

Iran's saffron industry: Selling raw, fueling competitors



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# UN deputy chief hails Iran's cooperation on humanitarian crises



## **Quadrilateral meeting emphasizes** continuation of fight against terrorism in Syria

Russia on Tuesday hosted four-way talks aimed at normalizing ties between Ankara and Damascus, which were severed at the start of the foreign-backed war in Syria in 2011.

"Practical steps were discussed in the field of strengthening security in the Syrian Arab Republic and normalizing Syrian-Turkish relations," Iran's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

According to the statement, the participants also discussed the fight against all forms of terrorism, the fight against the Daesh terrorist group, and other extremist groups in Syria, IRNA reported.

In a similar statement the Turkish Defense Ministry pointed to the "constructive atmosphere" of the meeting during which the parties discussed "the issue of intensifying efforts

to return Syrian refugees to their land," according

All participants "reaffirmed their respect for Syria's territorial integrity," the Turkish ministry

added. In Damascus, the Syrian Defense Ministry said in a statement carried by state media that the "quartet meeting of the defense ministers" had discussed "the withdrawal of Turkish forces" from Syria. Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Qaraei Ashtiani, who arrived in Moscow on Monday evening, was present at the meeting.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had amicable relations in the 2000s after years of tensions between their countries following the breakup of the Ottoman Empire.

VADIM SAVITSKY/RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY

But Syria's war, which has left 500,000 people dead and displaced millions, strained relations between Damascus and Ankara, which has long supported rebel groups opposed to the Syrian government.

With Russian and Iranian support. Syria has won back much of the territory it lost in the early stages of the conflict.

#### Minister: Iran, Saudi Arabia have resumed trade

Iran's Minister of Industries, Mines and Trade Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin said that Iran and Saudi Arabia have begun trade relations after the two countries recently agreed to restore diplomatic ties. In an interview with IRNA, Fatemi Amin said that Iran had begun the process of exporting goods to Saudi Arabia after a Chinese-brokered thaw in relations between the two countries.

Recently, a senior Iranian businessman said Iran and Saudi Arabia plan to form a joint chamber of commerce to boost bilateral trade.

Keyvan Kashefi, a member of the presiding board of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA),

said that the private sector in Iran has already started planning for increased trade relations with businesses in Saudi Arabia.

Top security officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement in the Chinese capital Beijing in early March to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries after seven years. The agreement stipulated that Iran and Saudi Arabia would reopen their embassies within two months, to allow a full normalization of ties.

Kashefi said ICCIMA's initiative to set up the Iran-Saudi Arabia Joint Chamber of Commerce will be a major step toward the advancement of economic cooperation between the two countries.

#### Iran: US unilateral actions violate UN Charter, threaten multilateralism



Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations said unilateral measures taken by the United States are against the UN Charter while threatening multilateralism in the world.

Amir Saeed Iravani made the remarks in a Monday address delivered during a **UN Security Council debate** on multilateralism, Press TV reported.

"Multilateralism has been recognized as a well-established approach to addressing global challenges and effective multilateralism ... is essential for ensuring international peace and security," he said.

The official, however, warned that the integrity and effectiveness of multilateralism are undermined by the abuse of the UN system and selective application of international law, which pose a serious threat to international cooperation, peace, and security.

"Within this context, the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the ICPOA, re-imposition of illegal unilateral sanctions on Iran, its coercion of other countries to engage in these illegal actions, and defiance of the International Court of Justice's order are striking examples of how such harmful unilateral acts violate the UN system and threaten multilateralism." Iran's am-

bassador said.



President Joseph Biden's strengths and weaknesses





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### Türkiye does not join West's sanctions against Iran, Russia: Turkish FM



ANADOLU AGENCY

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara does not join Western sanctions against Iran and Russia.

The Turkish foreign minister made the remarks in an interview with TV100.

Cavusoglu said that the Turkish opposition has announced its intention to join anti-Russian sanctions. But he asked whether the move

would benefit Türkiye?

"We rejected Russia's attack on Ukraine and expressed our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity. backing resolutions at the UN and anywhere else. We maintain our ties with Russia and don't compromise our principles or fundamental policies. We don't join the sanctions against Russia or Iran." he said.

#### Biden announces 2024 reelection bid

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday formally announced that he is running for reelection in 2024, asking voters to give him more time to "finish this job" and extend the run of America's oldest president for another four years. Biden, who would be 86 at the end of a second term, is betting his first-term legislative achievements and more than 50 years of experience in

Washington will count for more than concerns over his age. He faces a smooth path to winning his party's nomination, with no serious Democratic rivals. But he's still set for a hardfought struggle to retain the presidency in a bitterly divided nation. according to AP.

The announcement, in a three-minute video. comes on the four-year anniversary of when Biden declared for the

White House in 2019, promising to heal the "soul of the nation" amid the turbulent presidency of Donald Trump — a goal that has remained elusive. "I said we are in a

battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Biden said. "The question we are facing is whether in the years ahead we have more freedom or less freedom. More rights or fewer."