



Raisi, Putin discuss joint vaccine production, hope to meet soon

# IRAN DAILY



Iran's four-month trade with SCO countries tops \$9.8b: IRICA

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## Gov't sets target to double non-oil exports income



IRNA

The Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade has devised a new plan to double the country's annual income from the export of non-oil products, the government announced on Tuesday.

During a meeting of the government's Economic Coordination Headquarters, President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his economic team discussed the modification of trade and currency policies and ways to boost non-oil exports.

According to a plan formulated by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, a target was set to increase the annual income from the export of non-oil commodities, from \$35 billion to \$70 billion,

Tasnim News Agency reported.

The initiative spells out how the income could rise with a reform of the export regulations and structures, the high-tech and knowledge-based products' bigger share in exports, and stronger support for border markets.

Speaking at the meeting, Raisi called on the Industry Ministry and Agriculture Ministry to look for short-, mid- and long-term plans in order to settle the problems affecting the livelihoods of the people.

The president also urged the cabinet ministries to coordinate strategies and publicize their "transformation plans" prepared in cooperation with experts and

economic activists.

In an address in February 2020, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei stressed the need to stop the Iranian economy's dependence on oil, saying, "I saw in reports that they (in the West) recommend preventing Iran from achieving a non-oil economy. Among themselves, it is said that they should not let Iran experience a non-oil economy. They recommend that they should develop a secret means - if they don't want to remove the sanctions - to find a way to prevent Iran from becoming completely independent of oil exports because, if Iran becomes independent, it will develop a non-oil economy."

## GOP congressmen ask Blinken to resign over Afghanistan evacuation

Three different Republican congressmen told Secretary of State Antony Blinken to his face on Monday that he should resign over his handling of the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

During a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in which Blinken testified, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., blamed President Joe Biden's administration for allowing the Taliban to take over Afghanistan and turning it into a "safe haven for murderous terrorists," Fox News reported.

Wilson also blasted the administration for the crisis at the U.S. southern border, which he said allows individuals on the FBI's terrorist watch list "to enter American neighborhoods as lone wolf suicide bombers to murder as many Americans as possible."

"In American history, American families have never been at a greater risk of attack at home than today," Wilson told Blinken. "The global war on terrorism is not over, it has been moved from abroad to American homes. As the grateful father of an Afghanistan veteran, I especially see your actions as indefensible."

Wilson slammed the administration for pulling U.S. troops out of Bagram Air Base, which was handed back to the Afghan government on July 1 before it was overtaken by the Taliban on Aug. 15. He said that decision was directly responsible for the Aug. 26 suicide bombing attack in Kabul.

to Wilson's call for resignation but thanked him for expressing appreciation at the beginning of his statement for the U.S. Foreign Service diplomats all over the world that serve under the State Department.

Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., also called on Blinken to resign.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken testifies virtually in a House Foreign Affairs Committee on Capitol Hill on September 13, 2021 in Washington, D.C.

"Your bizarre abandoning of Bagram Airfield led directly to 13 Marines murdered at Kabul," he said. "You should resign."

The attack by Daesh terrorists killed 11 U.S. marines, one army soldier, and one navy corpsman.

Blinken didn't respond

"We have an administration that does not know how to confront an adversary, understanding that they do not respect weakness, they only respect strength," he said. "And it is so greatly unfortunate, the consequences, and I believe that you, sir, should resign. That would be leadership."

Later in the hearing, Republican Tennessee Rep. Tim Burchett also called on Blinken to resign.

Blinken defended Biden's decision to pull out of Afghanistan and pushed back on accusations that the State Department should have done more to help Americans and at-risk Afghans to be evacuated, blaming the previous administration for lacking a plan, according to AFP.

He repeatedly noted that Republican former president Donald Trump had negotiated the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban, and defended the Biden administration's failure to renegotiate the deal, insisting that threats from the hard-line group to resume killing Americans were a security threat.

"There's no evidence that staying longer would have made the Afghan security forces or the Afghan government any more resilient or self-sustaining," Blinken said.

"We inherited a deadline. We did not inherit a plan," Blinken said, referring to the Trump administration's agreement to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by May 1.

### National Desk

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) traveled to the southern province of Hormuzgan where he inspected new projects under construction at Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant.

Mohammad Eslami visited the second and third units of the facility on Tuesday and underlined the need to accelerate their construction, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The Bushehr plant started operating in 2011 and reached full capacity the following year, but Iran and Russia agreed to expand it.

They signed a number of documents in November 2014 for the construction of up to eight new nuclear power plants at the site and expand cooperation in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy, Press TV reported.

In November 2017, Iran began building two more nuclear reactors in a joint project with Russia's Rosatom energy firm in Bushehr.

The country's aim is to build 20,000 megawatts of nuclear power capacity to meet its growing electricity demand and save more oil for exports.

According to ISNA, Eslami and his entourage later flew to Isfahan to pay a visit to the nuclear facility in the cen-

## AEOI chief visits projects at Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, Isfahan atomic site



Mohammad Eslami (C), the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), visits Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on September 14, 2021.

tral city.

He took a tour of various parts of the Isfahan nuclear site, including the

zero-power reactor, the miniature neutron source reactor and the light water subcritical reactor.

## US much to blame for

## Afghanistan's instability, insecurity: Iran FM



AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the United States is to blame for a major part of instability and insecurity in Afghanistan.

The top diplomat made the remarks in his address to a virtual conference on Afghanistan that was being hosted by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Today, all of us are faced with new circumstances and a new challenge in Afghanistan," Amir-Abdollahian said, according to Press TV.

"An important part of the factor that has driven instability, insecurity, and the current disorderly situation in Afghanistan is rooted in the United States' trial-and-error-ridden policies and mistakes in Afghanistan," he added.

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## Putin condemns foreign troops in Syria in Assad meeting



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on September 13, 2021.

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the presence of foreign troops in Syria without the approval of Damascus or a UN mandate, during an unannounced meeting with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad in Moscow, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

"The main problem, in my view, is that foreign armed forces remain in certain regions of the country without the approval of the United Nations and without your permission," Putin told Assad during their meeting in Moscow on Monday, for the first time since 2015, according to a Kremlin statement.

The two presidents also met in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in 2017.

Putin hailed Russia and Syria's "joint efforts" in the

conflict, saying their militaries had returned the vast majority of Syrian territory to government control, AFP reported.

"Terrorists have suffered very serious significant damage, and the Syrian government, headed by you, controls 90 percent of the country's territory," Putin told Assad.

Russia has been a key ally of Syria throughout the foreign-backed conflict that erupted in 2011.

Russia's military assistance in 2015 at Assad's request helped turn the tide of the war in favour of the Syrian government and Moscow maintains military bases in the country.

Turkish troops control swathes of land along Turkey's southern border after seizing them from Syrian Kurdish militants during a decade-old conflict.

Turkish soldiers have also been deployed at monitoring points around the last major militant bastion of Idlib in the northwest of the country.

A US-led coalition is also based in the northeast of the country.

Iranian advisers and the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah are also present at the request of Damascus and have helped the Syrian Army.

The Syrian president told Putin it was a "great honor" to meet with him in Moscow and praised military cooperation and work on "the return of refugees who were forced to leave their homes and leave their homeland".

The Syrian presidency said the two leaders were joined in their talks by Syria's Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad and Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

In a statement, it said the two sides discussed the importance of reaching political agreements "between Syrians and without any foreign interference".

Putin said he hoped Assad would continue "dialogue with your political opponents".

"Only the consolidation of all forces in Syria will allow the country to get back on its feet," he said.

The Syrian presidency added that Putin and Assad had discussed "economic cooperation," while the Russian president praised his country's deliveries of coronavirus vaccines.