

Iran offers technical help to Tajikistan's power grid, promotes Chabahar port

Tehran seeks faster rail, road, air links with Dushanbe

Economy Desk

Iran offered technical assistance to help improve Tajikistan's power grid, while also promoting the use of the Chabahar port for Tajik access to open waters on Sunday, as the two countries moved to accelerate cooperation in electricity, water and transport, Iranian officials said.

During a meeting in Tehran Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and Tajik Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma on Sunday reviewed ways to expand economic and cultural ties between the two countries, including cooperation in water and electricity.

"At this meeting, we discussed the development and future of cooperation in line with common goals in the fields of culture, tourism, scientific and technical activities, and water and electricity," Aliabadi said, according to IRNA.

Referring to challenges facing Tajikistan's power grid, Aliabadi said, "Iran is ready for any technical cooperation to improve and develop the electricity sector in Tajikistan."

Juma said the meeting covered economic, commercial, technical

and cultural cooperation, with an emphasis on increasing trade relations.

The condition of joint dams, energy and logistics issues, cultural and information matters, and the development of human resources at power plants were also discussed, he said.

Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq, meanwhile, met Tajik officials including Daler Juma and Transport Minister Aziz Ibrahim and called for faster implementation of transport projects in rail, road, air, port and logistics sectors.

Sadeq referred to an increase in rail freight between the two countries in 2025 compared with the previous year, adding the growth shows the depth of relations and the government's emphasis on transport diplomacy.

Chabahar to boost Tajik access to open waters

Sadeq said rail-laying on the route between Iran's southeastern port city of Chabahar and Zahedan had been completed and the link would become operational within three months.

"Chabahar can strengthen Tajikistan's access to open waters



Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq (1st R) meets Tajik Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma (2nd L) and Transport Minister Aziz Ibrahim (3rd L) in Tehran, on August 16, 2026.

● IRNA

and boost its logistics position," she said.

Sadeq also said Iran welcomed Tajik investment in Chabahar port.

She described Tehran's Aprin dry port as an important capacity for cooperation and proposed that Tajik officials visit the facility. She also welcomed joint Tajik investment in Aprin and other Iranian ports.

Road transport, new corridors

Sadeq called for the immediate resolution of road transport problems between the two countries and said Iran welcomed multilateral talks on a proposed Iran-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-China corridor.

She also said the Farah Road in Afghanistan was expected to open in about a month, which could provide an opportunity



for cooperation among the three countries.

Sadeq called for more flights, reciprocal discounts and greater tourism cooperation, and asked Iran's Civil Aviation Organization to follow up on the issues.

The minister also called for the formation of an executive committee under the countries' joint commission to accelerate follow-up on the issues.

Separately, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization chief Abuzar Shiroodi met Abdulkosim Valiev, CEO at Somon Air, on Sunday to discuss resuming the airline's flights to Iran, expanding air transport cooperation and removing obstacles to the resumption of services, Mehr news agency reported.

Somon Air had operated two weekly flights to Iran before the

US-Israeli war began in late February, but the flights were suspended because of the resulting conditions. The Tajik side is now seeking to resume the flights and expand air cooperation with Iran.

Under an existing memorandum of understanding between Iran and Tajikistan, the two countries have capacity for 23 weekly flights.

Oil loading resumes at Kharg Island after 25-day halt



● IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran has resumed crude oil loading at the western terminal of Kharg Island after a 25-day halt, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday, citing maritime intelligence company Windward, as satellite images also showed a rise in tanker and cargo vessel traffic near Larak Island. A very large crude carrier (VLCC), about 333 meters long, which had been anchored in the terminal's waiting area since July 11, docked on Aug. 12 and began loading crude, Tasnim reported.

Iran's southern ports remain under a US naval blockade imposed by Washington in mid-April, aimed at pressuring Tehran into an agreement after a 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February. After a pause of several weeks, the naval blockade was reinstated in mid-July. Iran is seek-

ing to diversify its logistics corridors to counter growing restrictions on its trade routes.

"Iran isn't waiting for the blockade to lift. It's re-routing around it," Windward said in a post on X on Sunday.

TankerTrackers.com, a maritime intelligence company specializing in tracking crude shipments and dark-fleet tankers, separately said on Friday a National Iranian Tanker Company VLCC was loading about two million barrels of crude at the Azarpad jetty on Kharg Island. It described the loading as the first observed at the island since late July, according to thenationalnews.com.

Although this is the first loading noted on the island since last month, Iran has continued loading tankers at other terminals, TankerTrackers.com said.

Satellite images also showed the number of tankers and cargo vessels at the northern anchorage of Larak, near the Strait of Hormuz, had risen to 35 on Aug. 12 from 28 on Aug. 10, according to the report. About 74% of the vessels had their automatic identification systems switched off, while at least 10 were identified as sanctioned vessels.

The developments come as the Strait of Hormuz has remained a focus of tensions between Iran and the United States.

The US waged a war of aggression with Israel against the Islamic Republic in late February. In response, Iran closed the strait and began talks with Oman to establish a joint mechanism for shipping arrangements. The move pushed oil prices from around \$70 a barrel to above \$100, with prices topping \$110 on some days.

CBI chief, Iraqi trade minister push to ease trade barriers, expand banking ties

Economy Desk

Head of Central Bank of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati and Iraq's trade minister Mustafa Nizar al-Ani discussed ways to ease economic ties, remove obstacles to bilateral trade and expand banking cooperation on Sunday, Fars news agency reported. The meeting, held on the first day of Hemmati's official visit to Iraq, focused on strengthening bilateral trade, investment and monetary cooperation, with the two sides discussing ways to implement previous



Head of Central Bank of Iran Abdolnaser Hemmati (L) meets Iraq's trade minister Mustafa Nizar al-Ani in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 16, 2026.

● FARS

agreements and increase banking interactions between the neighboring countries.

Hemmati stressed the need for new mechanisms to speed up trade, particularly at border entry points, and highlighted the role of the private sector in facilitating imports and

exports.

Al-Ani welcomed the expansion of cooperation and said the Iraqi government was committed to addressing challenges facing business people and strengthening trade ties with Iran.

Iran adds 2,028 MW of power capacity, reaching 75% of annual target

Economy Desk

Iran has added 2,028 megawatts of new power generation capacity since March 21, achieving 75% of its target for the current Persian calendar year (began on March 21), a thermal power industry official said on Sunday, as the country works to expand electricity supplies amid persistent shortages and the summer peak in demand. Ruhollah Efsanani, deputy head of development projects at Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company, said the country had planned to add 2,709 MW of new capacity this year through projects involving both the public and private sectors, according to IRNA. Speaking at a news conference, he said none of the country's power-generation development projects had been halted despite the special conditions facing the country over the past seven months resulting from the war. Installed power-generation capacity has grown 42% from a year earlier, Efsanani said. Two more units are scheduled to come online, including a nearly 300-MW steam unit at a combined-cycle power plant and a 183-MW gas unit, adding another 490 MW to generation capacity once operational. A US-Israeli coalition launched at-



● IRNA

tacks on Iran on February 28, including strikes on civilians and power infrastructure.

Iran was already experiencing energy shortages before the attacks, a situation that has been exacerbated by the conflict and the peak of the summer heat season.

Thermal plants reach 98.8% readiness

Masoud Moradi, deputy head of production operations at the Thermal Power Plants Holding Company, said Iran's total installed power-generation capacity stood at 101,366 MW, including 79,158 MW of thermal power capacity. Efforts to improve plant performance resulted in thermal power plants reaching 98.8% readiness during the peak electricity consumption period, while the rate of emergency outages at power-generation units fell to 1.2%, Moradi said, describing the

figures as a record for Iran's thermal power industry.

Renewable capacity hits 6,000 MW

Ali Qaseminejad, head of the solar power development group at Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said the country's installed renewable power capacity had reached 6,000 MW, with more than 80% coming from solar power plants, according to Tasnim news agency.

The government has set a target of installing 30,000 MW of renewable energy capacity within the next two years to help reduce daily power shortages and improve the long-term stability of electricity supplies.

Qaseminejad said the Seventh Development Plan calls for the addition of 12,000 MW of renewable energy capacity, and that the government was seeking to move closer to that target by the end of the current year.

"The development of solar power plants, in addition to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, has positive environmental impacts and is considered one of the most important solutions for reducing the imbalance between electricity supply and demand in the country," Qaseminejad said.