

# Kayhan International

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## Minister: 25 New Electricity Projects Come On Stream in Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran Energy Minister Reza Ardaknain said in Tuesday that his country has launched 25 new electricity projects worth nearly half a billion dollars as part of a massive plan to modernize the energy sector in the country.

The new projects opened are located in five provinces of Tehran in north, Hormozgan, Fars and Bushehr in south and Sistan and Baluchestan in southeast of Iran.

Ardaknain said that the launch of the projects marked the end of a six-month plan to finish 227 energy projects across Iran with an investment of 335.6 trillion rials (nearly \$2.2 billion).

Ardaknain said most of the projects opened since March 2019 in Iran have been focused on power generation, water treatment and sewage plants.

Among the projects launched on Tuesday was power plants in three provinces that added some 600 megawatts (MW) to the electricity generation capacity in the country, said the minister,

He added that for a first time in Iran, local technicians and engineers had managed to install and bring on line the domestically-built F-class gas turbines at Hengam, a 307-MW power plant located in the southern province of Hormozgan.

Ardaknain said that the government plans a further investment of nearly \$60 billion for more than 5,000 new projects in the energy sector in the next Iranian calendar year starting on March 20.

He said more than 60 percent of the funds allocated to the energy projects in Iran come from non-government sources, including the private financing and loans obtained from the country's sovereign wealth fund.

The minister hailed the role played by Mapna, Iran's largest energy engineering and construction group, in expanding the country's energy sector, saying the company has offered both investment and expertise to massive projects in the country.

## Iran May Defer Runoff Parliamentary Election Over Coronavirus: Spokesman

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The spokesperson for Iran's administration Ali Rabiee raised the possibility of postponing a runoff vote for the parliamentary seats until summer due to the outbreak of COVID-19

Rabiee said the runoff parliamentary elections slated for April 17 might be delayed until the Iranian month of Shahrivar (August 22 - September 21) over concerns about the spread of coronavirus.

"If the coronavirus conditions in the country remain in the same way until April 17, the date of the second round of (parliamentary) elections in the regions subject to runoff will be delayed. For example, it might be postponed until Shahrivar," he added.

Asked about Fatemeh Rahbar, a newly elected member of the parliament who has died from coronavirus, Rabiee said her replacement should be elected in the next polls, which would be simultaneous with the presidential election in 2021.

The Iranian Health Ministry said on Monday that since the outbreak of the new coronavirus in the country, 2,394 patients have completely recovered from the infectious disease.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the country has increased by 595, reaching 7,161.

Authorities say the death toll from the new coronavirus epidemic in Iran has risen to 237.

## Assembly of Experts, Officials Urge India to Prevent Anti-Muslim Violence



Muslims in Delhi leave a Hindu-dominated locality in a riot affected area after clashes erupted between people protesting for and against a new citizenship law. (Reuters)

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Assembly of Experts issued a statement on Tuesday calling on the Indian government to stop the violence against Muslims and prevent the fire of division in the South Asian country.

"The unfortunate news and heart-breaking images from the bloody conditions of the oppressed Muslims of India, which are released at a minimal level, make the heart of every noble-minded human very sad," read the Assembly of Experts' statement, signed by its chairman Ayatollah Ahmad Jan-nati.

The assembly decries the killings of the people and the destruction of mosques and religious places of the Indian Muslims, it added.

The high-ranking body further called on the Indian government to take swift measures to end the violence against Muslims.

A member of Iran's Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mohsen Araki said that the intelligence services of the "evil triangle-Britain, the U.S., and Zionist regime" - are fomenting anti-Muslims emotions among different religious groups in India.

"Today, the intelligence services of the evil triangle - Britain, U.S.,

and Zionist regime - are the main cause of divisions in Indian society," Ayatollah Araki said in a statement referring to the recent eruption of violence against Muslims in India.

"The killing of Muslims by some ignorant fanatics in India as a result of the discriminatory and divisive policies of some Indian politicians has caused great concern on Islamic society and other human societies," he added, saying, "The recently adopted citizenship law in India has also been fostered and supported by this vicious triangle, and otherwise the Indian community, with all its sectarian and religious diversity, is a peaceful society."

He also called for the Indian government not to be deceived by intelligence services and strongly urged the Muslim leaders of India to maintain unity and peace.

And also, former head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Alaeddin Boroujerdi called upon the government to take serious measures in the face of brutalities against Muslims in India, and urged the Foreign Ministry to recall the Iranian ambassador from New Delhi.

"Although the country is dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, our officials should be more vigilant towards the Indian Muslims' situation and adopt measures beyond summoning the Indian ambassador," Boroujerdi said.

"It is necessary to recall the Iranian ambassador from New Delhi and to hold consultations with him about further decisions. Also, Iranian President and Foreign Minister should adopt serious actions via the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to solve the problem," he highlighted.

Violence erupted in the Indian capital in late February, leading to a three-day-long rampage, with Hindu mobs attacking Muslim homes, shops and mosques.

The attacks were carried out on protesters who have been rallying against a new citizenship law after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kapil Mishra threatened peaceful sit-ins would be removed from the streets.

The anti-Muslim violence in Delhi killed at least 50 people.

It was the worst violence in Delhi since 1984 when more than 3,000 Sikh minorities were killed following the assassination of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

## First Batch of Stranded Bahrainis Repatriated From Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi on Tuesday said that the first group of Bahraini citizens who had been stranded in Iran following the outbreak of coronavirus has returned home under the auspices of the Sultanate of Oman.

In remarks, Mousavi said the first group of Bahraini nationals has been sent to their own country.

"In line with the humanitarian measures, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made efforts to transfer the foreign nationals to their respective countries, and as a result of these measures and frequent coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultan-

ate of Oman, the first group of Bahraini citizens left for their country this morning (Tuesday, March 10)," Mousavi said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran offers special gratitude to the government of Oman, praises that country's humanitarian approach to cooperation and determination to perform such humanitarian task, and hopes that positive interaction on part of the Bahraini government and continuation of this process would allow the other Bahraini citizens in Iran to return to their homeland according to the schedule," Mousavi added.

## IranAir Resuming Flights to Europe: Airline

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran's main airline Homa, known internationally as IranAir, will resume flights to Europe after a four-day hiatus that came because of unspecified restrictions by European authorities.

Homa said in a statement on Tuesday that flights to all European destinations will resume as of Wednesday March 11, 2019.

The statement said that resumption of flights had been made possible through intense negotiations with European authorities involving Iran's

foreign ministry and the civil aviation authority (CAO).

The airline said passengers should keep in touch to obtain more information about the resumed flights.

Homa said on Sunday that it would suspend all flights until further notice to all European destinations, insisting that the halt had been caused by unknown restrictions imposed by the European authorities.

CAO officials had denied reports that the restrictions were related to the spread of a new

coronavirus in Iran while blaming the United States, which has been pressuring European countries to limit or stop flights from Iran, for the new situation.

Iran's ambassador to France Bahram Qassemi reacted to the restrictions on Monday by saying that the measures should be regarded as disgraceful at a time Iran is needing help to fight a highly-contagious infection.

Homa and other Iranian airlines have suspended some of their flights to destinations

**The Holy Qur'an**

Verily the transposing is an addition to Unbelief: the Unbelievers are led to wrong thereby: for they make it lawful one year, and forbidden another year, in order to adjust the number of months forbidden by Allah and make such forbidden ones lawful. The evil of their course seems pleasing to them. But Allah guideth not those who reject Faith.

**The Holy Qur'an (9:37)**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:14
Evening (Maghreb)	18:27
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:57
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:21

## Tehran, Moscow Discuss Situation in Syria's Idlib

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazzem Jalali and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin have exchanged views on the latest developments in Syria's Idlib.

In a meeting in Moscow, Vershinin briefed Jalali on the talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayeb Erdogan on Idlib and their agreement over the issue.

During the meeting, the officials also highlighted the need for close cooperation between Iran, Russia and Turkey within the framework of the Astana peace process to help ensure long-term settlement of the Syrian crisis.

The Turkish and Russian presidents on Thursday night reached an agreement on a ceasefire regime in Idlib, however, the agreement did not last longer than a day with terrorists violating it several times.

According to the Russian defense ministry, the terrorists had broken the ceasefire 19 times in the Idlib de-escalation zone by opening fire on the Syrian positions and residential areas by Sunday.

in the Middle East and in the Southeast Asia region mainly because of the surge in the number of coronavirus cases both in Iran and in other countries.

Iran's health officials said on Tuesday that another 881 people had tested positive for coronavirus, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the country to 8,042.

A total of 291 people have died of the infection in Iran since it began on February 19 while 2,731 patients have recovered from the illness.