

# New 183 MW unit at Neka power plant in Mazandaran comes on stream

## Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday inaugurated the development project of Neka power plant, comprising two 183-megawatt gas units and one 180-megawatt steam unit, in Mazandaran Province via video conference. The new 183-megawatt gas unit at the power plant was commissioned during the ceremony, attended by Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi.

Constructed in less than five months — a timeframe considered record-breaking for civil engineering projects — this unit was prioritized by the government to address the electricity supply-demand imbalance.

The commissioning of the gas unit at Shahid Salimi Neka Power Plant has created indirect employment for 1,000 individuals and direct employment for 200 individuals in the northern province.

Officials at the power plant stated that the commissioning of the gas unit now supplies electricity to 100,000 households and meets part of the industrial electricity demand in Mazandaran Province.

The project's executive managers announced that 95% of the facilities and equipment for the new gas unit were

domestically manufactured and produced, resulting in significant foreign currency savings.

Shahid Salimi Neka Power Plant, with a production capacity of 2,214 megawatts, is one of the country's largest power plants, capable of supplying over four percent of the nation's electricity. Equipped with four steam units (each 440 MW), two gas units (each 137.6 MW), and one 160-megawatt combined cycle steam unit, it plays a crucial role in stabilizing the national power grid by supplying over four percent of the country's electricity.

At the inauguration ceremony for the third gas unit of Shahid Salimi Neka Power Plant, the Iranian energy minister told reporters, "Currently, very important projects are underway in the electricity sector, with over 1,000 projects in the water and electricity industry being implemented, nearly 800 of which pertain to the electricity industry."

Aliabadi said, "Within this short period, we have brought over 2,000 megawatts of power plant capacity online, and it is expected that this figure will soon reach 3,000 megawatts."

He referred to the country's status regarding solar power plant devel-



opment, stating that planning for approximately 30,000 megawatts had been undertaken to this end. He noted that equipment for 7,000 megawatts had already been imported and was currently being installed.

On Monday, the energy minister trav-

eled to Mazandaran to inaugurate several water and electricity industry projects. The agenda for the minister's trip to Mazandaran included, commissioning the third 183-megawatt gas unit at the Neka power plant; inaugurating five distributed generation pow-

er plant projects and 21 substation and ultra-distribution line construction/expansion projects; commissioning the Sari city water supply completion project from Shahid Rajaei Dam, including a 20,000-cubic-meter reservoir and a 3.2-kilometer transmission line; and commencing the executive operations of the Miyandorud water conveyance project.

## 78,000 MW of investment demand in renewables

Emphasizing the utilization of private sector capacity in implementing water and renewable energy projects, the minister said, "There is demand exceeding 78,000 megawatts in the country for developing renewable energy."

According to IRNA, Aliabadi, speaking at the ceremony for commissioning the Sari water supply completion project and launching the Miyandorud water transfer project's executive operations, stated, "The ministry intends to expand projects in the water and renewable energy sectors by attracting private investment and public participation." He added that implementing water transfer projects is being pursued with seriousness, emphasis, and special attention from the government within the ministry of energy.

## Economy posted positive investment growth in past three years: CBI data



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According to Central Bank of Iran (CBI)'s statistics, gross fixed capital formation (investment) in Iran's economy recorded positive growth over three consecutive years from 1401 (began on March 21, 2022) to 1403 (began on March 20, 2024). According to ISNA, gross fixed capital formation in Iran's economy experienced positive growth over the consecutive three-year period (1401

to 1403).

The figures show that the positive growth follows a period where the average investment growth rate was negative 6.9 percent during the 1390s (2010s decade) and zero in the year 1400.

Based on the aforementioned data, investment in Iran's economy registered growth rates of 6.7 percent, 6.3 percent, and 3.8 percent in the years 1401, 1402, and 1403 respectively.

## Specialized expo on Iranian infrastructure industries opens in Tehran

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Iran's Food, Medicine, IT, Energy and Logistics Exhibition, also known as Iran Infrastructure, was inaugurated at Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds on Monday.

The participant booths at the exhibition encompass a broad spectrum of products and services related to infrastructure, including food and pharmaceutical industries, novel technologies in the information technology sector, energy and consumption optimization solutions, transportation, and smart logistics systems.

The primary objectives

for holding the exhibition are to showcase the country's genuine capabilities and capacities, develop domestic and foreign interactions, sign memoranda of understanding for the implementation of major infrastructure projects, and introduce Iran as a resilient and forward-looking hub in the field of infrastructure and development.

The four-day exhibition is not only an opportunity to introduce national capabilities and foster international interactions, but also, given its role as the first large-scale exhibition following a one-month hiatus in the capital, holds particular



importance in restoring prosperity to the country's exhibition calendar and business environment. The exhibition commenced with the attendance of the President Masoud Pezesh-

kian's economic advisor, deputies of the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, industrialists, economic activists, associations, guilds, and knowledge-based companies.



## Iran's talks with ...

## Sanctions return and what lies ahead

## Page 1 >

Should the snapback proceed, all prior Security Council resolutions—1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835 and 1929—will be restored. For Iran, this would not just be a diplomatic setback: it would deepen economic suffering, disrupt foreign trade, tighten export-import channels—especially in oil and energy—and hamper investment, banking, insurance and transit sectors.

The return of UN sanctions—with Iran once again being labeled a global threat under Chapter VII of the UN Charter—could set the stage for a major confrontation in 2025. While this echoes the harsh pre-nuclear deal era, the geopolitical landscape has shifted dramatically. This time, the world could unite to set in motion one of the toughest sanction eras for Iran or Europe might simply weaponize the move to mask its own political maneuvering. If China and Russia do not back the

sanctions, and Western states apply leniency, the impact may remain theoretical.

But a pessimistic scenario—which sees a coordinated comeback of sanctions supported by global powers—could badly harm Iran's economy. Such restrictions would severely hit its oil sales, transit, financial services, pharmaceutical industries and wider trade.

## Postponement: A chance for diplomacy or keeping pressure?

Reports of a delayed snapback mechanism and sanctions return remain unconfirmed, but media reports suggest it

is being discussed in Iran-EU talks. Tehran has yet to comment, but if true, the move could signal Europe's attempt to carve a new path toward its objectives. According to French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, Europe will negotiate with Iran through August—triggering snapback by September if no deal is reached. Europe has until October 18 to reinstate sanctions.

The key question is whether the trio made this offer to de-escalate tensions and pursue diplomacy—or if it is only a pretext to justify tougher measures via snapback. Answers may emerge during the July 25 Iran-trio meeting in Istan-

bul. For now, Iran remains unconvinced by the proposal, viewing nuclear-related sanctions as politically motivated and illegal from the outset. Tehran sees no advantage in allowing the West to maintain its snapback leverage.

Past negotiations have taught Iran that diplomatic overtures do not necessarily guarantee compliance and Western partners do not always honor their commitments. While preventing a repeat of previous failures (like military strikes during talks) might bring Iran back to the table, securing its core demands—especially on nuclear rights—remains essential for any deal.