

## Minister urges greater Iran-Turkey transport cooperation

The Iranian minister of roads and urban development described Iran and Turkey as major players in the West Asia region, emphasizing both countries' roles in facilitating goods and energy transit between East and West.

During Turkey's National Day celebration in the capital Tehran on Tuesday evening, Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd pointed to the critical role of both countries in regional trade and energy transit, highlighting their strategic positions as bridges between Asia and Europe and that the collaboration strengthens peace, stability, and security across the region, IRNA reported.

As chair of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, she added that historical, religious, cultural commonalities and geographic proximity are among the factors that brought the two great nations of Iran and Turkey closer together, and over the centuries, the common border between the two nations transformed into a border of friendship, brotherhood, peace, and stability. The Iranian minister added that deepening relations between Iran and Turkey is crucial, especially amid current complex global and regional dynamics, noting that both countries are key players with a historically influential role in regional developments.

Turkey remains a cornerstone of Iran's neighborliness policies, Sadeq-Malvajerd stated, adding that Iran seeks to enhance ties in political, economic, cultural, scientific, and security arenas. She also noted that recent meetings between top officials from both countries signal a strong political relationship and mutual interest in expanding collaboration.

According to the minister, 2025 is designated as the cultural year between Iran and Turkey in order to fortify diplomatic and social bonds, with new cultural initiatives.

The minister also condemned the recent terrorist attack on Ankara's state-run Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAS), which resulted in casualties, offering her condolences and prayers for the victims and wishing swift recovery for the injured. Sadeq further expressed solidarity with victims of state terrorism in Gaza and Lebanon, criticizing the Zionist regime's ongoing crimes in these regions and the West's military support for such operations. Sadeq-Malvajerd was attending the ceremony of Turkey's National Day at the invitation of Turkish Ambassador Hicabi Kirlangic, where she extended her congratulations to the Turkish government and people on the anniversary.

# Parliament okays gov't bill to raise Iran's quota in IMF

Members of the Iranian Parliament granted the government the authorization to increase Iran's quota in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). During Wednesday's open session, lawmakers prioritized and subsequently passed the general terms of a bill to raise Iran's quota in the IMF, IRNA reported.

Out of 290 members, 181 voted in favor of a proposal by the Iranian Parliament Commission on Economy, enabling the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) to raise the Islamic country's share in the IMF by 1,783.6 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR). This will increase Iran's overall IMF quota from 3,567.1 million SDR to 5,350.7 million SDR.

Mohammad Reza Farzin, who was officially appointed by President Masoud Pezeshkian as the governor of the CBI on Wednesday, stated that part of Iran's contribution to the IMF will rely on 25 percent foreign currency reserves from other countries, raising the nation's capital in the IMF by around \$1.783 billion.

During the parliament session, Farzin explained that the World Bank has recommended that member states may increase their quotas by as much as 50 percent, warning that if the Islamic Republic's share does not increase, others will increase their capital, and Iran will lose its leadership in the IMF after 50 years.



Mohammad Reza Farzin, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, addresses an open session of the Parliament in Tehran on October 30, 2024.  
● IRNA

## Iran lifts iPhone ban, allows new imports after 2023 freeze

Iranians will soon be able to purchase the newest iPhone models—iPhone 14, 15, and 16—after authorities lifted a ban on importing Apple's latest products, according to an announcement on Wednesday.

The prohibition on iPhone imports had been in place since 2023, but the country's telecommunications minister confirmed the shift, saying new models would now be registered in Iran, AP wrote.

Telecommunications Minister Sattar Hashemi took to X, formerly Twitter, to declare that the "problem of registering new iPhone models on the Iranian market was 'solved,' with President Masoud Pezeshkian supporting the move.

While Hashemi didn't provide extensive details, he noted that guidelines for importing the devices would be disclosed shortly. This decision aligns with the CIT Ministry's broader



goal of expanding technology access amid increasing consumer demand.

While the import ban on the latest models was active, Iranians could still purchase iPhone 13 and older models, which retained popularity as status symbols among the country's youth.

Under the ban, newer iPhones brought into Iran became unusable on state-controlled mobile networks after a one-month grace period—typically giv-

ing to foreign visitors.

Before the ban, iPhones accounted for nearly one-third of Iran's \$4.4 billion mobile phone market, according to government statistics.

While iPhones have faced regulatory challenges, other foreign brands remain accessible to Iranian consumers.

Motorola, Samsung, Nokia, Xiaomi, and Huawei smartphones are widely available in Iran, providing alternatives to Apple products.

## Japan envoy calls for boost in Tehran-Tokyo ties

Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Tamaki Tsukada has called for the development of cooperation with Iran, while referring to the existence of good grounds for deepening bilateral relations in various areas.

Tsukada made the remarks in a meeting held in Tehran with Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd. The millennium-long record of bilateral ties between Japan and Iran has paved the way for enhancing cooperation on the exchange of knowledge, the construction of housing units and the holding of training courses, the ambassador noted.

He further expressed satisfaction over the achievements gained in such grounds.



For her part, the Iranian minister stressed the importance of expanding ties in the areas of technology and transportation.

Referring to Iran's position in the geopolitics and geo-economics, Sadeq-Malvajerd said the country can act like a bridge between Asia and Europe.

She also said Japan can have access to regional countries including those in the Central Asia region and Caucasus

through Iran.

The two countries have potentials for fostering ties in the area of immunity, smart transportation and earthquake-resistant building technologies.

In the meeting, the minister invited the Japanese officials to visit Iran to see the unique capacities in the country and exchange views about the cooperation.

They also underlined the need to establish direct flight between Iran and Japan.

## Exports of mineral products surpass \$6.3b in H1: **IMIDRO**

### Economy Desk

Iran's exports of mining and mineral industries products topped \$6.3 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), registering a one-percent drop in terms of value compared to a year earlier, according to the Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

IMIDRO stated that Iranian companies active in the mining and mineral industries sector exported over 30.477 million tons of products, valued at \$6.331 billion, in the six months to September 21, reported IRNA on Wednesday.

According to IMIDRO figures, the country had exported 30.492 million tons of mining and mineral industries products during the first six months of previous Iran year (March 21-September 22, 2023).

The largest share of export was related to the production chain of three metal products of steel, aluminum and copper, amounting to 15.855 million tons worth \$4.882 billion.

Also, during March 20-September 21, 2024, about 2.134 million tons of various minerals, valued at \$4.612 billion, were imported into the country to meet the demands of domestic factories, indicating a 19-percent in weight terms while registering

55 percent of increase in terms of value, compared to corresponding figures of last year.

According to IMIDRO, the value of Iran's export of minerals in the previous Iranian year stood at \$13.7 billion, registering a nine-percent increase compared to a year earlier.

The report added that \$7.3 billion worth of the mining and mineral products were imported into Iran from March 2023 to March 2024, showing a 35% rise compared to a year earlier.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries in the world. Having 15,000 mining areas, Iran has the sixth largest zinc, seventh largest copper, ninth largest iron ore reserves, and



fifth largest gypsum and barite reserves globally. It also has 3% of the world's total lead and zinc reserves, and huge coal reserves.

Other mineral products such as chromate, and manganese are also found in different regions of Iran.