

Tavanir: Small-scale power capacity tops annual target despite war damage

Economy Desk

Iran's small-scale power generation capacity has increased to more than 1,692 megawatts this year from 1,430 MW at last year's peak demand, despite damage to parts of the country's electricity infrastructure during the US-Israeli war, a senior official at state power company Tavanir said on Sunday.

According to IRNA, Abolfazl Asadi, deputy for planning and economic affairs at Tavanir, said the Seventh National Development Plan had targeted the expansion of small-scale thermal power generation by 200 MW, a goal that has now been achieved despite various challenges.

The plan had set a target of reaching 1,635 MW of small-scale generation capacity this year, but the figure surpassed that level through the efforts of regional electricity companies and power distribution firms nationwide, he said.

Asadi said parts of the country's power plants with more than 100 MW of operating capacity were damaged during the war, with around 130 MW of installed generation capacity affected overall. "Alongside efforts to restore these units, available capacity at gas-fired generation facilities and small-scale power plants was brought into service. Numerous

meetings were also held with industrial operators and investors to mobilize available capacity and help offset power generation shortfalls," he said.

He said the main advantages of expanding small-scale power plants included greater private sector participation, faster and more cost-effective project implementation, helping reduce the electricity supply-demand imbalance, making the power system less vulnerable to attacks and disruptions, reducing grid losses, and improving the resilience of the power sector.

"Effective measures have been taken over the past two years to support investors in small-scale power plants, enabling them to expand their investments and play an important role in increasing the country's electricity generation capacity through active participation in the power market," he said.

A US-Israeli coalition launched attacks on the country on February 28, which also involved strikes on civilians and infrastructure.

Iran was already experiencing energy shortages prior to the attacks, a situation that has been exacerbated by the conflict and the peak of the summer heat season. After a pause of several weeks following the signing of an MoU, the US resumed strikes on Iran's infrastructure on July 11.

Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said last month that four 400-kilovolt and two 230-kilovolt transmission lines damaged during recent US strikes had been fully repaired, returning the regional network to normal operating conditions.

Strategy targets power imbalance

Asadi said the Seventh National Development Plan includes a comprehensive strategy to address the country's electricity imbalance by simultaneously increasing power generation and managing demand.

He said the plan focuses on expanding large and small-scale thermal power plants and renewable energy facilities, including solar and wind power plants.

"Each of these sectors has been given specific targets for increasing electricity generation capacity," he said.

The government has set a target of installing 30,000 megawatts of renewable energy capacity within the next two years to help reduce daily power shortages and improve the long-term stability of electricity supplies. So far, installed renewable power generation capacity has exceeded 5,400 megawatts, according to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

Asadi said demand-side manage-



ment to improve electricity consumption efficiency is the second pillar of Tavanir's strategy to address the power imbalance.

"To attract investment in the electricity sector, three trading platforms have been designed and launched: the Green Market for private investment in renewable energy, the Free Exchange Market for small- and large-scale thermal power plants, and the Energy Saving Market for investment in

energy efficiency projects," he said.

Renewable energy investors can generate electricity year-round without concerns over fuel supply constraints and sell their output through the Green Board, according to Asadi.

The Free Exchange Board is intended for investors planning to expand existing power plants or build new thermal power stations, including gas-fired, com-

bined-cycle and steam plants; in the field of energy efficiency, investors can participate in industrial and residential projects by replacing electric motors in evaporative coolers or substituting air-conditioning systems, he explained.

"Over the past year and a half, the number of contracts in the energy efficiency sector has increased from two to 55," Asadi said.

Six border cities planned as Iran expands coastal development



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Iran plans to build six new cities along its northern and southern borders with capacity for around 1 million residents, as part of a strategy focused on developing coastal and border regions, the deputy roads and urban development minister said.

Shahram Maleki said the cities would be built in the provinces of Golestan, Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan on more than 38,000 hectares of land, according to IRNA.

Maleki, who serves as head of New

Towns Development Company, said the aim of developing new cities was to create additional residential capacity in line with national priorities, adding that the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development was seeking to expand housing capacity through these towns in cooperation with the private sector.

"Out of the six new cities planned to be built along Iran's northern and southern borders, some are in the design stage while others have entered the construction phase," Maleki said. The new city of Alagol, located in the

Inchah Borun border area in north-eastern Golestan Province, will home a population capacity of 100,000 people and cover 1,400 hectares, he said. Ownership documents for the new city have also been issued in the name of the New Towns Development Company, according to Maleki.

"Five new cities are set to be developed on the southern coasts, including Tis, Makran, Central Makran, Koushk and Persian Gulf in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan and Hormozgan," Maleki said. He put the population capacity of the

five coastal cities at 900,000 people, covering a total area of around 37,000 hectares.

Maleki said construction of the new city of Tis is underway, while the proposed new cities of Makran, Central Makran and Koushk have secured site selection and feasibility study approvals from the Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture and are now preparing their master plans. He added that the Persian Gulf new city has also completed the site selection and feasibility study stages at the provincial level.

Mango festival aims to deepen trade, cultural ties with Tehran: *Pakistani envoy*

Economy Desk

Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran said a mango festival hosted by the country's embassy was intended to strengthen friendship, expand economic ties and create new opportunities for co-operation between Pakistan and Iran.

Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui said at the event on Saturday that the celebration was about much more than enjoying an extraordinary fruit and organized to build bridges of friendship, strengthen economic ties and create new opportunities for cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, ISNA reported. The Pakistan Mango Festival, hosted by the embassy in Tehran on Saturday, brought together government officials, diplomats and business representatives to showcase different varieties of Pakistani mangoes, promote cultural ties and expand trade



cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

"For many people around the world, the mango is simply a delicious fruit. But for the people of Pakistan, it is a cherished part of our national heritage," Siddiqui said.

Pakistan is among the world's leading mango producers with around 1.8 million metric tons of annual production, according to Siddiqui,

He said the country ranks sixth globally in mango production and fourth in fresh mango exports, with more than 250 varieties known for their distinct flavors and characteristics.

Siddiqui said Pakistan had steadily expanded its mango exports over the years to markets across the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe and other regions.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran Imran Ahmed Siddiqui (R-2nd) cuts a ceremony cake with officials, diplomats and business representatives during the Pakistan Mango Festival in Tehran, on August 1, 2026.

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"As we continue to improve quality standards, cold-chain logistics and modern packaging, we are also seeking new export destinations. Every mango presented at this event has been carefully handled and transported to meet the highest international export standards," he said. Agricultural products are among the items traded between the two neighbors. Pakistan's chief export to Iran is Mango while Iran has been a supplier dates to Pakistan. In 2024, Pakistan imported about \$15.5 million worth of dates from Iran, according to trade data.

Iran calls for greater role for developing countries in technology governance

Economy Desk

Iran called for greater participation by developing countries in shaping standards for emerging technologies, artificial intelligence and the digital economy at the World Internet Conference in China, said Hassan Meysami, an official with Iran's Information and Communications Technology Ministry who attended the conference in late July.

At the conference, participants emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation in cyberspace, develop the digital economy and increase nations' role in shaping the future of the online environment, Meysami was quoted as saying by ISNA. The Iranian delegation for its part, he added, took part in specialized panels and bilateral meetings at the conference and presented proposals to strengthen international cooperation. Meysami said Iran also proposed expanding cooperation in e-commerce and cloud services, enhancing cybersecurity, improving the resilience of digital infrastructure and ensuring the continuity of communi-



cations services during crises.

He described Iran's participation in the conference as an opportunity to advance technology diplomacy, exchange experiences and strengthen international cooperation in emerging technologies.

The event was held to expand international cooperation under the framework of the Digital Silk Road and strengthen interaction among countries in areas including the digital economy, artificial intelligence and smart infrastructure.

It brought together senior government officials, ministers, technology company executives, academics and representatives of international organizations.