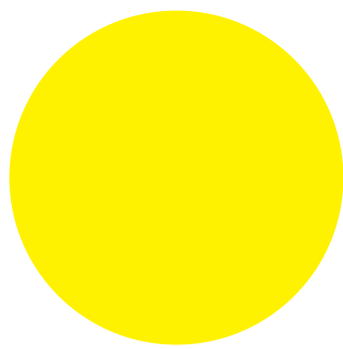


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Iran open to nuclear inspections but never stands 'bullying': **Pezeshkian**



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Murat Nurtleu in Tehran on June 7, 2025.
president.ir

Ukraine's Spiderweb; offensive initiative or gateway to Russian inferno



By Mehdi Ebrahim
Staff writer

P E R S P E C T I V E

The bloodcurdling roar of Ukrainian suicide drones whizzing over the Russian territory on June 1 ushered in a gobsmacking watershed in the protracted conflict between the two sides, reflecting both Kiev's evolving military effectiveness and Moscow's sapping warfare acumen.

Code-named Operation Spiderweb, the Ukrainian drone attack laid to waste more than 40 Russian planes deep in the vast country's territory just hours before a new round of their direct peace talks in the Turkish city of Istanbul, with Ukraine's Security Service saying the far-reaching offensive took more than a year and a half to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Zelenskyy said 117 drones had been used in the offensive, claiming that the operation had been headquartered out of an office next to the Russian Federal Security Service.

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Solar power to supply half of industrial parks' electricity

P E R S P E C T I V E

As summer heat strains Iran's power grid, the country's industrial parks are embracing a bold pivot. Solar energy is set to provide half of their electricity needs by next year. With production units long hampered by energy shortages and outages, new policies and incentives are driving investment in solar farms, rooftop installations, and smart energy infrastructure. Backed by public-private partnerships and strategic planning, the initiative marks a turning point in how Iranian industry tackles its energy challenges. Can solar power become the backbone of a more resilient and productive manufacturing sector? Iran Daily takes a closer look at the challenges, the opportunities, and what is at stake for the future of Iran's energy security.

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Iran open to nuclear inspections but never stands 'bullying': *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that Tehran remains open to inspections of its nuclear facilities but it "will never put up with bullying and coercion."

"We do not accept others making decisions for the future and destiny of our nation; the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been open to hearing logical arguments, but it will never put up with bullying and coercion," Pezeshkian said in a meeting with Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu in Tehran.

Pezeshkian's remarks came amid nuclear talks between Iran and the US, which have faced an obstacle over the US demand for Iran to stop enriching uranium under any new deal.

The talks began on April 12 and the two countries have held five rounds of negotiations mediated by Oman to resolve a decades-old dispute over Iran's

nuclear program.

In recent weeks, Tehran and Washington have clashed over the issue of uranium enrichment, which Washington says must be brought to zero. Tehran maintains its nuclear program is exclusively for civilian purposes and views its enrichment industry as a red line.

On May 31, Iran said it had received "elements" of the US proposal through Omani mediators, the details of which have not been publicly disclosed.

The Iranian president said on Saturday that depriving nations of knowledge, technology, and scientific achievements is "unacceptable and intolerable."

He said that Iran has repeatedly stated clearly — and demonstrated in practice — that it has never sought the production of nuclear weapons.

Iran's nuclear activities are entirely transparent and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly confirmed it.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump asserted that Iran will not be allowed to enrich uranium, despite reports that the deal Washington has proposed would allow Tehran to do so at low levels for a temporary period.

"They won't be enriching. If they enrich, then we're going to have to do it the other way," Trump told reporters, hinting at a military strike against Iran's nuclear sites if a deal does not pan out, while reiterating that a diplomatic agreement is his preferred option.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that uranium enrichment is the key to the country's peaceful nuclear program, and that the United States "cannot have a say" on the issue.

"If we have 100 nuclear power plants but don't have enrichment, they will be of no use to us," because "nuclear power plants need fuel" to operate, he said.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on June 7, 2025.
● president.ir

Tehran obtains 'strategic, sensitive' Israeli intelligence: *National TV*

International Desk

Iranian national broadcaster (IRIB) reported on Saturday that Tehran had obtained a trove of "strategic and sensitive" Israeli intelligence, including files related to the illegal entity's nuclear facilities and defense plans.

"Iran's intelligence apparatus has obtained a vast quantity of strategic and sensitive information and documents belonging to the Zionist regime (Israel)," the state broadcaster said, citing informed regional sources.

The report did not include any details on the documents or how Iran had obtained them. The intelligence reportedly included "thousands of documents related to the regime's nuclear plans and facilities," it added.

Iran's intelligence community did not immediately comment on the report. According to state television, "the data haul was extracted during a covert operation," and included a "vast volume of materials — including documents, images, and videos."

The report said the data was thoroughly reviewed by Iranian authorities after being securely transferred to the country.

The sources said that although the operation to obtain the documents was carried out some time ago, the sheer volume of materials and the need to transport them safely into Iran necessitated a news blackout to ensure they



● Israel's Dimona nuclear facility

reached the designated protected locations.

They also noted that the abundance of documents is so vast that reviewing them, along with viewing images and videos, has consumed a significant amount of time.

Back in May, Israeli authorities said that they had arrested two settlers suspected of carrying out "intelligence-gathering missions" at Iran's behest near the military affairs' minister's home.

The arrests are the latest in a spate of cases in which Tel Aviv has charged its own settlers with spying for Iran since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023.

Police and the Shin Bet domestic security

agency said that, "In a joint operation... Roi Mizrahi and his friend, Almog Attias, both 24, were arrested at the end of April for committing security offenses after collecting intelligence in Kfar Ahim," where Defense Minister Israel Katz lives.

Iran and Israel have waged a years-long campaign of covert and overt operations against each other, ranging from cyberattacks to drone strikes.

Tehran, which does not recognize Israel, accuses the regime of orchestrating the assassinations of several of its nuclear scientists.

Last year, tensions between the two foes reached an all-time high as they exchanged direct fire amid Israel's on-going war in Gaza.

Travel ban reflects 'racist mentality' of US policymakers: *Iran*

International Desk

Iran on Saturday blasted US President Donald Trump's travel ban on Iranians and citizens of 11 other mostly West Asian and African countries, saying Washington's decision was a sign of a "racist mentality."

Alireza Hashemi-Raja, the Foreign Ministry's director general for the affairs of Iranians abroad, called the measure, which takes effect June 9, "a clear sign of the dominance of a supremacist and racist mentality among American policymakers."

He said that, "The decision to ban the entry of Iranian nationals — merely due to their religion and nationality — not only indicates the deep hostility of American decision-makers towards the Iranian people and Muslims but also violates... international law."

Trump's proclamation on Wednesday will bar citizens from 12 countries starting on Monday at 12:01 a.m. EDT (0401 GMT).

The countries are Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The ban, which Trump claimed was necessary to protect against "foreign terrorists", was reminiscent of a similar move he implemented



● GETTY IMAGES

during his first term in office from 2017 to 2021, when he barred travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations.

The Foreign Ministry official said that the ban was discriminatory and would "entail international responsibility for the US government."

Iran and the US severed diplomatic ties shortly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and their relations have remained deeply strained since.

The United States is home to the largest Iranian community outside Iran.

According to figures from the Iranian Foreign Ministry, in 2020, there were some 1.5 million Iranians in the United States.

Trump's executive order came days after Sunday's attack at the Colorado rally, in which authorities said more than a dozen people were hurt. The suspect is an Egyptian man who had overstayed a tourist visa.

Israel behind 'sabotage, contamination' in disputed sites: *Iran's nuclear agency*



International Desk

Iran on Saturday censured a recent report by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), pointing the fin-

ger at Israel for carrying out acts of "sabotage" and causing "contamination" at the sites where the IAEA claims traces of uranium have been found. The Atomic Energy Organiza-

tion of Iran (AEOI) published a "clarifying report," which it had submitted to the agency on May 31, and said the country's nuclear activities should not be presented as a "matter of concern" by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi since there was "no ambiguity regarding Iran's current nuclear activities or any diversion in its materials or nuclear operations" in his latest report.

The document addressed four locations—Turquzabad, Mariwan, Varamin, and Lavizan-Shian — which had been the focus of IAEA inquiries.

"Iranian security officials have recently, through extensive investigations, uncovered further indications confirming that sabotage or hostile acts were involved in the contamination of those sites," it said.

The report insisted that "all nuclear materials and activities in Iran have been fully declared to the agency and verified by it," adding that Iran "has made every effort to identify the origin of such particles at those locations."

The IAEA has previously reported that uranium particles were discovered at three "undeclared" sites in Iran. The agency's latest report, which has not been made public but has been seen by some media outlets, reportedly added Lavizan-Shian to the list of disputed sites.

Iran maintains that dispute over those sites had already been resolved in earlier cooperation with the IAEA.

The AEOI report stressed that the new data cited by the agency was provided by "an

archenemy of Iran," which had been "conspiring against Iran's relationship with the agency" and had been "responsible for sabotage, attacks, and threats of attack against Iran, as well as the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists."

"An assessment based on such data calls into question the claim of impartiality and professionalism," the AEOI report added. "Ironically, the very same entity is a non-NPT member and the only possessor of weapons of mass destruction in the region."

Israel, which is widely believed to possess hundreds of nuclear warheads but is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has been linked to acts of sabotage targeting Iranian nuclear sites and

the assassination of several Iranian nuclear personnel.

Grossi's new report on Iran is expected to be discussed at the IAEA's Board of Governors meeting in Vienna from Monday to Friday.

Iran has strongly condemned the report and slammed the IAEA chief for politicizing the issue.

According to Western diplomats cited by some media outlets, the UK, France, and Germany — with US backing — are expected to propose a draft resolution against Iran, the first of its kind in years. The draft reportedly accuses Tehran of failing to meet its obligations to the agency.

Iran has warned it will take reciprocal measures if the resolution is put to vote.

Iran ready to cooperate with Kenya on 1m affordable housing units

Economy Desk

The Iranian deputy minister of roads and urban development expressed his country's readiness to assist the Kenyan government in achieving its goal of supplying one million affordable housing units through capable Iranian companies. In a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya Hon. Alice Wahome, Abdolreza Golpayegani described bilateral relations as a suitable foundation for expanding collaborative capacities. On the sidelines of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Golpayegani, Managing Director of Iran Urban Renewal Company, had a meeting with Wahome, during which, the Kenyan cabinet secretary praised the valuable joint venture and described Iran-Kenya interac-

tions as indicative of the strong relationship between the two countries. Wahome outlined her country's programs for affordable housing provision and the goal of producing one million housing units over the past five years (200,000 units annually), utilizing the capacities of the government, private sector, and foreign companies. She invited Iran to participate in achieving the stated goal. The Kenyan official also stressed that her country's need for primary building materials, including cement, iron, and sanitary ware, presents a suitable opportunity for imports from Iran and exports of local products in exchange for services and goods. Golpayegani, for his part, assessed the current meeting as highly significant and stated that eradicating poverty through the provision of af-

fordable housing is the responsibility of all countries. The Iranian deputy minister described bilateral relations as a suitable foundation for expanding collaborative capacities and announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist the Kenyan government in achieving its goal of supplying one million affordable housing units through capable Iranian companies. During the meeting, Golpayegani, referring to the Republic of Kenya's experiences in informal settlement upgrading, stated that visiting Kibera neighborhood and the measures taken there was part of his travel program to Nairobi. He invited Wahome to visit Iran. Additionally, on the sidelines of the meeting, bilateral talks were held with the delegations of South Korea, Iraq, and The Gambia.



Tehran plans to expand cooperation with Rome in water, soil sectors

Economy Desk

Iran underlined on Saturday the development of technical cooperation with Italy, particularly in the fields of water and soil. During a meeting between Iran's deputy minister of agriculture and the Iranian ambassador to Italy, emphasis was placed on developing technical cooperation with the European country, especially in water and soil, Mehr reported. During this meeting, a report on the status of a recent summit and the necessity of expanding technical relations between Iran and international institutions was presented. Alireza Sabouri, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Rome, pointing to the existing capacities within the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), called for maximizing the use of the organization's capability in transferring up-to-date technical knowledge and welcomed the expansion of technical rela-



tions, especially in the specialized fields of water and soil. Announcing the readiness of the Iranian Embassy in Rome to facilitate technical cooperation, Sabouri underscored the capabilities of major agricultural research and planning companies in Italy. "The Iranian Embassy in Rome is prepared to play a role in establishing connections and developing cooperation with these companies," he added. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the essential topics and subjects for the water and soil sectors would be officially communicated in writing by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Rome.

Joint Iran-Russia insurance marking watershed in INSTC transit, logistics

Economy Desk

Joint Iran-Russia insurance, as a significant step in developing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)'s transit and logistics, increases cargo transport security while reducing sanctions-related risks. Amidst recent geopolitical shifts and the formation of new economic alliances, cooperation between Iran and Russia in the transport and transit sector has entered a new phase, Tasnim wrote. One of the most significant challenges facing the cooperation has been the lack of reliable insurance coverage for goods transiting the strategic North-South corridor. Due to Western sanctions, international companies had refrained from providing such coverage. Now, with the signing of a joint insurance policy between Tehran and Moscow, a major step has been taken towards securing the key route and mitigating sanctions-related risks; an action that is not only a logistical tool but also indicative of the formation of independent economic infrastructures within the new world order. The 7,200-kilometer INSTC, as one of the strategic global trade routes, connects the countries of the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, Iran, the Caucasus, Russia, and India. This corridor, comprising rail, road, and sea routes, can, according to expert estimates, reduce cargo transit time be-

tween India and Russia from 45 days to approximately 20 days. Given geopolitical developments, including the Russia-Ukraine war, the blockage of traditional routes like the Suez Canal, the Red Sea crisis, and US interventions in trade routes, the importance of the North-South corridor has become more prominent than ever. Consequently, the issue of insuring transit cargo on the strategic route has become a primary concern for merchants and governments. Insurance, as one of the pillars of the international supply chain, plays a vital role in mitigating risks such as theft, accidents, cargo damage, delivery delays, and even political risks and sanctions. Given the refusal of many international insurance companies to provide services to Iran and Russia under sanctions pressure, establishing a joint domestic insurance framework can fill the gap and provide a model for other independent countries. According to published information, the joint Iran-Russia insurance policy was designed and signed in a consortium format among domestic insurance companies of the two countries, with the support of the Iranian Embassy in Russia. The main objectives of the insurance document include comprehensive coverage of all transit goods from origin to destination (land, rail, and sea); compensation for potential losses arising from natural

disasters, theft, accidents, and route stoppages; coverage for political and sanctions risks, including cargo seizure or obstacles in third-country ports; guaranteed compensation payments to Iranian and Russian transport companies; and expediting the compensation process through a joint arbitration mechanism. One significant outcome of this insurance policy is increased confidence among exporters and foreign investors in the North-South transit route. In recent years, the lack of transparent and stable insurance has been one of the main obstacles to developing investment along this route. According to experts, establishing an independent insurance mechanism between Iran and Russia is a milestone in the independence of Eastern countries' supply chains from the dominance of the Western financial and insurance system. The action is not merely a logistical tool, but a powerful political and economic message to the world. Some experts also believe the insurance policy could pave the way for forming a regional insurance alliance within the framework of economic blocs like BRICS or the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. As other countries join the structure, the North-South Corridor could transform from a purely logistical route into a complementary economic system.

Ukraine's Spiderweb; offensive...

A military official with Ukraine's Security Service, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said it was an "extremely complex" operation, involving the smuggling of drones to Russia, where they were placed in mobile wooden houses. "Drones were hidden under the roofs of these houses while already placed on trucks. At the right moment, the roofs of the houses were remotely opened, and the drones flew to hit Russian bombers," the official said, adding that the targets included A-50, Tu-95 and Tu-22M aircraft. Ukraine's Security Service said Operation Spiderweb had destroyed 34% of Russia's fleet of air missile carriers, with damages estimated at \$7 billion. Russia's Defense Ministry in a statement confirmed the attacks, saying the drone onslaught damaged aircraft and sparked fires on air bases in the Irkutsk

region in Siberia, more than 4,000 kilometers from Ukraine, as well as the Murmansk region in the north. The ministry also said "most" of the Ukrainian strikes were repelled in the Amur region in Russia's Far East and in the western regions of Ivanovo and Ryazan. Earlier in the day, Ukraine's air force announced that Russia had launched the biggest number of drones — 472 — on Ukraine since its full-scale "special operation" in February 2022. Ukraine's army also said at least 12 Ukrainian service members had been killed and more than 60 injured in a Russian missile strike on an army training unit. At its core, Ukraine's move appears to be a calculated offensive aimed at targeting Russia's supply lines, command centers, and logistical hubs, seeking to strike critical nodes that sustain Russian operations and blunting their

tempo. The timing and scale of the operation suggest that Kiev is not merely defending but aiming to seize the initiative and take the fight to the enemy's doorstep. On the other hand, Moscow is also cranking up strikes to put the enemy in its place. The operation bears a message that Ukraine is not lying down on the job but rather doubling down on its resolve to reclaim sovereignty and territorial integrity, also challenging Moscow's narrative of inevitability regarding its all-time military dominance. Given that Moscow has on numerous occasions emphasized that any attack on its territory or assets will cross "red lines," the Kremlin's potential retaliation is likely to be swift, multifaceted, and designed to reassert dominance while deterring further Ukrainian advances. One probable way of Russian response

is a military escalation, including an upswing in artillery bombardments, air strikes, or even launching counteroffensives along the front lines. Russian forces may also increase the deployment of elite units or mobilize additional reserves to slow Ukraine's momentum, signaling that any Ukrainian gains will come at a high cost. Sleeping on conventional military retaliations, Moscow is also expected to ramp up hybrid warfare tactics and use cyberattacks by targeting Ukrainian communications networks. Disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining Ukrainian morale and sowing discord among its allies will likely accompany such cyber efforts. Simultaneously, the Kremlin might embark on deepening alliances with other global powers to isolate Kiev diplomatically with the aim of driving a wedge between Ukraine and its Western sympathizers.

In the worst-case scenario, Russia may increase nuclear posturing through military exercises and strategic deployments to remind the world of the high stakes involved, complicating Kiev's and its allies' calculus. The West is poised to continue supporting Ukraine militarily and economically but remains wary of direct confrontation with Russia, walking a tightrope at a time that missteps could ratchet up the conflict beyond the region. There seems to be that diplomatic efforts to de-escalate Kiev-Moscow tensions will be a sine qua non to prevent the situation from spiraling out of control as both sides are engaged in a high-stakes game of brinkmanship, where each action risks triggering disproportionate responses. The upcoming weeks will be crucial in determining the upshot of what is coming to pass in Ukrainian and Russian military think tanks.

Strategic, double-edged role of natural gas in Iran's power supply

PERSPECTIVE

When one takes a closer look at Iran's energy system today, it becomes clear that natural gas runs through the veins of the country's power sector. According to official statistics from the Ministry of Energy, nearly 80 percent of electricity generation is tied to power plants that rely on natural gas as their main feedstock. This seemingly indisputable advantage, long touted as a cornerstone of Iran's energy policy, has now turned into one of the most significant sources of risk for the nation's energy security, sustainability, and even economic clout.

At first glance, Iran's abundant natural gas reserves bring with them a host of benefits for electricity production: doing away with expensive imported liquid fuels such as diesel and mazut, lowering production costs below the global average, opening the door to increased non-oil exports, and cutting down on power plant pollution by phasing out fuels like mazut. These advantages, however, hold water only under normal circumstances; Once a crisis rears its head, this heavy dependence on gas becomes the Achilles' heel of the entire energy system.

Dependence on gas; opportunity or threat?

Many experts believe that a single-fuel approach to power plant feedstock has left the country's electricity system on shaky ground. All it takes is a few cold snaps or a short-term crisis in transmission, distribution, or gas processing for the power supply chain to run into trouble.

The winters of 2022 and 2023 stand out as clear examples of these threats. A surge in residential consumption due to the cold, coupled with government policies to keep the lights on for households, led to severe cuts and restrictions in gas deliveries to power plants. This knocked out about 22 percent of the country's electricity generation capacity for weeks on end. Rolling blackouts in industrial provinces took a toll on economic growth and sparked public dissatisfaction.

According to a report by Tavanir (the parent company for electricity generation in Iran): "During peak winter demand, every one million cubic meters reduction in gas supplied to power plants translates into a daily blackout of 500 megawatts on the grid." These figures drive home just how precarious the role of gas is in the equation of power stability.

Why no fuel diversity?

The main reasons for the focus on gas in power plants boil down to three fronts:

- **Subsidized economics:** The low, subsidized price of gas has wiped out any incentive to invest in alternative fuels like renewables or even diesel and mazut.

- **Lack of comprehensive planning and diversification policy:** Unlike other major gas-rich countries (such as Russia and the



us), Iran's national energy policy has brushed aside the need for a diverse fuel mix in power plants and banked solely on gas abundance.

- **Technical and infrastructure weaknesses:** Many power plants, especially newer units, are not equipped to switch over to alternative fuels. In most cases, switching equipment is outdated or substandard, and emissions monitoring goes out the window when using backup fuels.

Shortcomings in gas transmission infrastructure

If the gas supply chain is broken down into four segments — production, transmission, processing, and distribution —

weakness in any part can put the gas supply to power plants at risk. But what has slipped through the cracks over the past two decades is the limited capacity of transmission lines. With rising residential demand in the north and northeast, and unchecked urbanization, much of the pipeline pressure gets siphoned off for non-industrial use.

During peak demand, falling gas pressure in transmission lines results in rationing and repeated cuts to power plants' feedstock. Projects like the Ninth National Gas Pipeline, aimed at ensuring a steady gas supply to power plants and industry, have been held up by financial woes, sanctions, and bureaucratic gridlock.

Challenges of using liquid fuels

When gas runs short, a handful of power plants fall back on mazut and diesel, but this comes at the cost of environmental harm. These fuels are undesirable due to: more severe air and water pollution, especially in major cities and central regions; rapid wear and tear on equipment and turbines; lower efficiency and output; higher production costs; and the ever-present risk of insufficient and unreliable fuel storage.

Lessons from successful countries

A review of energy-rich countries shows that none is as single-fuel dependent as Iran. Even Russia, with more than

twice Iran's reserves, always keeps some plants on standby with liquid fuels or coal as a backup for emergencies.

The US, even in the era of abundant shale gas, has made fuel diversification and investment in renewables a top priority.

Vahid Mahjoubi, a senior energy expert, believes that "Iran's 80 percent reliance on natural gas for power generation is the result of short-sighted decision-making and a subsidized economy. On the surface, this dependence brings down costs and makes production easier, but in reality, it leaves the power grid extremely vulnerable. Breaking away from this traditional model requires facilitating renewable development, re-designing the tariff system, and



Shahid Salimi Combined Cycle Power Plant, located on the Caspian Sea coast, 22 km north of Neka city, Iran, burns mazut.

tejaratnews.com



In the winters of 2022 and 2023, a surge in residential consumption due to the cold, coupled with government policies to keep the lights on for households, led to severe cuts and restrictions in gas deliveries to power plants. This knocked out about 22 percent of the country's electricity generation capacity for weeks on end. Rolling blackouts in industrial provinces took a toll on economic growth and sparked public dissatisfaction.



The Chelavand-Ardebil gas pipe line

OMID NOBAR/SHANA

managing residential gas consumption. There is no guarantee that future winters will play out any better than the last — unless infrastructure and policy are overhauled quickly.”

Key requirements for power security

• **Developing transmission infrastructure and reinforcing pipelines:** Planning and

completing projects like the Ninth National Gas Pipeline and the expansion of pumping and pressure-boosting equipment are vital.

• **Revamping the power plant fuel mix:** Strong incentives should be given for dual-fuel capability in new plants, old units should be upgraded, and renewables should be pursued not just for environmental rea-

sons but as a matter of national security.

• **Promoting public awareness and reforming household gas tariffs:** Wasteful consumption habits must be reined in through precise tiered pricing and public education so that the grid is not put under extra strain during peak periods.

• **Upgrading technology and reducing losses:** Boosting

plant efficiency and adopting cutting-edge technologies is needed, provided that technology transfer and international cooperation are brought into play.

• **Secure storage of gas and liquid fuels:** Establishing strategic reserves for gas and liquid fuels during critical seasons is essential for supply chain stability.

Natural gas is a colossal nation-

al asset and a unique opportunity for Iran's economy. Yet, regrettably, with a one-track policy, it has morphed into a threat to energy security and even national strength. Deep reform of subsidy policies, a redesign of the fuel mix, and expansion of transmission infrastructure are now not just lofty recommendations, but the very conditions for the

survival of Iran's electricity stability. Sticking to the current approach — ignoring fuel diversity and doubling down on subsidy-driven speculation — will trap the country in a vicious cycle of winter blackouts, public discontent, and decaying infrastructure.

The article first appeared in Persian on Mehr news agency.

Solar power to supply half of industrial parks' electricity

PERSPECTIVE

The energy shortage that has built up over recent years, largely due to neglect of infrastructure investment, has turned into a crisis for production, effectively tying the hands of Iranian manufacturers. This shortage comes to a head during the warmer months, to the extent that some large, medium, and small industries are brought to a standstill.

According to economic actors and producers, power outages used to kick off in late May, but this year, they got underway as early as early April. The situation has worsened to such an extent that, starting May 14, major industries across the country were hit with a 15-day blackout and factory shutdowns. Restrictions on electricity, ranging from 50% to 90% in major industries, went hand in hand with factory closures and workforce layoffs, sparking protests from economic stakeholders.

The situation for medium and small industries is no better. In industrial parks and zones, power cuts are rolled out two to three days a week on average, throwing a wrench into production.

To get around the electricity shortfall, industrial parks and large industries consuming over one megawatt are, under Article 16 of the Knowledge-Based Production Leap Law, required to provide at least 1% of their annual electricity needs from renewable sources. This figure must climb to at least 5% by the end of the fifth year.

According to a directive from the Ministry of Energy issued in July 2023, industries can produce renewable electricity, feed it into the grid, and receive the same amount back. This requires tripartite cooperation between industrial units, SATBA (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization), and Tavanir company.

Although the law places the responsibility for providing water, electricity, gas, and telecom infrastructure for industrial parks on the respective ministries, and the industry sector is obliged to invest in production and its enhancement, the ongoing energy shortage has forced the sector to turn to solar power. Consequently, the construction of solar power plants in industrial parks and major industries has gotten off the ground, and some are already operational.

Specialized solar farms

There are about 870 industrial parks and zones nationwide, employing roughly 1.1 million people in 53,000 production units. While these parks only account for 3,000 megawatts — about 4.5% to 5% of the country's total electricity consump-



● ALI ABAK/IRNA

tion — industries bear the brunt of power cuts.

The Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, as the sector's steward, has put energy provision front and center. The organization is pushing ahead with the creation of specialized solar energy parks, solar zones within industrial parks, and rooftop solar installations, as well as supporting the devel-

opment of substations, transmission lines, and distributed generation (CHP and DG) in industrial areas. These measures go a long way toward addressing the electricity shortage.

Moreover, a memorandum of understanding has been inked between the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization and MAPNA Group to pave the way for technical and

financial support for reliable, high-quality electricity supply in industrial parks, zones, and special economic areas.

The latest status of solar power plant development was discussed with Reza Ansari, CEO of the Iranian Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, and Heshmatollah Asgari, deputy for Economic Coordination at Tehran's Governor's Office.

Half of industrial parks' power from solar

Reza Ansari, deputy minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, maintained that the energy shortage is one of the main challenges facing industrial parks in summer. “To tackle this, policies have been rolled out to encourage industries to invest in solar power plants so they can cover their own electricity needs.”

Injecting 1,000 MW of power into industry

Heshmatollah Asgari, deputy for Economic Coordination at Tehran Governor's Office, also noted that the biggest grievance among production units is the electricity shortfall. “Initially, unplanned outages plagued industrial parks, but with the cooperation of electricity departments and the parks themselves, outages are now scheduled and predictable,” he added.

He stressed that every effort is being made to ensure fairness in electricity distribution, urging commercial, agricultural, residential, and high-consumption sectors to “cut back so that the industry's load can be eased.”

Asgari underlined the need for long-term investment in energy infrastructure, noting that significant investment has already gone into solar energy. “This year, over 1,000 megawatts of industrial electricity is up for allocation.”

He added that construction has kicked off for 300 megawatts of power, which is expected to help ease the industry's needs.

While the industry's main job is to ramp up production, it is hoped that, with supportive government policies and private sector cooperation, this year — dubbed the year of “Investment for Production” — will see a boost in electricity infrastructure, allowing industries large and small to weather the storm of energy shortage and focus on domestic needs and exports.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



● Mohsen Tarzatab (C), the head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), inspects the construction of a solar power plant in Shahrud Industrial Park, Semnan Province, central Iran, on May 24, 2025.
● barghnews.com

Seedorf to make final call as Esteghlal coaching debate drags on

Sports Desk

Esteghlal fans appear destined for another frustrating summer of rumors and speculation swirling around the future of the Tehran Blues.

While domestic rivals Persepolis and Sepahan have been quick to bolster their squads with several marquee signings, Esteghlal has yet to appoint a new head coach ahead of the upcoming Persian Gulf Pro League season.

Clarence Seedorf was unveiled as technical director and advisor to Esteghlal chairman Ali Nazari Jouybari last week, and the former Dutch international is expected to have the final say on who will take charge of the newly-crowned Hazfi Cup champion in the coming days. A Rouzbeh Cheshmi's last-gasp winner sealed a 1-0 victory over Malavan FC in the domestic cup showdown in late May, putting a lid on a dreadful campaign for the Capital Blues, who matched an all-time low in the Iranian top-flight table, finishing ninth with seven wins and 10 defeats in 30 games.

Mojtaba Jabbari, the sixth coach on the Esteghlal bench throughout the season, believes he has earned the right to be trusted with the permanent role for next season after a successful six-game stint as the interim



Clarence Seedorf is introduced as technical director and advisor to club CEO at Esteghlal in Tehran, Iran, on June 2, 2025.
● SADEQ NIKGOSTAR/EARS

boss. Jouybari insisted after the cup final that the former Blues midfielder "is on the club's shortlist of candidates for the job", though Seedorf is believed

to be favoring a high-profile foreign tactician. The club hierarchy has been reluctant to disclose details of the selection process, even as

numerous names – including Spanish Quique Sanchez Flores, ex-Esteghlal Portuguese boss Ricardo Sa Pinto, and Dutch coach Henk Fraser – have sur-

faced in recent weeks for the Blues' managerial role.

A couple of Brazilian coaches – Fábio Carille and Osmar Loss Vieira – are the latest names to

be brought up in the Iranian media.

IRNA reported on Saturday that Carille has been approached by the Blues, while club spokesperson Saadeh Sima told Azad News Agency that Osmar is among the Blues' candidates.

Carille, 51, led Corinthians to the Brazilian Série A title in his managerial debut season in 2017 but has achieved little of note at other clubs – including Saudi sides Al Wehda and Al Ittihad, as well as Japan's V-Varen Nagasaki.

A familiar face among the Iranian football fans, Osmar, who served as a number two to Yahya Golmohammadi at Persepolis, was promoted to the head coach position midway through the 2023/24 season before steering the Tehran Reds to a seventh top-flight trophy in eight years.

The 49-year-old Brazilian left Persepolis for Buriram United last summer and won guided the Thai club to four domestic and regional titles as well as an impressive last-eight spot at the revamped AFC Champions League Elite.

Tabiat to face Chinese Lions in BCL Asia debut

Sports Desk

Iranian Basketball Super League heavyweight Tabiat is set to face its biggest test by far when getting its debut campaign at the Basketball Champions League Asia underway in Dubai today.

Mehran Shahintab's men will square off against Chinese champion Zhejiang Lions – also a debutant at the flagship continental club competition – in their opening Group A game at the Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Sports Hall, before facing Ulaanbaatar Xac Broncos of Mongolia on Monday.

One of the nine teams across the three groups will leave the United Arab Emirates after the group phase, with the other eight heading into the quarterfinals – starting

Wednesday at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena.

Introduced to Iranian club basketball in 2023, Tabiat lifted the domestic top-flight trophy in its maiden campaign, earning a spot at the FIBA West Asia Super League for the following season.

Some impressive results and performances saw Tabiat progress to the WASL Final 8, before suffering a 104-77 loss to Lebanese giant and defending champion in the final showpiece in May, though the runner-up finish was still enough for the Iranian club to punch the Dubai ticket.

Tabiat, is the 11th club to represent the country across 30 editions of the tournament, with Shahrdari Gorgan the most recent Iranian contestant as it was part of the cast in 2024.

The Iranians have won a total of 10 medals in the event, including six golds which is tied for most among nations alongside Lebanon.

Iranian international guard Sina Vahedi will be desperate to lead Tabiat to a maiden Asian medal, having been part of the Shahrdari team which fell just short of a podium finish after bowing to the Hiroshima Dragons in the third-place game last year.

Another player to watch in the Tabiat roster is Croatian center Ivan Buva, who excelled in the WASL event with an average 20.9 points and 10.5 rebounds.

Not to be forgotten are the other key cogs such as fan-favorite American duo Perry Petty and Stedmon Lemon, as well as local talents Arman Zangeneh and Amir Qolizadeh.



● FIBA

Men's Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships: Iran's Siahhi wins rings bronze

Sports Desk

Iran's Siavash Siahhi finished his campaign at the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships with an impressive bronze medal in the rings event in Jecheon, South Korea. The Iranian scored 14.133 points in Saturday's showdown at the Jecheon Gymnasium to stand behind Chinese duo Lan Xingyu and Yang Haonan.

Former world champion Lan scored 14.933 points to walk away with the ultimate prize, taking his personal tally to seven Asian golds, with Yang settling for the runner-up finish with 14.233 points.



Iran will be hoping to add more medals to its senior haul on the final day of the competi-

tion, when Asian Games silver medalist Mahdi Olfati is in action in the vault final.

Djokovic undecided on French Open future after semis defeat

REUTERS – Novak Djokovic has yet to decide whether his French Open semi-final defeat against world number one Jan-nik Sinner was his final appearance at Roland Garros, the 24-time Grand Slam winner said on Friday.

The three-time French Open champion was beaten in straight sets after missing three set points in the third.

"This could have been the last match ever I played here. I don't know," Serbian Djokovic told a press conference after losing 6-4 7-5 7-6(3). "That's why I was a bit more emotional even in the end.

"But if this was the farewell match at the Roland Garros for me in my career, it was a wonderful one in terms of the atmosphere and what I got from the crowd."

The 38-year-old was given a standing ovation by a roaring crowd as he exited Court Philippe Chatrier, bending down to touch the clay and saluting the fans.

He said he was planning to play at Wimbledon later this month as well as the U.S. Open starting in August with his focus firmly on the Grand Slams.

He refused, however, to com-

mit to any tournaments beyond those two at this stage.

"At the moment I will try to stick with the plan what I had, which is play the Grand Slams. Those tournaments are the priorities of my schedule," he said.

"I don't know really what tomorrow brings in a way at this point in my career," said Djokovic, who had been in pursuit of a record 25th Grand Slam singles title in Paris.

He is currently tied at 24 majors with Australian Margaret Court. Djokovic last lifted the Musketiers' Cup at the French Open in 2023.

Restoring Kerman's jewelry, cultural heritage



● fardayekerman.ir



Iranica Desk

In the less visible layers of contemporary history and Iran's artistic traditions, there are narratives that not only speak of the cultural identity of a land's people but also reveal the forgotten path of progress, creativity, and imperial grandeur.

This narrative is a journey into the depths of goldsmithing art and industry in Kerman; a place where the combination of precious stones with precious metals was not merely for beauty, but also an eloquent expression of the knowledge, taste, and spirit of its people.

This story is not just a simple recounting; it is an invitation to reconsider our view of the past and to honor the knowledge that can help us build a more rooted and meaningful future.

In 2013, the historic Qeyssariyeh Bazaar of Kerman was on the verge of demolition. Many merchants were ready to leave, and even the preparations for selling and transferring

the lands had been made. Hussein Vadi'ati, founder of the Silver and Gold Museum Bathhouse of Kerman, said that at that time, an idea came to my mind: instead of leaving the bazaar, we should revive and restore it. I didn't want this historical asset to be lost. "With the follow-ups I had and the understanding and agreement between me, the Cultural Heritage Organization, and the Endowments Office, we started a project that lasted three years."

All wiring, plumbing, electrical, and telephone cables were moved underground. Shop signs were unified and coordinated. The appearance of the bazaar was not only preserved but made more beautiful and stronger than before.

"After completing the restoration of the bazaar, I thought to myself: I could kill two birds with one stone — both revive the historic bathhouse and restore the industry that was in danger of being forgotten in Kerman."

He noted, "Based on my personal interest in jew-

elry art, which I inherited from my family and had collected objects over the years, I decided to turn the bathhouse into a jewelry, silver, and gold museum; the first and only museum of its kind in the country, showcasing jewelry and artworks by artists."

Vadi'ati added that in this museum, about one and a half kilograms of gold and 7,000 mithqal of silver are displayed — all crafted by artisans from Kerman. Many of these pieces are over 100 years old.

The jewelry industry in Kerman was severely damaged during the Qajar era. After Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar's attack, the city was nearly destroyed. If some monuments like the Ganjali Khan Complex remain, it is thanks to the restorations carried out during the time of Ebrahim Khan Zahir al-Dawleh; the then governor of Kerman, a man who, out of genuine concern (his mother was from Kerman), returned and helped rebuild the city by constructing urban elements such as the bazaar, bathhouse, water reservoir, school, clock tower, and windcatcher.

He even re-invited prom-

inent artisans who had left Kerman to return and work. Unfortunately, due to the difficult conditions of that period, many of these craftsmen did not pass on their knowledge to the next generation, and the craft began to fade.

"My aim in establishing this museum was both to reintroduce this industry and to pay homage to a legacy that was on the brink of extinction."

Vadi'ati continued, "In this museum, in addition to about one and a half kilograms of gold and 7,000 mithqals of silver, nearly four display cases of jewelry-making tools are also exhibited. Some of these tools belonged to myself, and I collected them over the years, but a significant part of them was graciously donated to the museum by some families of Kerman."

"Throughout the museum's activity, fortunately, we succeeded in acquiring some rare artifacts, and of course, there were also individuals who, without expecting anything in return, entrusted us with their valuable works. Perhaps the names of some of them have been overlooked, but we strive to record and

keep alive the names of all benefactors who contributed to reviving this industry."

Another important point is that Kerman has historically been located along the Silk Road and the Spice Route; routes through which major merchants from India and Arab countries passed. This cultural and commercial crossroads led Kerman's artisans to develop jewelry art in a unique way, by combining precious stones and pearls.

As seen in the museum's artifacts, gold is combined with Indian stones, rubies, and Bahraini pearls. This fusion style is one of the distinctive features of Kerman's jewelry art, which, thanks to continuous collaboration and pursuit, we have managed to register these works and even their production process as part of the national heritage.

This national registration is not only an honor for Kerman but also an important step toward reviving the cultural and artistic identity of this ancient region.

Vadi'ati, in explaining the process of registering Kerman's jewelry arti-

facts, said, "The reality is that Kerman's jewelry art still has a long way to go to reach its true position at the national level. For comparison, Yazd has registered nearly 100 jewelry works to date, but in Kerman, only four pieces have been successfully registered. This is despite many of these arts having roots in Kerman. Unfortunately, we face serious weaknesses in documentation and introduction. Our goal is to change this situation and revive Kerman's artistic identity."

Vadi'ati emphasized the important role of the private sector in continuing this path and continued, "With the cooperation of the Kerman Gold and Jewelry Union and the support of some groups, we managed to maintain and keep the museum and exhibition active. Despite the heavy costs, these supports allowed us to continue the journey. This is not just a cultural project; it has two important outcomes: one, strengthening Kerman's tourism industry, and the second, prov-

ing the artistic and industrial capacities of Kerman's goldsmiths. When we can showcase artifacts with 200 years of authenticity along with their manufacturing tools, it means that Kerman not only has a rich past but can also build its future based on this heritage."

He further mentioned the valuable findings of ancient Iranian civilizations, especially in Kerman, noting, "Kerman's civilization dates back more than 7,000 years. In 'Shahr-e Sukhteh' (Burnt City), a 5,000-year-old pot has been found with a painted or moving image on it."

Finally, Vadi'ati emphasized, "My goal is not just to display a few historical objects. The aim is that when today's generation sees a 200-year-old necklace or a 300-year-old makeup chair, they shouldn't wonder, 'Did we have such things?' Instead, they should proudly say, 'This was made by our ancestors. This is part of our heritage.' Returning to identity is only possible through understanding our history."





Two Iranian projects among finalists of 2025 Aga Khan Award for Architecture

Arts & Culture Desk

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture shortlisted two Iranian projects, Tehran's Jihad Metro Station and Majara Residence on Hormuz Island, for its 2025 prize, according to city-affiliated news outlet Shahr. The award, one of the most important in global architecture, is granted every three years to projects that demonstrate excellence in design while making a meaningful social, cultural, and environmental impact in Muslim communities. Tehran's Jihad Metro Station, designed by KA Architecture Studio, earned praise for its locally handmade

brickwork and vaulted structures. The station has become a recognizable landmark in the city and was noted for its natural airflow and daylight integration, creating a more inviting public space for commuters. On Hormuz Island, Majara Residence — designed by ZAV Architects under the direction of Mohammadreza Qodousi — also made the shortlist. Built with the help of local labor, the project features colorful domes and offers both tourist lodging and facilities for local residents, including a library, prayer space, and community center. Both Iranian entries were selected from a pool of 369 candidates. They



now stand among 19 finalists competing for a share of the \$1 million prize. The 2025 cycle will culminate with

winners announced next year. The Aga Khan Award was established in 1977 and is known for spotlighting

projects that respond to the needs and aspirations of Muslim societies worldwide.



Minister: Iran eyes two million medical tourists by 2030



Social Desk

Iran plans to draw two million medical tourists over the next five years, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri said on Saturday, outlining the country's long-term strategy to boost health tourism and fight regional stigma. Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Salehi Amiri said Iran's advanced medical infrastructure, skilled doctors, and lower treatment costs make the country a competitive destination for patients across the region,

IRNA reported. "With over 1,200,000 health tourists in 2024 alone, bringing in more than \$2 billion, the numbers speak for themselves," he said. "We're not just talking about tourism. This is about diplomacy, economics, and public health." Salehi Amiri added that Iran would host the third ECO Health Tourism Conference this month in Hamedan, positioning the western province—with its natural springs and modern hospitals—as a future hub for regional care. He acknowledged that lack of coordination among state bodies had slowed progress in the past. But new joint committees with the health and welfare ministries are working to align policies and streamline licensing for private sector players. "Iran has what it takes to lead in health tourism," Salehi Amiri said. "If we play our cards right, this could help counter Iranophobia and show a different face of the country to the world."

Iranian photographer Mehdi Ashna wins silver in Norway

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian photographer Mehdi Ashna took home the silver medal at the 15th Arctic Exhibition of Photographic Art 2025, organized by the Nordic Society of Photography (NFFP) in Norway, the festival committee announced on Saturday. Three of Ashna's works were selected for the exhibition, and one was awarded silver by the international jury. The event, held under the patronage of the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP), drew submissions from artists across Europe and Asia, ILNA reported. Ashna, based in Tehran, is widely recognized for his work in theater, film, and television photography. He currently heads the Iranian Theater Photographers Association and has served as juror and executive director in several national arts festivals, including the Fajr International Theater Festival. He has earned gold medals at FIAP-endorsed festivals in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and has also received honors from international competitions in Nigeria, Taiwan, Romania, and Canada. In 2024, his images won top prizes at Nigeria's African Wind



Circuit, including Nigerian Circuit Diploma and Port Harcourt Diploma awards. Ashna's portfolio includes decades of work documenting Iran's theater scene and numerous acclaimed exhibitions. His latest recognition in Norway adds another international laurel to his growing list of achievements.

13th Fajr Int'l Fashion, Clothing Festival launched in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's 13th Fajr International Fashion and Clothing Festival kicked off on June 7, at the Aseman Cultural and Artistic Complex in Tehran, drawing designers, entrepreneurs, and senior officials. Mohsen Gorji, the festival's director, said more than 3,200 works from nearly 1,300 designers were submitted for review. Of those, just over 200 pieces were selected after a rigorous two-phase evaluation process led by academic and industry experts, IRNA reported. The event showcases apparel, bags, shoes, and jewelry, and runs through June 12. Gorji noted that the festival's aim is to connect top talent with real market opportunities, though he stressed that turning designs into mass-produced items remains a complex, mid-term goal requiring robust private sector involvement. This year, organizers shifted the research component of the festival to the private sector, with Alzahra University leading the initiative. "We didn't issue an open call for papers this time. Instead, we outsourced the work to spe-



cialized academic teams," Gorji explained. He also announced the launch of mentoring centers across provinces, adding that the festival's broader mission is to identify and train standout designers through localized models inspired by Stanford and Japanese systems. "We've reached 200 strong teams. These talents shouldn't be left behind," he said. The festival's policy, Gorji emphasized, is to move operations and support fully into private hands to boost professionalism in Iran's fashion industry. A second edition of the festival is planned for February.

Iran to host Russian Cultural Week

Arts & Culture Desk

Russian Cultural Week will open in Iran on June 9, bringing a prominent performing arts group to Tehran and Isfahan for a five-day program, Pavel Shevtsov, deputy head of the Federal Agency for International Humanitarian Cooperation, told Iran's IRNA news agency on Saturday. The event, which runs through June 13, is part of ongoing efforts to deepen bilateral cultural exchanges. Shevtsov said the program reflects the "dynamic development" of Russian-Iranian ties and aims to strengthen mutual understanding between the two nations. "When we host Iranian cultural days in Russia and, in turn, organize Russian events in Iran, we help our peoples gain a clearer picture of each other's cultural identities and scientific progress," Shevtsov said. According to Iranian officials, the Russian delegation includes a top-tier artistic ensemble set to perform in both cities. Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, confirmed that the invitation had been extended by Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi. Past events under this framework have drawn considerable public attention. Iran held a cultural week in Moscow and St. Petersburg in July 2023,



which was well attended. Shevtsov also noted growing academic ties, pointing to an increasing number of Iranian students in Russian universities, particularly in medical fields, as well as early signs of interest among Russian youth in studying in Iran. "I believe this trend will gain pace, and in time, we'll see a more balanced exchange of students between our countries," he said. He added that while Russian government scholarships are available, many Iranian students choose to study in Russia independently. Shevtsov described both Russia and Iran as culturally rich nations with longstanding traditions. "Each of Russia's many regions has its own religious and cultural features. I'm confident Iranian audiences will find much to admire during the upcoming week in Tehran and Isfahan," he said.