

# Tehran, Beijing agree to draft housing, urban development roadmap



## Economy Desk

Tehran and Beijing agreed to draft a roadmap and action plan on housing and urban development during a meeting between Iran's minister of roads and urban development and China's housing minister in latter's capital. The two sides expressed readiness to exchange knowledge and experience in construction, urban development and building resilience. Speaking with Ni Hong on the sidelines

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd (4th L), at the head of a delegation, meets China's Housing Minister Ni Hong in Beijing, China, on November 19, 2025.  
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of the second China-Europe Rail Connectivity Forum, Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd called for establishing new areas of cooperation in housing and construction and said regular bilateral meetings are essential for advancing joint progress, IRNA reported. Sadegh Malvajerd said China is a leading country in transport and housing infrastructure construction and reiterated Iran's readiness to draw on China's expertise in construction, urban development and structural reinforcement. She added that a memorandum of understanding on housing cooperation will be signed during the Iranian president's upcoming visit to China, describing the talks as the start of drafting a roadmap and cooperation framework for the housing and construction sectors.

She hailed social housing and rental housing as important areas of collaboration and said Iran will provide facilities to interested Chinese companies. The minister also stressed the importance of technology transfer and experience-sharing in social housing and industrialized construction. Sadegh Malvajerd said another area of cooperation is transferring technology to Iran for prefabricated housing construction. She noted that joint research between the two countries' housing and urban development institutions, issuing joint certifications, sustainable urban development, construction with a focus on renewable energy and water resources, and improving resilience against natural disasters and fires were also discussed with the Chinese minister.

## Azerbaijan eyes Shahid Rajaei Port investment Iran, Russia set 5m ton Caspian cargo target: *Deputy minister*

### Economy Desk

The Iranian deputy minister of roads and urban development announced on Wednesday that the Republic of Azerbaijan has expressed clear interest in investing in Iran's Shahid Rajaei Port in Hormozgan Province as preliminary negotiations are already underway. This is while Iran and Russia have set a joint target of moving five million tons of cargo annually through the Caspian Sea route.



"Azerbaijan is interested in investing in Shahid Rajaei Port, and we are fully prepared to facilitate this. This collaboration will undoubtedly increase transit volumes between our two countries," Saeed Rasouli, head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, told reporters on the sidelines of the meeting of governors from Caspian Sea littoral states in Rasht, IRNA reported. "We have had discussions on this matter," he added. Rasouli said that during a recent visit to Azerbaijan, Iranian officials received detailed assessments of that country's port infrastructure, revealing mutual interest in expanding freight and tourism cooperation. "There is strong appetite on both sides to develop cargo and tourism links — an avenue that can significantly boost bilateral trade," he said.

Separately, Rasouli confirmed that Iran and Russia, under a transport cooperation roadmap signed last year by their respective ministers, have committed to handling five million tons of cargo annually via the Caspian Sea route by 2025. "Both nations must expand their loading, unloading, and storage capacities, and modernize their maritime fleets," he said, citing the comprehensive agreement covering maritime, rail, road, and air transport corridors. According to the official, Iran's northern ports currently possess a combined cargo handling capacity of 30 million tons annually, yet less than one-third of that capacity is utilized. "Without new investment, these northern ports sit underused," Rasouli noted. "We must optimize this existing asset — espe-

cially given the declining water levels in the Caspian Sea. We cannot afford to waste this infrastructure. The key is deeper connectivity with other Caspian nations to unlock this potential." The gathering in the northern city of Rasht in Gilan Province, attended by governors from all Caspian littoral provinces, was highlighted by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd as uniquely positioned to drive tangible outcomes. "This forum has a distinctive advantage over other international forums," the minister said. He said that the event stands out among international gatherings because "governors of the Caspian littoral provinces are present, and they can take operational steps based on the decisions made and play a role in expanding cooperation."

## Seoul pledges long-term ties with Tehran at wastewater project launch



South Korea's Ambassador to Iran, Kim Jun-pyo, speaks at the inauguration of the first rural wastewater project in Sistan and Baluchestan, on November 19, 2025.  
● [IRNA](#)

### Economy Desk

South Korea's Ambassador to Iran, Kim Jun-pyo, said Seoul will continue its environmental and social cooperation with Iran as he spoke at the inauguration of the first rural wastewater project in Sistan and Baluchestan, held in the Kohak rural complex in Zahak County.

Kim said the Kohak wastewater scheme is a successful example of effective and friendly cooperation between Iran and South Korea, IRNA reported.

He stressed that his country will maintain its support for joint environmental and social initiatives, saying, "It is gratifying that the Korean government has been able to contribute to improving environmental conditions, increasing local resilience and enhancing public services."

"We hope more joint projects in water, the environment and health will be implemented in the near future."

Kim said South Korea attaches importance to its strategic partnership with Iran, especially in humanitarian and social sectors, and "welcomes new projects that help im-

prove the lives of people, particularly children and families."

He added that Sistan and Baluchestan requires diverse forms of infrastructural support and said developing water and wastewater systems in underserved regions is "fundamental" to improving health and quality of life.

Addressing the ceremony, Monika Oledzka Nilsson, UNICEF deputy representative in Iran, said the Kohak project is part of a successful collective effort capable of creating lasting change for children and families.

She said joint cooperation among UNICEF, the Energy Ministry, the South Korean government and local authorities in water, sanitation and education projects reflects a shared commitment to improving living standards in less-developed areas, adding that the results clearly show a direct and positive impact on children's well-being.

The Kohak rural wastewater project — serving a population of 10,000 in the Zahak area of Sistan — is the first rural wastewater initiative in the southeastern province carried out with the cooperation of UNICEF and the South Korean embassy.

## Iran, Azerbaijan discuss satellite, cyber, data-transit cooperation

### Baku signals readiness for deeper ICT ties

#### Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Sattar Hashemi, met Azerbaijan's Digital Development and Transport Minister Rashad Nabiyeu on the sidelines of the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference in Baku, where the two officials discussed satellite cooperation, spectrum coordination and expansion of re-

gional data-transit routes. According to IRNA, Hashemi said digital and infrastructure cooperation forms "an important part of the strategic interests of both countries," adding that closer technical alignment between Tehran and Baku could support convergence in space-based services and spectrum management. According to the minister, one of the main issues in bilateral

cooperation is "frequency procurement and signal management" in border areas, a field that has faced challenges for years. He noted that appointing a special representative to pursue the matter enabled both sides to finalize key agreements and open the way for broader regulatory cooperation. He expressed Iran's preparedness to expand cooperation in satellite technology, infrastruc-

ture development, data-transit corridors and cybersecurity. Establishing stable strategic data-transit routes along the North-South and East-West corridors would benefit both countries, he added, and Tehran welcomes further collaboration. Nabiyeu also welcomed work on a draft memorandum of understanding in the information and communications technology sector, saying, "This doc-



ument could be signed during a meeting of the presidents of the two countries." He also voiced Azerbaijan's readiness to work with Iran on Earth-observation satellites,

cybersecurity and joint space projects, adding that, "Purchasing satellite imagery and cooperating in space-based businesses are among Baku's areas of interest."