## 'Chabahar capable of competing internationally as a logistic hub'

Making the remarks in a recent meeting with Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, Abdol-Karim Kordi has said, "We have already contracts worth 12.4 trillion rials (about \$295.2 million) signed on some projects to develop infrastructures in Chabahar and also ".memorandums of understanding worth 25 trillion rials (about \$595.2 million) in this field

Fortunately, the laws and regulations in Chabahar Free Zone can expedite and facilitate investment .making and financing the projects in this zone, the official has underlined

The government's will for the development of infrastructures in Chabahar has led to the attraction of investors to the zone, in a way that over the past three years, besides some large petrochemical and steel projects, contracts have been signed on investment making for over 500 projects, Kordi further .announced

Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran, so the government has some major projects to create multi-dimensional transportation facilities in this .port

The port has two significant docks, namely Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari, which are mostly referred to as ports, i.e. Shahid Beheshti Port and Shahid Kalantari Port

Development of Shahid Beheshti Port, construction of Chabahar International Airport, and building Chabahar-Zahedan (center of Sistan-Baluchestan Province) railway are three of the major projects

to make Chabahar a complete logistics platform

In addition, Chabahar Free Zone has been suggested as a transit and logistic gateway for Iran's domestic market which, while reducing the cost and time of transportation it has also provided profitable economic opportunities in the development of logistics facilities

Chabahar Free Zone is a multi-purpose zone with educational, industrial, tourism and .transportation sectors

Chabahar Free Zone Organization has a plan for the development of specialized industrial parks with the participation of the private sector in the fields of industry, logistics, education, healthcare, tourism, etc., which the establishment of logistics industrial park is followed in the framework of upstream programs and documents

At present Chabahar Free Zone is considered as a transit gateway in eastern Iran and based on national plans and also the interest shown by international parties, it is noteworthy as a center for .providing logistics support, transportation and transit services

Chabahar Free Zone with the aim of facilitating trade and minimizing transportation costs and focusing on services has allocated 150 hectares of land to create a logistics industrial park. This industrial park will be assigned to the international investors and or Iran-foreign joint venture

Considering the geographical location, this industrial park can be connected to the Chabahar railway and will be established to have full support services. Centers such as public warehouses, cold storages, special warehouses for storing liquid and bulk goods, container warehouses, required .laboratories, as well as personnel service facilities have been predicted

Chabahar-Zahedan railway is going to go operational in the next Iranian calendar year (begins in .(March 2021

The track-laying operation of the railroad from the Chabahar side was started on Wednesday in a .ceremony attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami

