifted on foreign goods with Iranian counterparts



IRNA

Economy Desk

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that the prohibition on importing foreign consumer and durable goods with domestic counterparts had been expired.

The ban — established under Article 16 of the Law on Maximizing the Use of Domestic Production and Service Capacities

and Supporting Iranian Goods (ratified in 2018) and valid until the end of the 6th Five-Year Development Plan — has lapsed, ISNA reported.

With the expiration of the law and the absence of any prohibition clause in the 7th Five-Year Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, coupled with Article 22 of the Law on Permanent Provisions of National Development Plans, which prohib-

its non-tariff and non-technical import barriers except where required by religious principles, it is proposed that instead of imposing restrictions to protect domestic production, authorities should utilize tariff instruments or technical regulations to manage imports of foreign goods with Iranian equivalents. IRICA said the new approach must also safeguard the acquired rights of importers.

IRICA: Foreign trade hit \$5.8b last month, gold tops import list

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The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported the value of the country's non-oil foreign trade in the first Iranian month of Farvardin (began on March 20, 2025) at \$5.798 billion, stating that gold in raw forms, valued at \$583 million, topped the list of imported goods during this period.

Iran's non-oil foreign trade in Farvardin totaled 10.756 million tons worth \$5.798 billion, reflecting a 12% decline in weight and a 3% drop in value compared to the same period last year, IRNA reported.

The report added that 8.957 million tons worth \$2.942 billion were allocated to exports, while 1.799 million tons valued at \$2.856 billion were attributed to imports. Non-oil exports in the first month of the current year saw an 8.3% decrease in weight and an 8% decline in value, while imports recorded a 26.4% reduction in weight but a 2.3% rise in value.

The report noted that the average customs value per ton of exported goods in Farvardin this year stood at \$328, marking a 0.47% increase year-on-year. The average customs value per ton of imported goods

reached \$1,587, up 39% compared to the same period last year. Last month, 15% of the weight and 20.6% of the value of Iran's total non-oil exports were attributed to petrochemical products.

\$1b worth of goods exported to China

China was the top destination for Iranian exports in Farvardin, receiving \$997 million worth of goods, followed by Iraq (\$401 million), United Arab Emirates (\$395 million), Turkey (\$189 million), Afghanistan (\$143 million), Oman (\$140 million), and Pakistan (\$124 million).

IRICA said 80% of the weight and 81% of the value of Iran's total non-oil exports were directed to the aforementioned seven countries.

UAE as largest import partner

The UAE was Iran's largest import partner during the month, accounting for \$859 million, followed by China (\$768 million), Turkey (\$538 million), Germany (\$87 million), Netherlands (\$75 million), India (\$69 million), and Pakistan (\$43 million).

According to IRICA, 83% of the weight and 85% of the value of Iran's total imports during the period originated from the seven countries.

