

Iran's 700m-ton transport hub, Chabahar rail progress in focus at SCO

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd said on Friday that the country's unique position at the intersection of North-South and East-West transport corridors enables the annual movement of more than 700 million tons of goods, speaking at the 13th meeting of transport ministers from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in Kyrgyzstan.

Iran's roads and urban development minister said on Friday the country's strategic position at the crossroads of major transit corridors enables it to handle more than 700 million tons of goods annually, as Tehran seeks to boost its role in regional trade.

Speaking at the 13th meeting of transport ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Kyrgyzstan, Sadegh Malvajerd said Iran's location along the North-South and East-

West corridors provides unique transit potential.

"Sixteen commercial ports with a capacity of 273 million tons along the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, 15,000 kilometers of railway network, more than 250,000 kilometers of roads, and 26 land border terminals that ensure uninterrupted transit. This infrastructure enables the annual transportation of more than 700 million tons of various goods, and the volume of goods transiting through Iran exceeded 20 million tons last year."

Sadegh Malvajerd pointed to measures taken by Iran to improve transport and transit efficiency, including commercializing regional transit corridor networks, coordinating border procedures with neighboring countries, deploying smart monitoring technologies, standardizing cargo transit procedures and using integrated corridor management systems. She described the development



Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd delivers a video address from the site of the bombed B1 bridge near Karaj while attending the 13th meeting of SCO transport ministers in Kyrgyzstan on April 24, 2026.

● IRNA

of Chabahar Port in the south-east of Iran as a milestone in providing SCO member states, particularly landlocked countries, access to open waters.

"Establishing a rail connection between this port and Iran's railway network in the coming months will be a turning point in the port's international role." Sadegh Malvajerd also stressed the importance of digital transformation in simplifying logistics processes, saying Iran has implemented smart technologies in managing transit flows.

In her closing remarks, she expressed Iran's readiness to deepen cooperation with SCO member states.



"We hope to jointly create conditions for exchanging knowledge and experience and discovering

innovative solutions to address shared challenges in transport and transit. Together, we can

build more resilient transport systems and enhance regional connectivity."

Jask Port busts US blockade, funnels oil to China

CBI pockets first revenue from Hormuz transit tolls



Economy Desk

Iran has used the Jask Port on the Sea of Oman to bypass a US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, helping maintain steady oil exports to China despite restrictions, according to data cited by Tasnim news agency. Statistics show that despite the US blockade imposed on April 13, Iran's oil exports to China remained stable, averaging 985,000 barrels per day in the first half of April. Iran has been able to circumvent restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz by using the Jask Port, which allows tankers to load oil and access open waters without transiting the strait, ensuring continued energy exports to China. Between April 13 and April 22, data analytics firm Vortexa recorded 34 crossings through the US blockade zone, including movements of vessels linked to Iran or under US sanctions.

At least 34 tankers linked to Iran have been able to bypass the blockade by the US Navy, the Financial Times reported on

Wednesday, citing data from Vortexa, an analytical company that tracks cargo shipments. As Vortexa reported, at least 19 tankers linked to Iran have broken the blockade and left the Persian Gulf. At least 15 more entered the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Sea, bound for Iran.

These operations enabled at least 10.7 million barrels of Iranian crude to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. At a discount of \$10, such a volume would have brought about \$910 million in revenue, the FT writes.

This week, Iran said it had tightened control over the Strait of Hormuz by collecting transit fees and depositing the revenue into the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Parliamentary board member Abbas Papizadeh told ISNA on Thursday that the first revenues from ship transit fees in the strait had been transferred to the state treasury.

"Transit tolls from ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz have been officially deposited into the

Central Bank and entered the national treasury."

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran would not allow other countries to pass freely through the route while its own exports face restrictions.

Tensions have remained high following the joint US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28.

Under new conditions set by Tehran, only commercial vessels that have obtained prior authorization from Iran are allowed to transit the strait, while ships linked to the United States, Israel and other hostile states are barred.

Iran says the measures reflect its key role in the global economy, noting that around 20% of the world's oil and 35% of its gas pass through the waterway, which it is using as leverage in response to Washington's failure to uphold a ceasefire.

The US Central Command said on April 21 that the US Navy has forced 28 ships to return to Iranian ports since the blockade began.

"The blockade has been a huge success," US President Donald Trump said in an interview with CNBC, adding that it would remain in place until a "final deal" with Iran is reached.

In response, Iran refused to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, citing the blockade.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said the US blockade of Iranian ports "is an act of war and thus a violation of the ceasefire."

Beijing opposes US interference in int'l trade relations

Economy Desk

China rejected on Friday an accusation by US President Donald Trump that an Iranian-flagged cargo ship intercepted by US forces was a "gift from China," saying international trade relations should not be subject to interference.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the claim after Trump told CNBC on Tuesday that the ship "had some things on it, which wasn't very nice. A gift from China perhaps, I don't know."

The US military said it fired on and seized an Iranian cargo ship that tried to evade its blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran's military said the vessel had been traveling from China and vowed retaliation against what it called "armed piracy by the US military."

"China opposes any accusations and associations that lack a factual basis," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters in Beijing, Reuters reported.

"Normal international trade relations between countries should not be subject to interference and disruption," he added.

The container ship *Touska* was



Guo Jiakun

boarded and seized by US forces on Sunday. US maritime security sources claimed on Monday it was likely carrying what Washington deems dual-use items that could be used by the military.

Separately, Iran's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday strongly condemned the US military's "illegal and savage act" on the ship in the Sea of Oman.

The US, in an attempt to force Iran to conclude a peace agreement after a 40-day war with Iran, imposed a blockade on all vessels entering or leaving Iranian coastal waters on April 13. The blockade

was later expanded to include all Iranian vessels on the high seas, as well as vessels carrying goods that could be used by Iran in the conflict.

China has called the US naval blockade of Iranian ports "irresponsible and dangerous."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said last week the move would "undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement," and further jeopardize the safety of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway Iran effectively closed in response to US-Israeli strikes.

Renewable capacity tops 4,500 MW despite \$1.5b war damage: SATBA

Economy Desk

Iran's renewable power capacity has surpassed 4,500 megawatts despite about \$1.5 billion in damage from attacks on solar energy facilities, the country's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) said. According to a report by IRNA on Friday, SATBA said the expansion of renewable power plants has continued without interruption and is expected to soon push installed capacity to 5,000 MW, underscoring the resilience of development plans in the sector even during the 40-day war that began on February 28.

The report said construction and grid connection of renewable plants have proceeded steadily, including in the final days of the past year when parts of the country were under attack, with



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around 1,200 MW of renewable capacity brought online across the country in the presence of the energy minister, Abbas Aliabadi.

The expansion comes as President Masoud Pezeshkian's government aims to install 30,000 MW of renewable energy capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year. Separately, SATBA said an attack on a storage facility for solar power plant equipment caused about \$1.5 billion in

damages.

The organization said equipment including panels, cables and inverters were damaged in the incident.

In response, the energy minister sent a letter to the secretary-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency outlining the dimensions of the attack and providing a detailed report of the damage as an example of actions contrary to international law.

Aliabadi condemned US-Israeli strikes on the country's renewable energy infrastructure, stating that an attack on a warehouse of small-scale solar equipment caused approximately \$1.2 million in losses and destroyed supplies intended to provide electricity for 3,500 households in deprived rural areas, according to a letter to the director-general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in mid-April.