

Tehran, Islamabad agree to ease border trade, expedite transit

Economy Desk

Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said Iran and Pakistan agreed to introduce measures aimed at simplifying border trade and speeding up transit procedures, as the two neighboring countries seek to expand economic ties and improve cross-border commerce. Speaking after talks with Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Tehran on Saturday, Momeni said both sides had agreed to facilitate trade and reduce administrative barriers along their shared border. "One of the main topics of today's discussions was border trade," Momeni said, according to remarks published by Iran's Interior Ministry. "It was agreed that both Iran and Pakistan would implement measures and facilities to shorten procedures and make border exchanges, transit, commodity exchange and trade easier."

The two countries also discussed the possibility of opening additional border crossings, he added.

Iran and Pakistan share a border stretching roughly 900 km, much of it in remote and underdeveloped areas where security concerns and smuggling have long complicated trade and infrastructure development.

Momeni described the frontier as a "border of friendship, brotherhood and security," adding that cooperation between the two sides would further strengthen border security.

The meeting comes as Tehran seeks to deepen economic ties with neighboring countries as part of broader efforts to offset the impact of illegal Western sanctions and boost regional trade.

Trade between Iran and Pakistan has remained below the levels targeted by officials from both countries, despite repeat-



Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni (R) meets with his Pakistani counterpart, Mohsin Naqvi, in the capital Tehran on May 16, 2026.

IRNA

ed pledges to increase bilateral commerce and improve transport connectivity.

Momeni said both governments were determined to expand not only political relations but also economic and commercial cooperation.

"Necessary facilities must be created on both sides of the border so that this unity, solidarity and brotherhood are strengthened further," he said. Naqvi, for his part, thanked Iranian officials for hosting the talks and said the two sides had held extensive discussions on bilateral relations and border security.

"As mentioned, we had detailed discussions on various issues



related to Iran-Pakistan relations as well as border securi-

ty," Naqvi said. "We hope that with the path we have taken,

we will soon reach tangible solutions in these areas.

Petchem, steel export curbs to be lifted in 'coming months': TPO



Economy Desk

A senior official of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced on Saturday that export restrictions on downstream petrochemical and

steel products is expected to be removed "in the coming months," as Tehran seeks to preserve regional export markets and deepen trade ties with neighboring countries. Abdolamir Rabi-havi, director

general of West Asia at TPO, said export controls on some agricultural products had been imposed only under emergency conditions to protect domestic supply.

"The needs of neighboring countries, as a stable market for us, are important," Rabi-havi said, according to comments carried by state media. "In coordination with the Agriculture Ministry, we exported surplus domestic production in order to preserve our target markets."

Rabi-havi said he hoped measures currently under consideration would lead to the removal of export restrictions on downstream petrochemical and steel products in the coming months, without providing

a specific timeline.

Iran, one of the West Asia's largest producers of petrochemicals and steel, has periodically imposed export curbs on industrial and agricultural goods in an effort to manage domestic prices and supply shortages.

The official also highlighted the role of trade fairs and international pavilions in expanding foreign trade, saying licenses for trade delegations and international exhibitions were currently being issued.

He added that regional offices of the Trade Promotion Organization were coordinating with Iranian commercial centers abroad, as well as trade counselors at embassies and consulates, to strengthen trade

cooperation.

Rabi-havi said the organization was also overseeing subcommittees linked to joint economic commissions with countries including Iraq, Turkey, Oman and South Africa, covering trade, industry and mining cooperation.

"We intend to operationalize these committees in order to seriously pursue the organization's responsibilities for facilitating and strengthening foreign trade with neighboring and non-neighboring countries," he said.

'Eurasia System' ready to launch

Separately, the Trade Promotion Organization announced that infrastructure for a new

"Eurasia System" had been completed and was ready to launch.

The platform is designed to digitize customs-related procedures tied to the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with the aim of increasing transparency, speeding up trade formalities and improving predictability for businesses.

According to the organization, companies seeking preferential tariffs and customs exemptions for imports from EAEU member states will be required to register certificates of origin and complete related procedures through the new customs system.

Kharg still has oil storage capacity despite US claims, TankerTrackers says

Economy Desk

Iran still has available oil storage capacity at its main export hub on Kharg Island and retains a sizeable fleet of tankers capable of transporting crude, oil-tracking service TankerTrackers.com said, amid renewed US claims that sanctions pressure is constraining Tehran's oil exports.

"Kharg Island isn't maxed out of storage space. If it were, they would grab the nearest available tankers and top them up. Instead, oil production has slipped to match the drop in tanker loadings. There are still plenty of tankers they can load," TankerTrackers wrote in a social media post on X. Washington continues to intensify sanctions and blockade enforcement targeting Iran's oil sector, with US officials repeatedly stating that measures aimed at shipping networks, intermediaries and tankers are designed to curb Tehran's crude exports and restrict revenue flows.



Kharg Island
MEHR

TankerTrackers also said Iran still has access to numerous oil tankers capable of loading and transporting its crude shipments, suggesting Tehran retains logistical flexibility despite years of Western sanctions on its energy and shipping industries.

Kharg Island, located in the Persian Gulf, handles the vast majority of Iran's crude exports and serves as the country's most important oil export terminal. Since May 13 and after a 40-day

illegal war of aggression, the US has imposed a so-called blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil supply passes, disrupting shipping routes and energy trade.

Oil traders and analysts say any sustained disruption to Iranian exports could tighten global crude balances, particularly as OPEC+ producers manage supply cuts and geopolitical risks remain elevated across the West Asian region.

Agriculture Ministry urges expanded FAO support in crisis conditions

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Agriculture Ministry called on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Saturday to expand technical and emergency cooperation with Tehran, including support for development and crisis-response projects.

Hassan Momeni, head of international affairs and specialized organizations at Iran's Agriculture Ministry, called for continued FAO technical assistance to the agricultural sector during a meeting with the agency's representative in Tehran, according to the ministry.

Momeni said Iran wanted stronger cooperation in joint Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) projects as well as FAO emergency initiatives typically provided to countries facing crisis conditions such as war. He thanked the FAO for maintaining cooperation during wartime conditions in Iran and

cited the organization's role in laboratory support and capacity-building for the ministry.

"With the help of the FAO, a specialized regional hub can be created to transfer agricultural knowledge to neighboring countries that need Iran's expertise," Momeni said.

He also urged the organization to intensify efforts to attract international financial donors for Iran's agricultural sector despite existing restrictions. FAO representative in Iran Farukh Toirov said the agency had continued its cooperation with Iran's Agriculture Ministry over the past two months despite difficult conditions and that joint projects and services had not been disrupted.

Toirov said expanding FAO projects could also help develop Iran's agricultural trade and economic sectors because agricultural products are not directly subject to international sanctions.



He added that financing constraints and sanctions-related limitations remained obstacles to expanding projects, but said he would discuss increasing Iran's allocation in FAO programs with senior officials at the organization.

Iran's agricultural sector has faced growing challenges in recent years from drought, inflation, currency depreciation and sanctions that have complicated access to financing, technology and imported inputs, although food and agricultural goods are formally exempt from most Western sanctions regimes.