

# Pezeshkian inaugurates 425 MW solar power plants in four provinces

**Economy Desk**

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian officially launched via video conference on Tuesday 130 megawatts of solar power capacity and initiated the construction of an additional 295 megawatts across four provinces. The new solar capacity includes 20 megawatts in Khorasan Razavi Province, 50 megawatts in Markazi Province, and 60 megawatts in Bushehr Province. The president's directive also kick-started the construction of a 200-megawatt solar power plant in Bushehr and a 95-megawatt facility in Tehran.

Appreciating provincial officials and contributors, particularly the Energy Ministry, for their dedication to advancing clean and renewable energy initiatives, Pezeshkian underscored the significance of the plan in addressing energy shortages and stressed the need for accelerating the ongoing projects to ease public concerns in the sector.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremonies, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi reported that since the beginning of the current administration, as many as 117 projects in the water and electricity sectors have been launched thanks to the technical savvy of domestic engineers. Aliabadi added that an additional 21 projects encompassing both renewable and thermal power plants are expected to become operational by September. The energy minister also announced that plans are underway to inaugurate 389 projects in the water and electricity sectors by the end of the year, which is projected for March 2026.

**President honors martyred scientists of Israeli aggression**

In another development on Tuesday,

Pezeshkian paid tribute to the Iranian scientists and scholars assassinated by the Israeli regime in the 12-day imposed war, asserting that their only ambition was to elevate Iran to the heights of knowledge and progress.

Addressing the memorial for martyred scientists of Faculty of Nuclear Engineering at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, the president reviled the self-proclaimed advocates of democracy, human rights, and peace, declaring their claims to be utter farce.

Pezeshkian underlined that those honored at the memorial dedicated their lives to serving the Iranian people and safeguarding the nation from cowardly acts of aggression, ultimately falling victim to the Tel Aviv regime's actions. "These individuals had no sins other than their knowledge and their determination to equip their country with advanced technologies," he said.

The president also commemorated the memory of the country's martyrs in science and technology, expressing hope that the youth would carry on their legacy with strength and strive for the nation's independence and freedom.

He further took to task the aggressive actions of the Israeli regime, which are supported fully by the United States and European countries.

Pezeshkian rebuked the Israeli actions in Gaza as shameful, saying, "The Israelis are aggressors who enjoy full support from the United States. They have the platform, money, force, and power, and today, in addition to widespread killings, they block access to water, medicine, bread, and food, leaving people trapped in hunger. This behavior is disgraceful."

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, assassinating many



high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and killing hundreds of civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Undead air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations, managed to impose a halt to the illegal aggression, which was perpetrated against the backdrop of the Israeli regime's long-time onslaught on Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Since October 7, 2023, the Gaza genocide has left 61,499 dead and 153,575 injured, most of them children and women. Over 11,000 people are also missing,

in addition to hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and a famine that has claimed more than 210 lives.

## Iran, Kenya target \$1b trade boost at joint economic meeting in Nairobi



**Economy Desk**

Iranian Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah announced on Tuesday that Iran and Kenya had

launched their seventh joint Economic Committee meeting in the capital Nairobi to deepen economic ties, with both sides setting a target to boost annual trade to \$1.0 billion from the cur-

rent \$150 million.

The two-day meeting, co-chaired by Iran's agriculture minister and Kenya's prime and foreign minister, hosted more than 100 representatives from government ministries and the private sector of the two countries.

Nouri Qezeljah underscored Kenya's strategic location in East Africa and its economic potential, saying Iran is ready to share expertise in greenhouse cultivation and water-efficient farming, as well as its experience in producing and exporting crops such as pistachios, saffron and dates.

The minister said Iran sees Kenya as a

gateway to regional markets and plans to expand cooperation beyond trade to include strategic and technical partnerships.

"The official trade volume between Iran and Kenya currently exceeds \$150 million, and this figure is expected to increase to \$1 billion in the near future," Nouri Qezeljah said, stressing that such interactions will pave the way for upgrading economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The two sides also hashed out creating a joint committee to follow up on agreements, holding joint exhibitions, enhancing banking cooperation, and facilitating private-sector participation.

Kenya's prime and foreign minister, for his part, noted that Kenyan tea exports have grown from over 3,000 tons in 2003 to more than 13,000 tons in 2024.

He said Nairobi aims to remove remaining export restrictions to Iran and agreed with Tehran to form a joint body to address trade barriers within 60 days, particularly in the tea sector.

"We encourage Kenyan traders and businesspeople to benefit from the rare capacities and capabilities that exist in Iran. The joint commission for cooperation between the two countries can be an important factor in strengthening convergence and developing bilateral cooperation," Kenya's prime and foreign minister said.

The committee is expected to sign multiple cooperation documents covering agriculture, health care, cultural exchanges, construction, and overseas farming projects, with officials from both countries saying the outcome will lay the groundwork for a significant expansion of bilateral and regional engagement.

## Iran, Turkmenistan agree on construction of new railway lines at Sarakhs

**Economy Desk**

The representatives of Iran and Turkmenistan agreed on Tuesday to construct two new railway lines at the Sarakhs border crossing to reduce cargo backlog and enhance rail trade between the two neighboring countries.

The agreement was reached during a bilateral meeting in Turkmenistan's Turkmenbashi Port on the sidelines of the United Nations' Third Conference on

Landlocked Developing Countries.

Jabbarali Zakeri, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, said after meeting the Turkmen railway minister that the plan includes adding one standard-gauge line and one broad-gauge line between the Sarakhs stations on each side of the border.

Zakeri, who is also deputy minister of transport and urban development, stressed that expanding

the number of exchange tracks is vital for strengthening rail links between the two neighbors.

The official said expert-level meetings between the two rail administrations will be held to advance implementation, with the talks having addressed the backlog of export freight at Sarakhs.

Zakeri said Turkmenistan's railway will add 200 to 300 Uzbek freight wagons to the joint transport fleet to help increase inter-

national cargo capacity and speed up rail trade along the route.

The Sarakhs crossing is a key gateway for cargo flows between Iran, Central Asia and beyond, forming part of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) and other regional rail networks.

The planned infrastructure expansion is expected to boost both bilateral trade and multimodal transit operations through the corridor.

