

War-ravaged Lebanon turns to Arab neighbours for electricity relief

Country on verge of finalising a pan-Arab power agreement with the Arab League, energy minister says

John Benny / Dec. 14, 2024

Lebanon is close to signing a pan-Arab power agreement that could help prevent severe blackouts in the country as it faces reconstruction amid a fragile ceasefire deal with Israel.

The Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water has approved the electricity market agreement and is now awaiting the government's final approval to "authorise the signature", Walid Fayad told The National in an e-mailed statement.

[...]

"Gulf rulers have an interest in political stability in Arab countries and energy infrastructure is their opportunity to support it," said **Ilan Zelayat, Gulf researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies and the Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Centre.**

[...]

The latest agreement "solidifies" the link between Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, which was "far from obvious only a few years ago during the Gulf blockade on Doha", Mr Zelayat said.

[...]

The agreement could reduce Iraq's reliance on power and gas imported from Iran, which supplies about a third of its total power, while also countering Tehran's political influence in the predominantly Shiite country, Mr Zelayat said.

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