

Iran says snapback regime reinstates past sanctions, not to halt port operations

Economy Desk

Iran's transport minister as well as the head of the ministry's ports authority said on Saturday that the reactivation of UN "snapback" sanctions adds no new restrictions and will not disrupt the country's shipping and trade, stressing that port operations and essential imports continue without interruption.

Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd said the snapback mechanism "added no new clauses or articles against our country, it simply repeated all the existing oppressive sanctions," IRNA reported.

"For years we have struggled with these sanctions, and from newborns and children to engineers, elites, athletes and nuclear scientists, everyone has been affected. The impact on people's livelihoods cannot be denied," she added.

Saeed Rasouli, managing director of the Ports and Maritime Organization, echoed the minister's remarks, saying Iran's ports are "continuously unloading and loading all types of goods," and that the sanctions have no impact on daily operations. "The reality is that we have lived under oppressive sanctions for many years, even facing severe restrictions on access to medicine," he said.

Rasouli added that the sanctions im-

posed "in violation of all international resolutions and protocols" have not weakened the determination of Iran's ports sector. "With measures adopted at the highest levels of the state, there are no problems for exports, imports or the supply of essential goods. Iran's ports are serving the country with full capacity," he said.

Ongoing port activity

According to Rasouli, cargo handling operations for essential goods, oil shipments, containerized cargo, imports and exports are proceeding normally. He said port capacity expansion and investment attraction are also advancing. "This year, named the year of investment for production, we have made significant progress in this field," he said.

Foreign delegations have also visited Iranian ports to explore cooperation, Rasouli added. "Recently we hosted several delegations from different countries to explore investment opportunities. Late last week, a high-ranking Azerbaijani delegation visited Shahid Rajaei Port, and negotiations on strengthening logistics cooperation, especially along the North-South corridor, are under way," he said.

He noted that Iran is engaging extensively with neighboring states to boost



exports, imports and transit through joint efforts with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and other transport sectors. Under the seventh development plan, Iran aims to increase transit volumes to 55 million tons by the end of the program. Last year, the country moved 17 million tons of goods, surpassing previous records.

Unified transit tariff for China-Iran-Turkey route nears approval



Economy Desk

China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey agreed to establish a single transit tariff covering their shared freight corridor, an Iranian transport official said on Saturday, adding that final meetings are under way to put the decision into effect.

Amin Taraffo, head of the international affairs department at Iran's

Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, said the common tariff would apply to the entire route so goods can be moved "from origin to destination" under one rate, Tasnim reported.

"The final sessions to finalize these tariffs are being held, and the decision will soon be enforced," he said.

Part of Iran's bilateral trade already moves by rail, and international rail freight volumes jumped

sharply last year, with more than five million tons of goods carried, Taraffo noted. He added that tariffs are mostly based on the costs of each country but remain within the ministry's broader policy framework.

Eastern transit through Iran

"Transit performance from China in recent years was limited. Even with tariffs set, putting this route into operation depends on multiple factors and is only one step forward," he said.

The official explained that most cargoes potentially crossing Iran consist of foodstuffs and grains. While East-West and North-South corridors sometimes handle shipments—such as goods moving from Belarus to Russia and then through Bandar Abbas to India or Oman — the full East-West corridor is not yet continuously active.

There are no domestic obstacles on Iran's side, Taraffo said, stressing that the main challenge lies in the lack of willingness and coordination among the countries along the route.

ICT reports 100% surge in fiber optic rollout

Economy Desk

Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sattar Hashemi announced on Saturday a 100% increase in fiber optic network expansion in recent months, stressing that improving public access and service quality must be central to the country's development agenda.

"In the current administration, fiber optic expansion is being pursued with an economic approach and a focus on improving service quality for subscribers," Hashemi told IRNA.

He said the ministry's strategy prioritizes the economic dimension of fiber deployment, meaning subscriber uptake and the capacity to absorb services across different models must be rigorously measured. "Incentives provided to telecom companies for fiber optic expansion are only applicable when high-quality connectivity is delivered to the public," Hashemi added, underscoring that quality of service remains a non-negotiable condition for accessing government support.

The remarks reflect Tehran's intensified push to modernize its digital infrastructure amid broader economic pressures and international sanctions.

Separately, Davoud Zareian, deputy head of communications, public relations and international affairs at Iran's Telecommunication Company, said on Thursday that



the second phase of the country's strategic "swap" project — replacing copper networks entirely with fiber optic cables — has begun under a five-year plan.

He said demand for efficient use of information and communications technology is rising daily, while copper-based networks with maximum speeds of 16 megabits per second are no longer sufficient.

"In the fiber optic development plan, it will be possible to deliver speeds of up to 1,000 megabits per second to home subscribers, although most customers' current needs are between 70 and 200 megabits per second," Zareian said.

He added that converting copper to fiber forms the backbone for rolling out fifth-generation (5G) mobile services and supporting other operators. "Many of MCI's [Mobile Communication Company of Iran] sites and those of other operators will be connected to the fiber optic network through this project," he noted.

BRICS okays nuclear platform strategy at Moscow summit with Iran participation

Economy Desk

BRICS members and partners approved the alliance's first strategic document for a new nuclear energy platform and presented a 2026 work program at an annual conference in Moscow that featured the participation of Iran's delegation, IRNA reported.

The conference, held at the VDNKh exhibition complex alongside World Atom Week and the Atom 2025 exhibition, saw Hossein Derakhshandeh, deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) and chief executive of the Iran Atomic Energy

Production and Development Company, outline Tehran's positions and proposals to attendees.

Iran's delegation was led by Vice President and AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami, and Tehran also displayed its nuclear industry achievements at a booth at Atom 2025, IRNA reported.

The newly approved strategic document sets out the platform's key areas of work and organizational development paths, including human resources development, mobilizing financing for nuclear projects, strengthening supply-chain resilience, promoting reactor and nuclear

fuel-cycle technologies, and ensuring public acceptance of nuclear power, among other priorities. The platform's 2026 program was also presented at the meeting.

The BRICS nuclear energy platform, launched about a year ago to boost cooperation among companies operating in member states and to promote nuclear power as an environmentally friendly energy source, brings together industry bodies and firms from BRICS and BRICS-plus partners.

Heads of companies and organizations representing Russia, Brazil, Vietnam, Egypt, China, South Africa,

the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Turkey and the ASEAN Energy Centre attended the conference, the report said.

Elsie Pule, a senior coordinator of the BRICS nuclear energy platform, highlighted the grouping's growing role in shaping a new global energy architecture, saying the platform accounts for roughly one-third of operating nuclear reactors and more than 70% of reactors under construction. "By 2030, it will account for at least two-thirds of global nuclear fleet growth," she said.

A joint statement of support for the creation of the BRICS nuclear energy



platform was finally issued by companies attending the conference from Iran, Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Bolivia.