

# 14 infrastructure plans launched at Chabahar Port as INSTC advances

## Economy Desk

Iran on Thursday inaugurated and launched construction of 14 infrastructure and equipment projects at the strategic port of Chabahar in southeast Iran, as the government pushes ahead with rail connectivity and port development aimed at boosting trade and economic growth.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd said the completion of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), linking Chabahar to Zahedan and connecting Zahedan to Iran's national and international rail networks, represented more than a domestic achievement, IRNA reported. "The major development that will be realized through the rail connection and completion of the north-south rail corridor — meaning the connection of Chabahar to Zahedan and Zahedan to the national and international rail networks — is not merely a domestic event, but a sign of trust in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is evident in all our visits to neighboring and surrounding countries," Sadeq Malvajerd said.

She described the rail project linking Chabahar to the national rail network as vital,



The photo released on January 22, 2026, shows the start of rail-laying operations at Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar, Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

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saying completion of the corridor would meet long-standing public demands while delivering major infrastructure gains and economic growth for the port.

Sadeq Malvajerd added that the project was strategically significant and ultimately converged on Chabahar Port, where long-standing commitments had now materialized.

"This is a highly strategic project that ultimately leads to Chabahar Port, where

promises and commitments made in past years have now been fulfilled," she said.

Referring to government efforts to develop transport and housing infrastructure, the minister said, "More than 14 projects in the fields of infrastructure, equipment and maritime safety at Chabahar Port have been completed, which represents significant developments."

Sadeq Malvajerd also noted a more than 110% increase in the unloading of essential

goods at the port. In a related development, 304 residential units under Iran's national housing movement were delivered in Chabahar. Each unit covers 140 square meters and was built, benefiting around 1,200 local residents.

On Thursday, Sadeq Malvajerd also ordered the start of rail-laying operations at Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar, funded by the Ports and Maritime Organization. According to IRNA,

the initial phase includes 24 kilometers of substructure and 11 kilometers of track installation.

The rail project aims to connect the Makran coastline to Iran's national rail grid and the International North-South Transport Corridor. Its objectives include accelerating the export of essential, containerized, and petroleum goods, increasing vessel intake capacity, and enhancing the port's operational efficiency.



Ali Madanizadeh

## Minister: Forex income funds to be opened in stock market 'in coming days'

## Economy Desk

Iran's Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh announced the imminent launch of three foreign exchange income funds in the stock market that will offer investors returns in hard currency.

"These three forex funds, which function similarly to fixed-income funds, will become operational in the capital market in the coming days," Madanizadeh said in an interview with IRNA.

"Their structure mirrors that of fixed-income funds, but they generate returns in foreign currency, and their implementation has been finalized."

He added that regulatory approvals have already been granted to the three funds and that they are expected to begin operations within days, though detailed information will be provided by the Securities and Exchange Organization. According to the minister, the funds will collect foreign currency from the public — including banknotes and transferable foreign exchange — and distribute forex-denominated returns to unitholders. "All citizens will be able to invest in these funds," he said.

## Iran-Africa trade jumps 23% with Algeria's role as key partner



## Economy Desk

Iran's trade with the African continent grew by 23% in the first eight months of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, driven by a more than fivefold increase in commerce with Algeria, according to Saeed Zare Haqiqi, head of Iran's Commercial Office in Algiers.

"According to official statistics, Iran's trade volume with Africa during the first eight months of this year rose by 23%, with exports increasing from \$470 million to \$850 million," Zare Haqiqi said in an interview with IRNA. He added that imports from the continent declined, falling from \$72 million to \$45 million over the same period.

He highlighted Algeria's growing role, noting that bilateral trade surged from around \$2 mil-

lion to \$11 million in the same timeframe. "This figure reflects a fivefold increase in trade between Iran and Algeria," he said. Zare Haqiqi described Africa as a major strategic destination for Iran's private sector, calling it a "significant economic opportunity" with Algeria holding a "key position" within the region.

"Algeria is a secure country with a strategic location near Europe," he said. "Its foreign exchange earnings have risen from around \$50 billion to over \$300 billion in recent years, and the country now maintains a trade surplus of \$20-30 billion, creating substantial opportunities for economic cooperation."

He emphasized that sustainable economic collaboration must be based on mutual benefit. "Sustainable trade between Iran and Algeria will only materialize

when our economic relations are bilateral and grounded in shared interests," he said. "In this context, barter arrangements and diverse financing mechanisms are also viable options."

Zare Haqiqi also underscored the role of trade exhibitions in market development. "Specialized trade fairs are among the most important tools for expanding markets," he said. "Our plan involves regularly organizing reputable exhibitions at fixed intervals, targeted invitations to economic actors, and operational support for traders to ensure tangible outcomes."

He stressed the importance of logistics, financing, facilitating cross-border payments, and maintaining newly established markets as critical pillars for advancing trade ties.

## SATBA: Clean energy capacity exceeds 3,700 MW

## Economy Desk

Iran's installed renewable energy capacity has surpassed 3,700 megawatts, though approximately 870 megawatts of that total have not yet been officially recognized due to lengthy administrative and grid-connection procedures, according to Mohsen Tarzalab, head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

"Currently, about 3,400 megawatts out of the 3,700 megawatts of installed renewable capacity are being injected into the national power grid," Mehr news agency quoted Tarzalab as saying on Thursday.

The deputy minister of energy attributed the discrepancy to time-consuming protocols within the Ministry of Energy and grid management processes. A meeting has been held with officials from the power grid management and the electricity sector of the Ministry of Energy to accelerate these procedures, he said. Tarzalab added that the country aims to reach 5,200 megawatts of renewable capacity by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2026). "However, we are working to achieve a significantly higher figure by February 20," he said. Masoud Pezeshkian's government aims to install

30,000 MW of non-fossil capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year. According to the Energy Ministry, the country is expected to face a power shortfall of between 17,000 and 20,000 megawatts next year.

The government has also urged manufacturers to step up investment in solar power. About 60% of the total electricity used by industrial subscribers during the past month was outsourced from distribution companies and regional power firms, according to Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company (Tavanir).



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