Iran's largest rooftop solar plant goes online in Mashhad

Economy Desk

The second phase of Iran's largest rooftop solar power plant – with a 1.2-megawatt capacity – entered operation Tuesday in Mashhad, northeastern Iran.

Khorasan Razavi Governor-General Gholamhossein Mozaffari and provincial officials inaugurated the project, which was constructed through private sector investment at the Mashhad Aquatic Waves Sports Complex, as reported by Mehr.

"The second phase of the country's largest rooftop solar power plant, with a capacity of 1.2 megawatts, has been commissioned at Mashhad's Aquatic Waves Sports Complex," Mozaffari stated.

Addressing journalists at the event, Mozaffari commended the project team for prioritizing clean energy alongside aquatic infrastructure, noting the second phase's completion in under 25 days set a valuable benchmark.

Noting this complex's pioneering role in rooftop solar installations, the governor added, "It has been proposed to hold intensive meetings within one week to assess covered spaces across the province – particularly factories and industrial facilities."

"Priority goes to powering industrial operations first. Any surplus during peak demand feeds back into the grid. Aquatic Waves' success – generating excess power during high-demand periods – sets a blueprint for other industries."

Citing nationwide energy deficits and industrial strain, the governor-general asserted, "Accelerating solar and renewable energy projects is now an urgent national imperative." He advocated weekly renewable project launches to mitigate provincial energy shortfalls.

The government had granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy.

Meanwhile, Abdolvahid Mahdavinia, CEO of Mashhad Electricity Distribution Company, said, "Iran's solar irradiance ranges from 4.5 to 5.5 kW/m^2 – a superb potential compared to Germany's 2.3 kW/m^2, despite Germany leading in per-capita solar installations."

Mining targets 3,000 MW solar

The Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) is advancing large-scale solar initiatives across mineral industries per its developmental mandate and Ministry of Industry directives, IRNA reported.

The strategy aims to curb fossil fuel reliance, optimize energy, boost efficiency, and reduce pollution, reflecting IMIDRO's sustainable development commitment.

Planned solar capacity totals 2,958 megawatts nationwide. With 215 megawatts currently operational, 843 additional megawatts will launch by year-end, accelerating renewable energy targets.

IMIDRO maintains momentum despite significant obstacles, including insufficient grid infrastructure, costly substations, complex land allocation, local opposition, and protracted permitting/equipment clearance. The organization facilitates development through cross-agency coordination, regulatory simplification, and private investment support.

Solar power deployment across mining industries promises sustainable energy while positioning IMIDRO as crucial to national energy security, sustainable growth, and environmental stewardship.


ISNA

Three wastewater treatment projects launched in Tehran

Dams in capital plunge to 14% amid worst drought in 60 years

Economy Desk

Three wastewater treatment projects in Lavasan, northeast of Tehran, were inaugurated on Tuesday in the presence of Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi.

The projects, valued at 1.1 trillion tomans (approximately $12 million USD), include the commissioning of Module 2 at Lavasan Treatment Plant with its collection network, the Jangalban area wastewater system, and the wastewater treatment facilities for Emamzadeh Davoud village," IRIB reported.

During the opening ceremony Aliabadi said, "Over the past 30 years, we had 400 billion cubic meters of water resources, but this figure has now decreased to 300 billion cubic meters."

The energy minister elaborated, "For cities like Tehran, there aren't many solutions to address water stress. Some countries possess 18 times more water per capita than ours, but Iran's climate isn't among water-rich regions, necessitating a shift toward consumption management."

Regarding high-consumption subscribers, he stated, "The treatment cost per cubic meter of potable water is 300,000 tomans (≈$3.40 USD). However, some individuals consume water indiscriminately under the assumption they've paid for it. Consequently, we must move toward rewarding efficient consumers and penalizing wasteful ones, as they infringe upon others' rights."


TASNIM

Emphasizing wastewater treatment necessity, Aliabadi added, "Not a single drop should be wasted without recycling, and this treated effluent is primarily used in industrial and agricultural sectors."

"We must adapt to current conditions and modify consumption patterns, as we've endured drought for over five years. For instance, if trends persist, we may face difficulties extracting water from the Latyan Dam within a month."

Only 14% of dam water reservoir filled

Meanwhile, Behzad Parsa, managing director of Tehran Regional Water Company, reported, "Since the start of the current water year, 153 millimeters of rainfall have been recorded in this province. Presently, only 14% of Tehran's dam reservoir capacity is filled."

According to the official, "This marks the fifth consecutive year of low precipitation in Tehran Province, with this year's rainfall being unprecedented over the past 60 years. The recorded 153mm rainfall shows a 44% decrease compared to the long-term average and a 33% decline relative to last year."

Worst water year in 60 years

Highlighting the drought severity, he stressed, "Persistent drought over these five years has drastically reduced surface and groundwater levels, placing us in an extremely critical water situation. Based on conducted studies and official statistics spanning 60 years, this is the worst water year due to absence of effective precipitation."

"Even during spring – typically a favorable season for precipitation where snowmelt could generate runoff and floods to replenish reservoirs – we experienced insufficient rainfall. This past April saw 91% less precipitation compared to the long-term average," Parsa added.

"Collectively, these factors have reduced the effective volume of Tehran's drinking water reservoirs to 14%," the managing director concluded.

Exports to Africa soar 85%, trade balance up 113%: *TPO*

Economy Desk

A senior official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) cited an 85% growth in Iran's exports to African countries during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20, 2025) compared to the same period last year, while also announcing a 113% increase in Iran's trade balance with African nations.

Announcing the above, Acting Director of the Africa Office Mohammadreza Safari added the country must move towards "exporting high value-added finished products and investing in offshore production within African countries," ISNA reported.

Referring to Iran's trade statistics with African countries during this year's first quarter, Safari elaborated, "Exports to Africa experienced 85% growth during this period compared to the same timeframe last year. Concurrently, alongside this export growth, we witnessed a reduction in imports, resulting in a 113% growth in the trade balance."

According to this official at the TPO, the number of Iran's target export countries on the African continent has increased from 27 to 32 countries.

Analyzing the reasons behind the growth in Iran's foreign trade with African countries, Safari commented, "One reason for the export increase to African countries appears to be the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit. Operationalizing the resolutions of the Africa Headquarters could accelerate this trend."

Concluding his remarks, the acting director of the Africa office proposed, "Given recent developments – including rising energy and transportation costs, reduced financial support, and new US tariffs on these countries' exports – Iran's trade strategy with Africa should shift towards exporting high value-added finished products and investing in offshore production in African countries. This is a strategy that countries like China have pursued in Africa for years."

China's June crude imports jump as Iranian, Saudi volumes surge

China's crude oil imports surged to 12.14 million barrels per day in June, marking a 7.4% year-on-year increase, driven by a sharp rise in deliveries from Saudi Arabia and Iran, Reuters reported on Monday.

The spike reflects both restocking after refinery maintenance and opportunistic buying by independent refiners amid steep discounts on sanctioned barrels.

According to China's General Administration of Customs, cited by Reuters, total imports reached 49.89 million tons in June, the highest monthly volume since March. Analysts at Oilchem and Kpler cited refinery restarts and attractive Persian Gulf pricing as key drivers, particularly for China's "teapot" refineries in Shandong, oilprice.com reported.

Saudi crude shipments to China rose by 845,000 barrels per day to 1.78 million bpd. Iranian imports also climbed, with traders estimating a 445,000-bpd increase, despite ongoing US sanctions. Many of these flows were channeled through independent refiners taking advantage of discounts of $2 to $3.50 per barrel below Brent.