

Minister says call for 5KW rooftop solar farms to launch next week

Economy Desk

Iranian Energy Minister announced the commencement of a national call for the development of 5-kilowatt rooftop solar systems next week. Emphasizing the national importance of advancing distributed electricity generation, Abbas Aliabadi said, "People can independently supply their consumed electricity by installing these systems," IRNA reported.

"Three different versions of these systems have now been designed and are ready for deployment," he said. According to the minister, the objective of this plan is to attract public participation as a significant step towards energy self-sufficiency in the residential sector.

Stressing the need for governmental support, Aliabadi said, "Municipalities or the Ministry of Roads should incentivize solar adoption through construction cost discounts or increased building allowances for relevant projects.

"With the implementation of this program, both the share of renewable energies will increase and the pressure on the national grid will decrease. This will be an important transformation on the path to the country's energy sustainability," the energy minister said.

Meanwhile, Tehran Regional Electric Company joined the first government bodies implementing President Ma-

soud Pezeshkian's order to supply part of its electricity through solar panels. Pezeshkian granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. The managing director of the company, Farhad Shabihi, announced that in line with policies for developing renewable energies to compensate for part of the energy shortfall, the construction operation of a 3-megawatt solar power plant has begun within the premises of the headquarters area of Tehran Regional Electric Company in the heart of the capital.

"The construction of this power plant has been prioritized with investment from Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) and the EPC contractor, Mana Energy Tamin Company," he stated.

Amid the unprecedented increase in air temperature in recent weeks and the likelihood of its continuation in the coming days, electricity consumption is predicted to reach 77,000 megawatts. This is while this level of consumption occurred last year during the peak network load periods. Shabihi told IRNA that the project has entered its execution phase, following the arrival of solar panels and structures at the site and the start of equipment installation on designated land in the headquarters' eastern section. According to the official, "The implementation of this project is an import-



ant step towards utilizing domestic capacities for producing clean and sustainable electricity in Tehran." "Furthermore, this action serves as an effective model for developing solar

power plants in headquarters and industrial centers," he concluded. According to an assessment made by SATBA, "There is a minimum capacity of 1600 MW of small-scale distributed

solar power plants on buildings and parking lots of government offices in the country, which can perform equivalent to that of 2000 MW concentrated power plants."

FATF reviewing Iran's call for suspension of US, Israel membership: Deputy minister



Economy Desk

Iran's deputy economy minister said the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had agreed to consider the Islamic Repub-

lic's formal appeal, submitted by Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit, urging action against the US and Israeli regime for systematic violations of international counter-terrorism fi-

ancing treaties. Hadi Khani, secretary of the Supreme Council for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), reported on the FATF president's response to the official letter from the Financial Intelligence Unit and stated, "Following the unfair attacks by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iran, we formally requested the FATF president to take a stance against these two principal FATF members due to their clear violation of international treaties and United Nations resolutions," IRNA reported.

Khani noted that since Iran is unfortunately not a member of any FATF regional groups, the country has sent a copy of

the request to BRICS member countries for their support. He added that despite Iran's non-membership in FATF regional groups, and the lack of formal networking and team-building opportunities with friendly and aligned member countries due to Iran's inclusion on the high-risk money laundering and terrorist financing jurisdictions list — the FATF president announced in response to the Financial Intelligence Unit's official request that "the Islamic Republic of Iran's appeal will be considered."

The deputy economy minister emphasized that building international consensus and establishing regional/global networks to safeguard national security, economic interests,

and sovereignty — through membership in regional and international bodies and the adoption of universal standards — constitutes a fundamental principle for managing transnational challenges, particularly countering terrorist financing.

"The events and lessons from the 12-day Israeli imposed war have tangibly demonstrated the support extended by most regional countries and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, ECO, and similar groups toward our nation, alongside their condemnation of aggressions," he said.

"These developments have also underscored the imperative of activating official platforms in international and

regional forums as prerequisites for coalition-building to align other nations with our national interests, while simultaneously highlighting the critical need to complete infrastructure for monitoring suspicious financial transactions and tracking funds of illicit origin."

While noting that all FATF standards have been incorporated into Iran's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) laws and regulations and are currently being implemented, Khani called for expediting "the decision to upgrade Iran's membership status in the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) from observer to full member."

IMIDRO: 30 mining investment packages to be awarded to private sector

Economy Desk

A senior official from the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said 270 exploration licenses within 30 investment packages valued at 18,000 billion tomans (\$200 Million) will be awarded to the private sector by the end of the year March 20, 2026."

In an interview, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the IMIDRO, Mohammad Aqajanloo announced the preparation of guidelines for private sector activity in the exploration process and declared, "Based on Article 48 of the Seventh Development Plan Law, the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade must facilitate the financial and technical participation of the private sector in promising areas holding exploration licenses," IRNA reported.

"Currently, 270 exploration licenses have been prepared in various packages of 10 to 15 licenses each, which will be made available to interested private entities," he added.

Referring to details of the private sector mining investment package, Aqajanloo stated, "This package introduces a new method wherein the government share is set at 40% and the private sector share at 60%, reducing the risk of loss for auction winners in the high-cost environment of mineral exploration."

He emphasized, "Under this investment package, explorations previously conducted by state entities will now be carried out by the private sector, with the government assuming a regulatory and supervisory role under the framework of the Seventh Development Plan."

The chairman of IMIDRO's Board of Directors stressed, "According to this package, the private sector becomes the mine owner; such that execution is completely separated from the government sector and entrusted to the agile private sector. In other words, this approach moves forward while specialized supervisory government entities conduct oversight."

Noting that the Birjand and Divandareh mineral blocks are currently under research studies for transfer, Aqajanloo stated, "These blocks will be finalized by year-end, and their licenses will be issued next year. Consequently, we can immediately include these blocks in the 2026 investment package portfolio."

He underscored: "IMIDRO, alongside other public and private sector entities and in line with its developmental



policies, consistently supports national production, technological advance-

ment, infrastructure development, and human resource empowerment."