

# NIPC targets domestic output of high-value petrochemical imports



## Economy Desk

Iran plans to replace around \$2 billion worth of petrochemical imports with domestically made materials under its Seventh and Eighth Development Plans, said Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemicals Hassan Abbaszadeh on Monday. Abbaszadeh, who also heads the National Iranian Petrochemical Co. (NIPC), said imported petrochemical products that downstream industries often struggled to source would soon be churned out locally. "Some \$2 billion worth of petrochemicals are imported annually," Abbaszadeh told the International Conference on Investment and Financing in the Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industry in Tehran, according to Shana. "We have targeted these products for local production under the Seventh Development Plan (SDP), with the remainder to be rolled out during the Eighth Development Plan," he added, referring to two roadmaps that outlines Iran major policies in economy, security, education and foreign policy among others in the next nine years. The official noted that 66 projects were slated for completion by March 2029 under the SDP, requiring

around \$26 billion in investment. "These projects... are, on average, about 60% complete. So far, some \$13 billion has been invested in them, and satisfactory progress has been achieved," he added. The deputy oil minister underscored that ensuring a stable feedstock supply, attracting necessary investment, and securing reliable markets for petrochemical products were essential to sustaining growth in the sector. He also called for a "calm and stable business environment" to encourage private sector investors. "The focus of the petrochemical industry is on attracting investment from the genuine private sector," he said, noting that of the nearly \$92 billion invested in the sector to date, only about 15% of which coming from private investors. According to Abbaszadeh, 46 new petrochemical projects are ready for investment over the next decade. The SDP calls for expanding the country's annual petrochemical production capacity to 131 million tons, which now hovers around 100 million tons, with a particular focus on completing specific value chains that have remained underdeveloped.

## Envoy: Pakistan, Iran near deal on barter trade mechanism



Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, holds a press briefing in Tehran on October 27, 2025.  
● IRNA

## Economy Desk

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, announced on Monday at a press briefing that the two countries have finalized a legal framework for a barter trade mechanism, signaling a significant step to boost bilateral commerce. "Recently, a legal framework for the barter trade mechanism has been finalized and will be implemented," Mudassir Tipu said. "This is a major development that will expand trade in multiple sectors," he added. He noted that the mechanism will eliminate financial transactions between the two countries, a measure specifically requested by Iran to enhance cross-border barter. While noting that negotiations on barter

exchanges are ongoing, the envoy said he plans to meet with Iranian officials to review and finalize the barter trade mechanism. On the operational details, Tipu said while general guidelines are in place, discussions are still ongoing about the implementation process and the specific goods to be traded, with decisions to be finalized by the business community. In addition to barter trade, Pakistan and Iran are in the final stages of signing a free trade agreement, according to the Pakistani official. He referred to a joint conference held last week in Pakistan, attended by Iran's Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq, which resulted in an agreement to reopen the transit route linking Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. During President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to the Pakistani capital earlier in August, a \$10 billion bilateral trade target was agreed between Tehran and Islamabad. Last year, bilateral trade reached \$3.129 billion, with \$2.423 billion in Iranian exports to Pakistan and \$700 million in Pakistani exports to Iran.

## Tehran, Dushanbe agree on joint task force to digitize capital markets



## Economy Desk

Iran and Tajikistan agreed to form a joint task force to digitalize capital market infrastructure and implement innovative financial projects during the "Bridge of Trust and Development" conference in Dushanbe on Monday. The agreement is part of a broader effort to expand bilateral cooperation in Islamic finance, green investment, and strengthened capital market supervision, IRNA reported. Green investment, a key focus of the collaboration, involves channeling funds into ventures that promote sustainability and environmental protection while still aiming for financial returns.

The specialized conference aimed to enhance financial collaboration between the two countries and strengthen their financial institutions. The event included technical sessions and professional training programs covering Islamic finance mechanisms, green investment, ESG principles (environmental, social, and corporate governance), and oversight of emerging markets. Iran and Tajikistan have maintained close economic and financial ties, with both countries seeking to strengthen capital markets, trade, and investment cooperation. In a related development on Saturday, Iran and Tajikistan agreed to expand cooperation in develop-



Officials from Iran and Tajikistan pose for a photo on the sidelines of the "Bridge of Trust and Development" conference in Dushanbe on October 27, 2025.  
● IRNA

ing Tajikistan's capital market and establishing new exchanges. Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) expressed readiness to assist Tajikistan in setting up commodity exchanges and developing commodity-backed securities. According to SEO chief Hojatollah Seyyedi, the Saturday meeting marked "the beginning of deeper cooperation between the two countries to develop capital markets."

## Khaf-Herat railway delivers first diesel shipment to Afghanistan

## Economy Desk

Iran exported its first diesel shipment to Afghanistan via the Khaf-Herat railway on Sunday night, marking a new phase in economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, a senior official from the Iran-Afghanistan Railway Development Consortium said on Monday. "The first shipment of diesel fuel, weighing 1,120 tons in 20 wagons, was dispatched through the rail border at Sham-

tigh," Mostafa Rezaei, CEO of the Iran-Afghanistan Railway Development Consortium, told IRNA. "With the arrival of the first cargo train at Rozanak station in Herat Province, a new chapter of economic and commercial cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan has begun." Rezaei added that, in the initial phase, the consortium is prepared to send over 30,000 tons of high-quality fuel monthly via the Khaf-Rozanak rail line. "Transporting these shipments without relying on road routes

and without border stops is an effective step to facilitate logistics and reduce trade costs," he said. He described the Khaf-Herat railway as a secure, sustainable, and efficient corridor for fuel exports. "This diesel export will not only boost bilateral trade but also pave the way for stable fuel and essential goods supply in Afghanistan, positively impacting Herat's energy market and stabilizing petroleum prices," he said.

According to IRNA, last year, 60,000 tons of export and transit goods were transported from Iran to Afghanistan via the Khaf-Herat railway and the Shamtigh border crossing. The Khaf-Herat rail link, connecting Iran's rail network to western Afghanistan, plays a key role in regional connectivity and forms part of an east-west rail corridor stretching over 2,000 kilometers from China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan through Iran and Turkey to Europe.



The Shamtigh customs and rail border crossing in southeastern

Khorasan Razavi Province was inaugurated in 2020.