

Tehran, Ashgabat discuss transport, energy deals, form joint committee



Economy Desk

Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq on Tuesday discussed implementing bilateral agreements with Turkmenistan in transport, energy, gas, electricity and infrastructure development during meetings with senior Turkmen officials, while the two sides agreed to establish a joint committee to follow up on the deals, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

During her visit to Ashgabat, Sadeq met Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, Transport Minister Mammetkhan Chakyev and the Turkmen co-chair of the two countries' Joint Economic Cooperation Commission.

"The meetings reviewed issues including improving the

quality and capacity of transport fleets, developing infrastructure across all transport sectors, as well as matters related to energy, gas and electricity."

She said the two sides also agreed to establish a committee under the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission to follow up on the issues discussed and facilitate their implementation.

Separately, Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Berdimuhamedov and Sadeq reaffirmed their commitment to the continued development of constructive relations between the two neighboring countries.

According to the statement, Berdimuhamedov described Sadeq's meetings with Turkmen officials as an important step toward the further development of bilateral ties.

The ministry said the two sides noted that dialogue between Tehran and Ashgabat was developing on the basis of mutual respect and understanding, both bilaterally and within international organi-

zations, including the United Nations.

It added that the two countries emphasized the importance of trade and economic relations and highlighted the key role of the Joint Intergovernmental Economic Cooperation Commission in expanding bilateral cooperation and advancing implementation of agreements reached at the highest levels.

In a separate meeting, Sadeq and Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, who co-chair the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, reviewed the current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation within international organizations, particularly the United Nations, Iran's Roads and Urban Development Ministry said.

The two sides also discussed trade and economic issues, exchanged views on strengthening the role of the commission, and reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, the ministry said.



Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq (L) and Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov pose for a photo after their meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on July 28, 2026.

● IRNA

Top copper firm holds one-fifth of world's projects under construction

Iran ranks first globally in 'committed' copper development capacity



● IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran's National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) holds 10 of the world's 51 copper development projects currently under construction, the highest number of any company globally, a senior executive said, adding that all of Iran's projects are classified at the highest investment confidence level.

According to the latest assessment, the global copper industry has 51 development projects under construction in 2026 with a combined capacity of 7 million metric tons of contained copper, of which 10 projects belong to NICICO, Gholamreza Molataheri, the company's deputy for strategic planning and development, said at the company's recent extraordinary general meeting.

614,000 tons copper capacity by 2030

Molataheri said NICICO accounted for 9% of the world's copper development capacity.

"Iran, with 614,000 metric tons of copper mine development capacity by 2030, ranks third globally in cop-

per development project capacity after Chile and Peru," he said.

"However, all of Iran's development projects are classified at the highest investment confidence level, 'Committed,' placing the country first in the world in terms of committed copper development project capacity."

"Between 2026 and 2030, the National Iranian Copper Industries Company plans to implement 10 committed projects, which will add 2.723 million metric tons of concentrate production capacity and 614,000 metric tons of contained copper production capacity to the country's output upon completion."

More than 5.6b euros in development contracts

Molataheri said NICICO currently had more than 5.6 billion euros in development contracts under implementation.

"About 189 million euros worth of these projects came on stream last year, while the remaining projects will be completed and gradually brought into production this year and in the coming years," he said.

Iran-China chambers agree on joint trade, logistics centers

Energy Desk

The Tehran Chamber of Commerce and China's Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce agreed to expand trade and logistics cooperation and establish joint business initiatives during the opening of the Chinese chamber's representative office in Tehran, officials said on Tuesday.

The agreements, announced at the ceremony, include establishing a joint trade center, opening business service centers in Iran and China, creating a joint logistics service center, launching a shared business information platform and setting up a permanent exhibition of Iranian products in the Khorgos Free Trade Zone. The opening of the representative office followed meetings between a Khorgos trade delegation, led by Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce President Ma Fuming, and Iranian businesses in the transport and logistics, e-commerce and dried fruit sectors, as well as customs officials, according to IRNA.

During the meetings, the two sides reviewed progress in implementing previous agreements. The two business chambers have recently called for greater use of the Khorgos dry port in China's Xinjiang region, on the border with Kazakhstan, to strengthen Iran's role in international transport corridors.



Tehran Chamber of Commerce President Mahmoud Najafi Arab (R) and Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce President Ma Fuming pose for a photo following a meeting in Tehran on July 28, 2026.

● IRNA

'An important step'

Ma described the establishment of the representative office and a joint trade center between the two chambers as an important step toward expanding economic cooperation and facilitating bilateral trade.

"Experts based at this office will provide Chinese companies with services including tax and legal consulting, customs clearance assistance and other trade-related services," Ma said.

"In the next phase, the Khorgos International Chamber of Commerce will open an office in Khorgos for the Tehran Chamber of Commerce to provide Iranian companies with services including trade settlement, transport, customs, taxation, laws and regulations, and other support needed to facilitate cross-border trade and economic cooperation."

Ma said the delegation's talks with Iranian business representatives had resulted in several agreements to expand cooper-

ation, including establishing a joint trade center and business service centers in both countries.

"Another agreement is to establish a joint logistics service center to provide the infrastructure needed for transport and logistics projects between the two countries," he said.

"In addition, both sides also agreed to establish a shared information platform to give Iranian and Chinese companies direct access to regulations, business opportunities and other information needed for economic cooperation."

Khorgos tax, logistics advantages

Tehran Chamber of Commerce President Mahmoud Najafi Arab said the chamber had long sought to develop alternative trade routes and complete international trade corridors, adding that expanding cooperation with the Khorgos Free Trade Zone, jointly developed by China and Kazakhstan, had become part of that strategy.