

Gov't approves measures to ease power restrictions on industries

Economy Desk

Iran's government approved seven measures to support industrial production and improve electricity supply for manufacturers after President Masoud Pezeshkian ordered an emergency meeting in response to complaints from business leaders over power restrictions affecting factories. The measures were approved after a three-hour meeting chaired by Pezeshkian and attended by officials from the ministries of industry and energy, along with representatives of industrial and business associations, according to the presidency's website, president.ir.

The meeting was convened hours after manufacturers raised concerns about electricity shortages during Iran's National Industry, Mining and Trade Day ceremony on Tuesday. Pezeshkian said maintaining stable industrial production was one of the government's priorities because of its importance for employment and economic security.

"The wheels of industry must keep turning without interruption," he said.

The president said the government had begun implementing energy-saving measures across state institutions, with all government bodies required to reduce consumption,



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian chairs a meeting with officials from the ministries of industry and energy and representatives of industrial and business associations in Tehran, Iran, July 22, 2026. president.ir

eliminate unnecessary energy use and improve efficiency to help ensure stable electricity supplies for the production sector.

He also urged manufacturers to improve energy efficiency through better management and technology without disrupting production, and said the unauthorized use of industrial electricity for activities such as cryptocurrency mining was "completely unacceptable." He called on industrial associations to monitor electricity use by their members.

Iran is facing electricity shortages, a situation exacerbated by peak summer demand and the ongoing US war, which began in late February and has paused only for several weeks under a ceasefire agreed on April 8. A US-Israeli coalition launched attacks on the country on February 28, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure.

Under the decisions approved at the Wednesday meeting, electricity supply restrictions for industrial parks will be reduced from two days a week



to one day.

Industrial facilities will also be allowed to operate on Fridays in coordination with the Supreme Labor Council, while petrochemical complexes will be required to purchase green electricity through the Energy Exchange to free up capacity on the national grid for other industries.

The measures also call for legal

action against industrial facilities found to have breached electricity consumption regulations, including the revocation of operating licenses by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade.

Other decisions include requiring large shopping malls and commercial centers to reduce energy consumption, launching a nationwide

public campaign to encourage energy conservation, and allocating newly added electricity generation capacity to industrial units and development projects.

The meeting also agreed to establish a joint task force comprising relevant ministries and government bodies to oversee implementation of the decisions.

Tehran, Beijing discuss joint transport corridor to expand trade



Economy Desk

Iran and China have proposed establishing a joint transport corridor to facilitate trade and strengthen logistics cooperation between the two countries, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday. The proposal was raised during a meeting between officials from the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce of China, where the two sides discussed ways to ease cargo transportation and expand the role of the Middle Corridor in bilateral trade.

The two sides also stressed making greater use of the Khorgos dry port in China's Xinjiang region on the border with Kazakhstan to strengthen Iran's role in international transport corridors. Peyman Sanandaji, head of the Tehran Chamber's Transport Commission, proposed four measures, including designing a joint transport model through the Khorgos port, launching a pilot project, exchanging logistics data and creating a joint mechanism to address operational issues. He said practical joint projects in transport and transit were needed.

"The Tehran Chamber has consistently pursued the issue of connecting Iran to regional corridors through Khorgos over the past two years," Sanandaji said. He said he hoped the cooperation would move into the implementation stage because "Khorgos is one of the strategic points in the region's transport and transit network and can play an important role in facilitating trade among Iran, China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe." "Our goal is to move beyond dialogue toward implementing operational projects so that, through joint cooperation, cargo transportation costs are reduced

and transport routes between Iran and the countries along this corridor are expanded," he said.

Sanandaji said the country's existing border infrastructure, logistics centers, customs-supervised warehouses and transport facilities provided the potential for Iran to serve as a distribution hub and help complete regional transport corridors.

He said the proposed mechanisms could help connect Iranian businesses more effectively to markets in Central Asia, Russia and parts of Europe through Khorgos.

He added that the Tehran Chamber would organize specialized meetings and business-to-business events to facilitate direct cooperation between Iranian and Chinese companies.

Ma Fuming, head of the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce, proposed creating a joint transport corridor to facilitate trade, reduce cargo transportation costs and expand economic cooperation between Iran and China.

Referring to the expansion of transport networks and international corridors under China's Belt and Road Initiative, Ma said China had developed multiple routes linking Central Asia and Europe in recent years and that Iran, because of its geographic location, could play an important role in that network.

"Therefore, a joint corridor can be defined for transport between the two countries, and bilateral cooperation can be expanded within that framework," he said.

Ma welcomed the proposals presented at the meeting and said the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce was ready to cooperate in implementing them.

The meeting concluded with Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture Chairman Mahmoud Najafi Arab and Ma Fuming unveiling the representative office of the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce at the Tehran Chamber on Wednesday.

Iran-Pakistan rail link seen boosting Central Asia, Europe connectivity: *Momeni*

Economy Desk

A planned rail link between Iran and Pakistan would be a strategic development that strengthens transport connections to Central Asia and Europe while boosting bilateral trade, the Iranian interior minister said on Wednesday.

Speaking during talks with Pakistan's Railways Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi in Islamabad, Eskandar Momeni said launching the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) container train would significantly deepen bilateral relations and regional connectivity. He added that linking Iran's rail network with Pakistan, home to about 250 million people, would increase trade between the neighboring countries, ISNA reported. Following ministerial talks between Iran and Pakistan last year, the two countries agreed to develop a joint railway action plan. The plan forms the basis for the modernization of the Quetta-Taftan railway line, aimed at improving rail safety and efficiency and facilitating the resumption of the ECO Container Train (IT) service on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route. Momeni also said construction of the Zahedan-Chabahar rail-



way would be completed soon, while modernization of the Zahedan-Mirjaveh railway line was expected to finish within a month. He said the standard-gauge railway from Mirjaveh to Taftan on Pakistan's border should also be completed to facilitate train services.

"Our relations have developed in a unique way over the past two years, and the expansion of these interactions at the current level has been remarkable," Momeni said.

He said the rail link would support both freight and passenger transport between the neighboring countries, which share longstanding

historical ties, adding that broader cooperation could promote development and prosperity in their border regions.

Abbasi said Pakistan's prime minister attached special importance to railway cooperation with Iran and had instructed the railways ministry to establish a framework for railway projects, including modernization of the Taftan railway line.

Sistan and Baluchestan Governor-General Mansour Bijar also outlined the southeastern province's potential to support joint objectives, including border cooperation, railway connectivity and investment.

Influential Shia figures...

Regarding the issue of weapons, no step will be taken until the Baghdad and Erbil governments reach

Page 1 > the conclusion that this poses a direct threat to their relations with Iran. Nor will any action be taken until the Kurdistan Regional Government comes to understand that removing Iranian Kurdish separatist groups from the territory of the Kurdistan Region will not constitute a threat to the regional government itself.

Therefore, this remains one of the complex issues in relations between Iraq's

Kurdistan Region and Iran, and it has yet to be resolved.

Can Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's meeting with Donald Trump and his upcoming visit to Iran be linked to these developments?

This could be related to Iraq's mediation efforts. Iraq has always played a mediating role in disputes involving Iran and other countries. If you recall, in the case of Iran and Saudi Arabia and the disputes and severing of relations that had taken place, Iraq had laid much of the ground-

work for resolving the issue, before the two countries decided to go to China to sign an agreement.

In the case of the recent war, Iraq was one of the countries that suffered the greatest impact from the war. Iraq's oil production, which stood at 3 to 4 million barrels per day before the war, had fallen to 1.6 million barrels per day, according to figures cited by Bloomberg. Therefore, the economic threat to Iraq is always present as the war drags on. Everything Iraq is currently trying to do is either to delay the war or to prevent it from continuing.