Minister: War-damaged desalination plants in south fully operational

Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Sunday that all desalination plants damaged in recent US strikes in the country's south are fully operational, ensuring no islands are facing water shortages.

Aliabadi, accompanied by the executive vice president and the minister of roads and urban development, visited the southern Hormozgan Province on Sunday to attend a crisis meeting and inspect strike-damaged areas.

"Residents in the southern provinces are enduring severe hardships as extreme heat waves compound the pressure from the recent attacks," he said.

After a pause of several weeks, the United States resumed strikes on Iran's infrastructure on July 11, after three vessels in the Strait of Hormuz were targeted.

The country has remained on a war footing since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks in late February, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure during a 40-day conflict.

Aliabadi acknowledged that the strikes targeted infrastructure directly affecting civilians, but credited the round-the-clock efforts of his staff and public cooperation for maintaining stable utility services."

"All desalination plants in the region are in operation, and currently, none of the country's islands are facing water shortages," he said, adding that the water and electricity supply situation in Bandar Abbas is also stable.

Detailing the restoration of the power grid, the minister noted that four 400-kilovolt and two 230-kilovolt transmission lines damaged during the strikes have been fully repaired, returning the regional network to normal conditions.

Aliabadi urged the public to conserve energy, stating that turning off unnecessary lights and air conditioners helps supply power to vital centers like hospitals and supports those on the front lines.

The country was already experiencing energy shortages prior to the attacks, a situation exacerbated by the conflict and peak summer heat.

Legal ramifications

Addressing the legal ramifications of the strikes, Aliabadi said much of the documentation on previous attacks had already been prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities.

He noted that targeting water and electricity facilities, which directly serve civilian needs, constitutes a war crime.

The documentation of the recent attacks is being meticulously finalized to be submitted to relevant international courts and legal bodies, supplementing reports from previous strikes that have already been sent to authorities.

Highlighting the rapid recovery efforts on the ground, Hashem Amini, CEO of the Iran Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, announced that the Bonji desalination plant in western Jask County was restored to operation just 24 hours after sustaining damage from a US missile strike on its power and pump facilities.


IRNA

According to ILNA, Amini said that initial technical assessments had estimated that temporary repairs to the pumping station would take at least a week. However, through round-the-clock efforts, rapid coordination, and the field presence of experts, the facility was brought back online in a single day.

"This action prevented widespread disruption in the drinking water supply, and services to more than 10,000 residents of 20 villages in Jask County continued without interruption," Amini stated.

Iran seeks partial recovery of war-hit gas output within months


MEHR

Economy Desk

Iran expects to restore part of the natural gas production capacity lost during the war within the next few months, a senior presidential official said on Monday, while urging energy conservation to help the country overcome supply imbalances.

Speaking at a crisis management committee meeting in Asaluyeh, Executive Vice President Mohammad Jafar Qaempanah said the enemy attacks had taken about 230 million cubic meters of the country's gas production capacity offline, IRNA reported.

He said oil industry specialists were expected to restore 100 million cubic meters of that capacity within the next few months.

The loss is significant compared with Iran's daily gas production of about 650 million cubic meters and has added to the country's existing gas imbalance, he said.

Iran holds the world's second-largest natural gas reserves.

The country has remained on a war footing since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks on the country in late February, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure during a 40-day conflict. After a pause of several weeks, attacks on Iran's infrastructure resumed on July 11.

Israeli air strikes in March damaged several gas-processing facilities along the coast of Bushehr Province. Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said in June that Iran had restored about 30 million cubic meters of gas-processing capacity lost during the 40-day war.

Qaempanah said that none of Iran's oil and gas export terminals had been shut despite the attacks and that industry workers had prevented production from coming to a halt.

He said the government's priority was to ensure stable electricity and gas supplies so that industrial production, particularly in manufacturing and petrochemicals, could continue without disruption and employment would not be affected.

He also said the government was pressing ahead with the expansion of solar power plants and that part of the new generating capacity had already been connected to the national grid to help improve electricity network stability.

Iran's installed renewable power generation capacity has exceeded 5,400 megawatts, according to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA). Jafar Mohammadnezhad Sigaroudi, the organization's deputy investment director, said on Monday that the government's target of reaching 7,000 MW by the end of the summer remained in place despite constraints on imported equipment.

"At present, around 1,000 to 1,500 MW of renewable power plants are under construction, and most of the equipment for these projects has either been secured or is in the supply pipeline. If alternative procurement routes become operational, achieving the 7,000 MW target by the end of the summer will not be out of reach," he said.

Tehran, Islamabad edge closer to halal trade agreement

Economy Desk

Iran and Pakistan have moved closer to signing a cooperation agreement aimed at facilitating bilateral trade in halal products, Iran's state broadcaster reported on Monday.

Representatives of Iran's National Standards Organization and the Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA) agreed on a framework for cooperation during an expert-level meeting attended by officials from the Iranian Embassy in Pakistan.

They also reviewed a draft memorandum of understanding and agreed that, following revisions and the completion of legal procedures in both countries, the final text would be prepared for signature by the relevant authorities, IRIB reported.

The two sides presented their national halal systems and institutional capabilities and agreed to use the standards and procedures of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) as the basis for expanding international cooperation and promoting greater harmonization of halal systems.

Under Pakistani regulations, food products exported to the country must be accompanied by a valid halal certificate. The agreement could help facilitate Iranian exports and expand bilateral trade in halal products.

Halal refers to products and practices permissible under Islamic law, particularly food and beverages prepared in accordance with religious guidelines.

Despite the rapid growth of the global halal industry, Iran's share of the market remains limited.

Speaking at the National Halal Industry Conference in Tehran in May last year, Ebrahim Ebrahimi, director-general of the legal and parliamentary affairs office at Iran's National Standards Organization, said the global halal industry's turnover had reached $6 trillion in 2022 and was projected to rise to $8 trillion by 2025, while Iran's share remained below 1%.

"While halal standards are rooted in jurisprudential principles, they must be designed for acceptance across all nations, particularly Islamic countries," Ebrahimi said.

The latest State of the Global Islamic Economy report by DinarStandard estimated Muslim consumer spending across the Islamic economy at $2.60 trillion in 2024 and projected it to reach $3.56 trillion by 2029.