

US-Israeli strikes on renewables affecting 3,500 rural households: *Minister*

Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi condemned US-Israeli strikes on the country's renewable energy infrastructure, stating that an attack on a warehouse of small-scale solar equipment caused approximately \$1.2 million in losses and destroyed supplies intended to provide electricity for 3,500 households in deprived rural areas, according to a letter to the director-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Aliabadi condemned attacks on the country's renewable energy facilities and called for urgent international action to protect such infrastructure as part of global efforts to combat climate change, according to the letter to Francesco La Camera.

In the letter, Aliabadi stated that since the US-Israeli aggression began on February 28, the two regimes have committed numerous crimes, including killing civilians and attacking schools, hospitals, residential areas, and energy and industrial infrastructure across Iran.

"In line with these crimes, in the March 8 airstrike, US-Israeli fighter jets attacked one of Iran's deprived counties, destroying a warehouse of small-scale solar power plant equipment and causing serious damage to its contents," Aliabadi wrote. "The financial loss to the aforementioned warehouse, which included equipment such as solar inverters, cables, and other stored supplies, is estimated at around \$1.2 million, which could have been used to supply electricity to 3,500 households."

"The destroyed equipment in this attack was part of the components needed to build solar power plants that are under construction to help supply electricity to people in deprived rural areas of Iran and to protect the environment," he added.

Aliabadi emphasized that the environmental damage from destroying such a solar power plant extends beyond the material value of the equipment and includes two main parts: "clean energy non-benefit" and "pollution from equipment destruction." In this regard, he said, the annual inactivity of this power

plant leads to the emission of approximately 37,000 tons of additional carbon dioxide per year, which is irreparable damage to the ozone layer and global warming.

The minister also characterized US President Donald Trump's threats to attack Iran's power plants and electricity infrastructure as contrary to the principles of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. "Attacks on vital civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity facilities, are prohibited," he wrote.

The US and the Zionist regime launched their aggression against the country on February 28, with civilian targets and infrastructure among the primary sites struck. The country has fully restored power and water services across the country despite sustaining thousands serious incidents in its electricity grid and damage to hundreds of points in its water distribution network during strikes.

300 water infrastructure points damaged
Separately, Hashem Amini, CEO



of Iran's Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, said, "Since the beginning of the enemy's attacks, sections of urban water transmission lines, distribution networks, reservoirs, pumping stations, and related energy supply equipment for water supply systems have been attacked and damaged at 300 points across the country." "Through measures taken, the damages were quickly resolved to create the least disruption in

people's lives," Amini said. "The most significant recorded damages include damage to some water transmission lines, harm to storage reservoirs, disruption to pumping stations, and damage to some electrical equipment of water supply facilities," he added.

"Operational forces from provincial water and wastewater companies, by mobilizing resources, dispatching specialized teams, and utilizing crisis

management capacities, have begun repair and reconstruction operations in the damaged areas."

"Despite these attacks and the damages incurred, drinking water supply across the country is being carried out without interruption and in a stable manner, and water supply, storage, and distribution systems are operating under emergency management and using alternative resources," Amini said.

Iran, Qatar highlight intertwined regional interests, US expulsion



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Iran's Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd and Qatar's Transport Minister Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani discussed bilateral cooperation and regional developments in a phone call, with the former saying regional interests are intertwined and joint cooperation is needed to restore stability and calm across the region.

She emphasized that regional countries must work together to push the United States out of the region, according to

Mehr News Agency. Sadegh Malvajerd, stressing the necessity of regional convergence, reiterated that joint efforts are essential to restore stability. "Iran, Qatar and other regional countries should push the United States out of the region so that calm returns," she said.

"Regional conditions should be organized among regional countries as quickly as possible and calm should be restored, but not with the help of foreign countries," she added.

Al Thani, affirming these views, said he agrees with

her approach regarding reducing tensions and moving toward peace in the region.

He expressed satisfaction with the call, saying he hopes that as conditions calm, the two sides can further expand and accelerate their level of cooperation.

"Currently, the region faces a difficult situation, and we hope to overcome this crisis together so that regional interests are secured and no party is harmed, because in such conditions there is no winner, neither politically nor economically," the Qatari minister added.

Sadegh emphasized that war is an ominous phenomenon for all and that she agrees with this perspective. "In this recent conflict, the United States was once again the initiator," she said.

After 40 days of US-Israeli war against Iran that began on February 28, Iran and the United States announced a 15-day cease-

fire last Wednesday with Pakistan's mediation.

The war, which has left thousands dead in the West Asian region, has caused a 50% increase in oil prices and disrupted supplies of oil, gas, fertilizer, helium and other commodities, while also affecting sectors such as tourism and air transport.

Following initial US and Israeli air strikes in February, Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint through which approximately one-fifth of global oil supplies transit. The country has prohibited ships of hostile states from passing through the Strait of Hormuz since February 28.

Al Thani concluded that if needed, Qatar is prepared to pursue related issues through international institutions to resolve existing problems and restore calm to the region. "We hope to continue talks in better conditions in the near future," he said.

Summer power cuts expected to sink if 14 mega-projects completed

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Iran could face less electricity imbalance this summer if favorable conditions persist and 14 mega-projects are implemented, Deputy Energy Minister Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said, while warning that wartime conditions may delay some plans.

Planning to supply electricity during the country's peak summer consumption days began months ago, and the 14 mega-projects designed by the Ministry of Energy have been in the execution track for a long time, Rajabi Mashhadi said, ISNA reported.

"Limitations and electricity imbalance have decreased," he said, adding that he hopes the implementation of the 14 mega-projects will place electricity supply in a more stable condition, though the execution of some projects may be delayed or become unfeasible due to war conditions.

"Our entire effort is to pass the summer with the least problems and limitations," he said.

Measures have been taken to

supply electricity to citizens under wartime conditions, the deputy minister noted.

Iran's electricity grid is one of the most extensive interconnected networks in the region, spanning more than 1 million kilometers, and in most parts of the country, electricity is supplied from multiple paths and multiple power plants, he said.

This feature ensures that in case of an incident on one line or at one power plant, the shortfall can be compensated from other routes, maintaining grid stability, he added.

The vast majority of equipment for the electricity industry is produced domestically, and the supply chain from production to distribution is entirely local, meaning that in case of any damage, equipment can be supplied and losses compensated within the country, Rajabi Mashhadi said.

Over the past 22 years, Iran's electricity grid has not experienced a nationwide collapse, while many developed and regional countries have



faced multiple widespread blackouts in the past five years, he noted.

This year, Iran has also seen more favorable weather conditions compared to last year, leading to lower electricity consumption relative to the same period last year, he said. Peak electricity demand in the third week of the Iranian year, which began on March 21, reached 38,755 megawatts on Thursday, April 9. This compares to 49,817 megawatts during the same period last year, representing a 22% decrease in national electricity consumption, he added.

"However, it should not be forgotten that the country is in special conditions, and people must continue to practice optimal electricity consumption," Rajabi Mashhadi said.

Iran's right to ...

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is entitled, under the principle of full reparation, to seek compensation for the following categories of damage:

- damage to urban infrastructure and public facilities;
- damage resulting from attacks on educational and medical institutions;
- material and moral injury suffered by Iranian nationals;
- costs of reconstruction;
- damage arising from the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This right to reparation is fully consistent with, and indeed complementary to, Iran's right of self-defense. On the one hand, Iran was entitled to target military bases from which attacks were launched; on the other hand, it retains the right to seek compensation from Arab States that facilitated such attacks.

From a technical legal standpoint, Iran's claims may also be grounded in Article 17 of the Articles on State Responsibility, particularly where certain Arab States may have played a role in directing, controlling, or coordinating military oper-

ations, thereby elevating their responsibility beyond mere assistance to a level of direction and control.

In light of the above, the Islamic Republic of Iran is legally entitled to pursue formal claims for compensation against Arab States hosting the relevant military bases. Under international law, both the underlying internationally wrongful act and the assisting role of these States have been established and condemned by authoritative legal sources, thereby giving rise to international responsibility and corresponding obligations of reparation.

Petchem exports halted to shore up domestic demand

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Iran suspended exports of all petrochemical products "until further notice" following US-Israeli attacks on its two main petrochemical hubs in the south earlier this month.

An official directive, issued by Mohammad Mottaqi, director of downstream petrochemical industries development, bans all exports to priorities domestic demand, Tasnim News Agency reported on Wednesday, publishing an image of the document.

"Under the current circumstances and the damage caused by the war and attacks of the American and

Zionist enemy against the country, supporting domestic industries and consumers is of very high importance and sensitivity," Mottaqi said in the written directive addressed to petrochemical plant executives, marked "immediate-urgent." He instructed companies to return export cargoes that had not yet received customs clearance to the domestic market to prevent shortages of feedstock needed for downstream industries.

The directive also demands that domestic sale prices for petroleum, refining and petrochemical products be "fixed" in line with a Supreme National Security Council order at international levels

prevailing before February 28, when the United States and Israel launched the aggression on Iran.

Air strikes over several days hit petrochemical facilities in Mahshahr in the southwestern province of Khuzestan and in Asaluyeh in the southern province of Bushehr, damaging installations at multiple companies.

The National Iranian Petrochemical Co. (NIPC) has not yet issued an estimate of the damage, but the export ban points to a sector hit hard by the attacks.

Iran's nominal petrochemical production capacity has reached 100 million tons per year, with actual output at around 80 million tons.