

# Qatar's Al Ruwais Port reopens to Iranian goods, restoring direct sea trade

## Economy Desk

Qatar's Al Ruwais Port has reopened to Iranian cargo after disruptions caused by the recent US-Israeli war on the Islamic Republic, restoring maritime trade between the two countries, Iran's commercial attaché in Doha said.

IRNA reported on Sunday that Abbas Abdolkhani said cargo shipments between Iran's southern port of Dayyer and Qatar's Al Ruwais Port had resumed after a five-month hiatus, following sustained efforts by the Iranian embassy in Doha and coordination with Qatari authorities.

Al Ruwais is one of the main gateways for Iranian goods entering the Qatari market, Abdolkhani said, adding that the reopening of "the shipping route would help facilitate trade, reduce transportation costs, speed up deliveries and increase bilateral trade volumes."

A wide range of Iranian products is exported to Qatar through the route, including fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, food products, seafood, eggs and other protein

products, construction materials, stone, white cement, mineral products, hand-woven and machine-made carpets, and other goods needed by the Qatari market, he said.

"The reopening of Al Ruwais Port, in addition to boosting bilateral trade, will increase economic and commercial activity at Dayyer Port in Bushehr Province, the origin point for exports to Qatar, while supporting exporters, maritime transport companies and supply chain operators," Abdolkhani said.

He said expanding economic, trade and investment cooperation between Iran and Qatar remained a shared priority for both countries, and was being pursued in line with the commitment of senior officials in Tehran and Doha to strengthen bilateral ties.

The resumption follows a broader recovery in regional trade links after the conflict began in late February.

In late June, trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates resumed through Dubai's Jebel Ali Port after disruptions

caused by the US-Israeli war on the Islamic Republic, according to a senior official at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO). Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, deputy for commercial services at TPO, said on June 28 that Jebel Ali, one of the Persian Gulf's largest transshipment hubs, had traditionally handled a significant share of trade between the UAE and Iran.

"Cargo shipments and transit through the port were suspended during the war, leaving many Iranian containers stranded because importers were unable to clear their goods," he said.

Trade routes between the two countries have since reopened, and commerce is gradually recovering, although volumes remain below pre-conflict levels and are expected to return to normal, Qanadzadeh said at the time.

Dubai also welcomed the first flight from Tehran since the wartime suspension in late June, when a Sepehran Airlines flight landed at Dubai International Airport on June 30, marking the first direct service from the Iranian capital after the U.S.-Is-



A view of Qatar's Al Ruwais Port  
● SPIRIT OF QATAR

rael war disrupted regional aviation. Iran's airspace gradually reopened after a ceasefire was reached between Wash-

ington and Tehran on April 8, ending the 40-day conflict launched by the U.S.-Israeli coalition in late February.

## Iran, Malaysia seek new food security roadmap to expand agricultural cooperation



Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh (R) meets his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, in Tehran on July 4, 2026.  
● IRNA

## Economy Desk

Iran and Malaysia are seeking to draw up a new bilateral food security roadmap and expand cooperation in agriculture, trade, research and investment, Iran's agriculture minister said during talks with his Malaysian counterpart in Tehran.

According to IRNA on Sunday, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh called for closer cooperation in agriculture and related industries, trade, research and food security.

"We need to develop a new food security roadmap for the two countries," Nouri-Qezelgeh said.

The ministers discussed expanding trade in agricultural products, increasing joint investment, strengthening cooperation in the food industry, promoting technology transfer, expanding agricultural research and facilitating private-sector exchanges. Nouri-Qezelgeh also called for closer cooperation between research

institutes, universities and scientific centers in areas including seed improvement, smart agriculture, mechanization, water resource management and greenhouse technologies. He emphasized the importance of exchanging experts, conducting joint research projects and holding joint training programs.

Referring to Iran's capabilities in agricultural production, technical expertise and research, he said the country was ready to expand cooperation with Malaysia in all areas of mutual interest.

Malaysia's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, welcomed closer ties and called for bilateral agreements to be pursued through a joint working group while planning practical projects.

He also invited the Iranian agriculture minister to pay an official visit to Malaysia.

"Such a visit could mark a turning point in the development of bilateral

relations and provide a suitable opportunity to sign cooperation documents, hold a meeting of the joint agriculture committee and meet business leaders and private-sector representatives from both countries," Mohamad Sabu said.

The two sides also reviewed opportunities to expand bilateral trade, strengthen scientific cooperation, exchange knowledge and modern agricultural technologies, enhance food security cooperation and make greater use of their shared capabilities.

According to Mehr news agency, Iran and Malaysia have complementary economies.

Ali Chagharvand, head of the Iran-Malaysia Joint Trade Committee, said on Saturday that Malaysia could serve as a regional hub and a re-export base for Iranian products in sectors including petrochemicals, energy, mining, agriculture, and technical and engineering services.

"In return, Malaysia, with its advanced logistics infrastructure, international financial network and successful experience in attracting foreign investment, provides broad access to Southeast Asian markets," Chagharvand said.

He said the committee's primary objective was to promote bilateral trade through trade facilitation, economic diplomacy and cooperation with the governments of both countries to expand economic ties and attract investment.

He added that attracting investment and developing joint projects would be among the committee's main priorities and that its work would extend beyond trade alone.

## Minister proposes Balkans data corridor in push to expand digital cooperation with Serbia

## Economy Desk

Iran has proposed creating a data corridor linking the country with the Balkans as part of broader digital cooperation with Serbia, Communications and Information Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi said during talks with his Serbian counterpart in Tehran.

According to IRNA, Hashemi said the corridor could expand data transit between Asia, the Middle East and southeastern Europe and identified it as one of the main areas of cooperation between the two countries.

He also called for the establishment of a joint committee to oversee implementation of a memorandum of understanding signed during his visit to Serbia in March 2025.

The committee, comprising representatives from both countries, would be responsible for setting policies, approving annual plans, facilitating implementation of the agreement, allocating resources and providing regular progress reports to the two ministers, Hashemi said.

"Expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, the space industry, data transit, fiber-optic networks, data centers and the digital economy will be among the main pillars of this partnership," he said.

Hashemi said implementation of the memorandum could



Communications and Information Technology Minister Sattar Hashemi (R) shakes hands with his Serbian counterpart, Boris Bratina, after a meeting in Tehran on July 4, 2026.  
● IRNA

be pursued through three specialized working groups focusing on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy and e-government.

He said Iran was ready to share its experience in developing indigenous hardware, expanding data centers, building cloud infrastructure and carrying out joint artificial intelligence projects with Serbia.

"Cooperation in artificial intelligence should go beyond the exchange of experience and lead to the implementation of joint projects between the two countries," he said.

Hashemi also cited Iran's achievements in the space industry and the use of satellite data as another area for bilateral cooperation and called for closer coordination and mutual support between Iran and Serbia in international telecommunications forums.

Iran has accelerated its space program in recent years, conducting more than 20 satellite launches, including a series of successful missions since 2022. The country has deployed research, communications and remote-sens-

ing satellites into orbit using both domestically developed launch vehicles and Russian launch services while continuing to expand its indigenous space capabilities.

The minister also urged his Serbian counterpart to facilitate the participation of Iranian knowledge-based companies in a specialized exhibition in Belgrade. He also identified Iran's national fiber-optic expansion project, the video game industry and the construction of small power plants to supply electricity for data centers as additional areas for cooperation.

Serbian Minister of Information and Telecommunications Boris Bratina said expanding cooperation with Iran was one of Serbia's priorities and that Belgrade was interested in strengthening ties, particularly in digital technologies and the space industry.

"Fiber-optic projects, artificial intelligence, smart technologies, e-learning and the video game industry are among the main areas of cooperation between the two countries, and the establishment of joint working groups can accelerate the development of these partnerships," Bratina said.

## Intellectual foundations of...

The principle does not preclude engagement with major powers; rather, it underscores that Iran's foreign relations should not become politically or economically dependent on them. From this standpoint, expanding ties with neighboring countries, the Islamic world, Asia, Africa, and emerging powers can be understood as part of a broader strategy aimed at diversifying foreign partnerships and reducing vulnerability to unilateral pressure.

Within his intellectual framework, national power is not confined to military capabilities alone. Rather, successful diplomacy is seen as dependent upon internal strength.

Scientific advancement, technological development, stronger defense capabilities, economic growth, a resilient economy, and greater social capital are all regarded as integral components of national power. In essence, foreign policy that is not backed by domestic capabilities lacks the capacity to effectively defend the country's interests. The value-based and civilizational dimension also represents a distinctive feature of this approach. Unlike certain realist theories of international relations, which view foreign policy solely as an arena of power competition, Ayatollah Khamenei's political thought assigns significant importance to identity and ethical considerations. Sup-

port for the Palestinian people, advocacy for the oppressed, backing the Resistance Front, and emphasizing the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah are all understood within this framework. From this perspective, such policies are grounded not only in religious convictions but are also considered capable of enhancing the Islamic Republic's strategic depth and strengthening regional security. Recent developments, particularly over the past year, have underscored the relevance of his perspective on the structural transformation of the international system and the emergence of a multipolar world order. The global distribution of power is gradually shifting, while new actors—including the

Islamic Republic of Iran—are coming to the fore on the international stage. Consequently, expanding cooperation with emerging powers, maintaining an active presence in regional and international organizations, and strengthening relations with neighboring countries are regarded as components of a broader strategy to enhance Iran's role and influence in the international arena. At the same time, he consistently emphasized the importance of accurately understanding global developments, avoiding excessive optimism or pessimism, and pursuing a prudent and intelligent diplomacy.

Overall, late Ayatollah Khamenei's foreign policy approach can be regarded as a mod-

el shaped by religious principles, strategic calculation, and political realism. Concepts such as dignity, wisdom, and expediency; the emphasis on independence and the rejection of domination; the strengthening of domestic capabilities; support for the Resistance Front; and close attention to the evolving global order together constitute the principal elements of this progressive intellectual framework. Over the past decades, these principles have exerted a significant influence on the direction of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy and continue to serve as one of the principal frameworks for analyzing the country's strategic decisions on the international stage.