

Veep calls for energy conservation, cites private sector, nuclear power as key measures

Economy Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref called for stronger energy consumption management to help sustain the country's production, saying the government was prepared to delegate the necessary authority to ministers to implement conservation measures. Speaking at a meeting of Iran's Supreme Energy Council on Wednesday, Aref said managing energy demand was essential to ensuring adequate supplies for the industrial, agricultural and residential sectors, according to Shana News Agency. "Energy consumption management helps sustain the country's production, therefore decisions on the issue must be made with a comprehensive approach and unified policy," Aref said. "The government is ready to delegate whatever authority is necessary to ministers to advance energy consumption management programs." He said expanding private sector participation in energy supply, continued government support for nuclear energy development and reducing energy consumption through the expansion of greenhouse farming were

among the key measures to increase production and improve energy efficiency. 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 Feb. 28, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure.

Power imports

The country imports about 500 MW of electricity annually from Turkmenistan and Armenia. According to the Energy Ministry, the imports help maintain the stability of electricity supply and reduce domestic fuel consumption. Tehran also plans to import 450 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Turkey to supply petrochemical companies as part of efforts to strengthen power supplies for large industries. Deputy Energy Minister Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, who accompanied Roads Minister Farzaneh Sadeq during a visit to Turkmenistan on Tuesday, held talks with Turkmen Energy Minister Annageldi Saparov on expand-

ing bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector.

The two sides discussed increasing electricity imports from Turkmenistan, Iran's participation in power plant maintenance, construction of new transmission lines to boost electricity transit and the reliability of cross-border exchanges, as well as expanding technical and engineering services and the supply of electrical equipment needed by the sector.

They also stressed the need to continue and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector and discussed broader efforts to enhance transmission infrastructure and utilize the two countries' shared capacities.

Power generation restored

Meanwhile, Iran Power Plant Repairs Company has restored more than 3,500 MW of generation capacity to the national grid by completing 38 specialized turbine rotor and generator projects, Chief Executive Mohammad Bagher Lotfi said. Lotfi said ensuring continuous power generation and grid stability remained the company's main priority. He said the company's Inter-



Mohammad Reza Aref
● SHANA

national Rotating Equipment Balancing Center provides services covering more than 3,507 MW of capacity, helping prepare power plants for peak electricity demand.

The company has also delivered engineering services for nearly 20,000 MW of generating capacity under Iran's national power plant maintenance and readiness program, equivalent

to 21% of the total work carried out under the initiative, he said. According to the Energy Ministry, Iran's installed power generation capacity has exceeded 100,000 MW.

Tehran livestock exhibition shows Iran's meat, dairy production capacity

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The second specialized livestock, poultry and dairy exhibition opened at Tehran's Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center on Wednesday, showcasing Iran's production capacity and technical capabilities across the sector.

IRIB reported that the four-day exhibition features the country's capabilities in poultry meat, raw milk, eggs, red meat, as well as livestock and poultry equipment and feed.

Ahead of the opening, the exhibition's executive director, Mehdi Masoudi, said the event would



showcase Iran's annual production capacity of 3.5 million metric tons of poultry meat, 13 million metric tons of raw milk, 1 million metric tons of eggs and 900,000 metric tons of red meat. Masoudi said domesti-

cally produced livestock and poultry equipment was not inferior to foreign products and, in some cases, competed with them. "Domestic production in this sector is not only no less than foreign counterparts, but in some cases

competes with them," he said.

He added that Iranian manufacturers of poultry equipment were exporting their products and that their quality was "very high."

Masoudi also said domestic specialists had strong technical and scientific capabilities in livestock and poultry feed production. "In the field of livestock and poultry feed production, domestic specialists have high technical and scientific capabilities, and the country lacks nothing compared with other parts of the world in terms of technical know-how and feed production machinery," he said.

Annual inflation rate reaches 61.4% in fourth month of calendar year: CBI



● IRNA

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Iran's annual inflation rate rose to 61.4% in the 12 months ending in the fourth month of the Iranian year, which ran from June 22 to July 22, while point-to-point inflation reached 83.9%, the Central Bank of Iran said on Tuesday.

The central bank said monthly inflation rate, which measures changes in consumer prices from the previous month, was 3.6% during the fourth month of the Iranian year.

The figures differed from those released by the Statistical Center of Iran on Wednesday.

The statistics center said annual inflation rate over the 12 months ending in the fourth month of the Iranian year stood at 66%, while point-to-point inflation, which measures changes in consumer prices compared with the same month a year earlier, reached 87.9%. It said the consumer price index (CPI) for Iranian households rose to 676.9 in the fourth month of the Iranian year, up 3.1% from the previous month, 87.9% from the same month a year earlier and 66% compared

with the corresponding 12-month period a year earlier.

Iran's national currency, the rial, has fallen to record lows amid mounting economic pressure. It has traded at around 1,950,000 rials per US dollar on the open market in recent weeks, compared with about 811,000 a year earlier.

The sharp depreciation has underscored growing strain on the economy, which is already grappling with high inflation and Western sanctions. The country has also 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.

Unemployment rises to 9.1%

The inflation figures came as separate labor force data released on Wednesday showed Iran's unemployment rate rose to 9.1% in the spring quarter of the Iranian year, 1.8 percentage points higher than a year earlier, while the country's employed population declined by about 450,000 from the same period last year.

Saudi Arabia's open...

The PMF has already set a deadline for the Iraqi government. Baghdad has also convened an extraordinary security meeting to formulate its response. If the government fails to act within a short period, the PMF will step in and target Saudi territory.

Although direct US attacks have paused for several days, Iran has struck US positions in the region. In your view, what were Tehran's main objectives? Given that the strikes coincided with a meeting between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, could they be interpreted as an attempt to send a political or deterrent message to Washington and Tel Aviv? Reports indicate that the United States is deploying forces at Muwaffaq Al Salti Air Base in Jordan, the largest US base

in the region, with the aim of establishing a new military posture for a future attack on Iran.

Based on those reports, Iran targeted the newly deployed American troops. This was a preemptive measure and an entirely prudent decision from operational, military and security perspectives.

The purpose of this operation, as well as the targeting of certain vessels that attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's permission, was to demonstrate a high level of deterrence against any potential US military action.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said these strikes were carried out in response to aggressive actions by the US military. Can they also be linked to the recent US-Saudi

attacks in Iraq?

Iraq itself bears responsibility for responding. Since Iraq is fundamentally part of the Axis of Resistance, its popular forces will naturally deliver the necessary response.

In any case, Saudi Arabia has now openly and officially joined the United States against the Axis of Resistance, and it will pay a very heavy price for what is ultimately a futile adventure. Iran, too, will respond to Saudi Arabia at the appropriate time and place. However, last night's operation against US forces in Jordan was unrelated to those developments. Rather, it stemmed from the very reports indicating that the United States is deploying forces with the intention of seizing parts of Iran's islands. Therefore, the operation should be regarded as a deterrent measure.