

Rudshur Power Plant starts up largest high-efficiency steam unit

Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi inaugurated the 345-megawatt steam unit at Rudshur Power Plant on Tuesday, marking the largest high-efficiency steam unit in the country with an investment volume of 275 million euros.

The unit, a Class F combined-cycle facility, was launched in a virtual ceremony attended by the minister, according to ISNA.

Mohsen E'temadi, managing director of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding Company, said the steam unit project was initiated to increase electricity generation, meet rising energy demand in central Iran – particularly in Tehran Province – and boost the efficiency of existing gas-fired units by converting them to combined-cycle operations.

The electricity demand is expected to rise by more than 5% this year, after Iran's peak electricity consumption hovered around 79,000 megawatts last summer.

"For the first time in the country, this project features a 3-3-1 configuration, connecting three gas turbines, three heat-recovery boilers, and one steam turbine," E'temadi said.

He added that the final capacity of the Rudshur Power Plant has now reached 1,134 MW with the completion of the project. "By

capturing exhaust heat from the gas units and directing it to the steam section equipment, electricity is generated without additional fuel consumption," he said, noting that the steam unit's annual output equates to savings of 700 million cubic meters of fuel. "The plant's efficiency will rise to approximately 57 percent with the addition of this steam unit," E'temadi said. "Given that this facility is located near Tehran and Markazi provinces – key energy consumption hubs – the new unit will play a crucial role in maintaining grid stability and improving voltage levels in the region."

Nominal power capacity tops 100,315 MW

Addressing the ceremony, Aliabadi said, "with the new capacity connected to the national grid, Iran's nominal power generation capacity has surpassed 100,315 MW," a threshold that he said will continue to rise through the end of the current administration (July 2028).

He emphasized that the additional capacity was achieved without burning extra fuel. "The 345-MW increase in nominal capacity was realized solely through steam generated by cooling boilers at the plant," he said. He also noted that water consumption has been minimized through modern technologies, achieving significant



Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi inaugurates the 345-MW steam unit at Rudshur Power Plant in Markazi Province during a virtual ceremony on June 16, 2026. moe.gov.ir

savings.

The energy minister highlighted ongoing expansion of transmission and distribution networks alongside new generation projects. "We are commissioning projects across various capacities to match generation with grid demands and avoid generation bottlenecks," he said, adding that further capacity targets have been set and are expected to be met by the end of the administration.

Grid connectivity with neighbors

Aliabadi also addressed plans for electrical interconnections with neighboring countries, stating

that such links would be mutually beneficial. "We are currently connected to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Iraq," he said. "We are also in negotiations with Qatar." He recalled that during wartime, Iran helped Iraq restore its grid after a nationwide blackout.

The minister also referenced the impact of hostilities on Iran's power infrastructure, reiterating that approximately 4,200 MW of industrial capacity was affected. "Repairs are underway, and part of that capacity has already been restored," he said. Damage was sustained to parts of the distribution network, power pylons, substations, transformers, and

the Mobarakeh Steel, Fajr, and Bandar Abbas power plants, he added.

"Despite these losses, we have managed the situation effectively and have navigated through without imposing widespread restrictions," Aliabadi said.

A US-Israeli coalition launched a 40-day military campaign in late February, which targeted much of the country's infrastructure and civilian sectors.

Pezeshkian unveils 2,209 projects to enhance agricultural output



President Masoud Pezeshkian orders the inauguration of 2,209 agricultural projects across Iran on June 15, 2026. president.ir

Economy Desk

As many as 2,209 projects in the agricultural sector were inaugurated by President Masoud Pezeshkian via video link across the country on Monday night to mark the Agricultural Jihad Week (starting on mid-June).

The projects, covering water and soil management, livestock and poultry, agricultural processing and complementary industries, horticulture, farming and fisheries, were launched with total investment of more than 30 trillion rials (\$1.93 billion).

The projects were implemented nationwide, including in the provinces of Khuzestan, Kerman, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, Hormozgan, Ardebil and West Azarbaijan, which accounted for the largest number of projects, president.ir reported.

According to a report, 79% of the investment was financed by private sector investors and agricultural sector operators.

Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Qezelgeh said at the inauguration ceremony that the initiatives will provide direct employment for more than 42,000 people and indirect employment for about 30,000 people.

He said that the facilities will play an important role in economic development and increasing production capacity in the agricultural sector.

Speaking at the virtual inauguration ceremony for the agricultural projects, Pezeshkian commemorated Agricultural Jihad Week and stressed the need for synergy among farmers, industrialists, experts and innovators.

"We must, through the cooperation and participation of all those active in this field, chart a new horizon for the country's growth, prosperity, dynamism and development," he said.

Agriculture Week, observed annually in mid-June, marks the anniversary of the founding of the Jihad-e Sazandegi (Construction Jihad) Organization by a decree from the late founder of the Islamic Republic on June 17, 1979. The organization was later merged with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Iran's benchmark stock index tops record 5 million points



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Iran's benchmark stock index surged past the 5-million-point level for the first time on Tuesday, closing at 5,100,000 points after gaining 119,898 units, as the market extended its recovery following a wartime trading halt, state-run IRNA reported. The main Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) index gained 119,898 points to close at 5.1 million points, while the equal-weight index rose 15,000 points to 1.351 million, according to state media.

The total value of the TSE entered the 15,000 trillion-toman range (about \$96.5 billion), while daily turnover reached 254.9 trillion tomans (\$1.64 billion). Retail trading exceeded 40 trillion tomans (\$257 million).

Top performers included Per-

sian Gulf Petrochemical (FARS) and Mobarakeh Steel (FMLY), which contributed 38,000 and 22,000 points to the benchmark index's rise, respectively.

Among the most actively traded stocks, Bank Mellat (WEBMELAT) saw 36 billion shares, Iran Khodro (IKCO) traded 26 billion shares, and SAIPA (KHSAAPA) recorded 10 billion shares.

On the self-regulatory Iran Fara Bourse, index also climbed 258 points to 38,420.

The gains followed months during which the Tehran bourse came under heavy pressure from wartime conditions, political uncertainty and a prolonged trading halt that led many investors to adopt a cautious stance. Trading on the TSE resumed on May 19 after an 80-day suspension, with Iranian equities ending the session stronger than expected and showing early signs of stability following the prolonged halt caused by the war.

The stock market had been closed since February 28 following US and Israeli aggression on Iran.

'Action plan' underway to boost postwar gas production: Minister

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An "action plan" has been launched to ramp up natural gas extraction from onshore fields, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said as the country faces a growing gas shortage exacerbated by damage sustained during the recent war. Paknejad said that alongside ongoing operations at South Pars, the world's largest gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, an emergency program to boost output from onshore gas fields had been drawn up and entered the implementation stage, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The initiative covers all fields operated by the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC), Iran's second-largest natural gas extractor after state-run Pars Oil and Gas Company, which develops the giant South Pars field.

"Based on the plan, we will use all available capacities to increase gas production, including the collection of associated petroleum gas (APG), and all ICOFC fields will



see higher output," Paknejad said.

APG or flare gas is a by-product in oil and gas facilities that is burned via flare stacks due to a lack of required installations.

The ICOFC develops 87 oil and gas fields in 18 provinces and contributes about 25% of Iran's total natural gas production.

South Pars is the backbone of Iran's energy system, supplying around 70% of the country's gas needs. However, the field's processing infrastructure was heavily affected during a 40-day war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran in late February.

In mid-March, an Israeli air strike damaged gas processing facilities in the southern port of Asaluyeh, knocking two refineries out of opera-

tion and destroying fuel storage tanks.

A lawmaker said last month that the raid caused about \$4 billion in damage to facilities in Asaluyeh.

Before the attack, Iran was extracting more than 1.1 billion cubic meters of gas per day from its fields, including 730 million cubic meters (mcm) per day from South Pars.

Paknejad said earlier in June that the strike wiped out 230 mcm per day of gas processing capacity, of which 30 mcm had been restored over the past two months.

The remaining 200 mcm of lost processing capacity accounts for nearly 22% of Iran's total daily gas production capacity of about 900 mcm per day. The action plan appears aimed at making up for part of the mismatch between gas production and consumption before winter arrives, when demand typically surges.

Iran had already been facing a daily gas shortfall of 300 mcm per day before the damage to the Asaluyeh facilities.

What international legal ...

Placing demands on the country's diplomatic apparatus that international law itself cannot fulfill does little to advance Iran's national interests and may ultimately complicate efforts to secure its rights.

Global trends suggest that international law and the broader international order are increas-

ingly moving toward more flexible, power-based instruments, including non-binding political agreements and evolving customary law. In some circumstances, these tools may reflect actual power balances more accurately than traditional legal agreements such as treaties, which helps explain why major powers increasingly favor them.

For smaller countries, however, this trend may create long-term challenges, even if it has become an undeniable reality. Taken together, the current framework of understanding, regardless of its formal legal status, provides a practical foundation and a roadmap for any future agreement. The larger challenge remains implementation, particularly

on the US side. The American record of inconsistent compliance with international commitments continues to stand as the greatest obstacle facing Iran, and the answer cannot be purely diplomatic or purely legal. Most likely, as with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, both sides will eventually seek to strengthen the international

legal standing of a final agreement through mechanisms such as United Nations Security Council resolutions. Even then, one lesson should not be forgotten: the old tale of 'Mouse and Cat' by Iranian satirist and poet Ubayd Zakani about "belling the cat" remains relevant. Placing restraints on a criminal cat is far easier said than done.