

Tehran, Moscow make progress on financial, trade ties

Economy Desk

Iran's economy minister said on Monday that talks with his Russian counterpart had produced significant openings on financial and foreign-exchange issues, as the two countries seek to facilitate trade and investment. Ali Madanizadeh, who traveled to Moscow for bilateral and multilateral consultations, described his meeting with Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov as "good and transparent" and said he would take the results of the talks back to Tehran for further follow-up, IRNA reported. Madanizadeh said the implementation of two new initiatives would turn customs offices from places where goods are held into transit points, emphasizing efforts to streamline trade procedures. He also said Iran had proposed sending a group of educated Iranian workers seeking employment to Russia. He said Iran's ambassador in Moscow would follow up on the proposal.

The talks also focused on investment opportunities in Iran's strategic and high-return industries, as well as ways to facilitate financial and commercial exchanges between the two countries, Madanizadeh said. He described his meeting with Siluanov as "very good" and said the two sides had reached good agreements. Madanizadeh also attended a meeting with Iranian businesspeople and traders based in Russia on Monday. On the sidelines of the meeting, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said Russia had significant economic potential for Iran, including as a market for Iranian purchases of essential goods. "The trend in bilateral trade over the past several years has been positive, and given Russia's large market, serious commercial activity between the two countries has begun," Jalali said. Jalali stressed the need to remove obstacles to expanding trade with Russia by improving

market knowledge, developing transit infrastructure, resolving customs problems, facilitating monetary and banking exchanges and improving logistics. He also pointed to government efforts to strengthen transport infrastructure along the International North-South Transport Corridor, citing efforts to advance an agreement to build the Rasht-Astara railway. Iran is making serious efforts to accelerate the project, Jalali said, describing it as a "project that the Russian side has said can be completed within three years." Russian Transport Minister Andrei Nikitin said in June that shipments from Russia to Iran through the International North-South Transport Corridor rose more than 56% in the first four months of 2026, while total



freight traffic along the corridor increased 87%. Russian Ambassador to Iran Alexey Dedov also said in June that bilateral trade reached about \$5.8 billion in 2025, up 21% from the previous year. He said the positive trend continued in the first four months of 2026, when bilateral trade grew 2% despite disruptions to some logistics chains.

First phase of Asaluyeh desalination plant goes on stream



Economy Desk

Iran has brought online the first phase of a desalination plant in the southern province of Bushehr, with initial production capacity of 5,000 cubic meters of water per day, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday. The facility, located in Asaluyeh, will eventually double output to 10,000 cubic meters per day using domestic expertise, Aliabadi said at a commissioning ceremony, according to ISNA. Construction began in March and reached the operational stage in under a year, a timeline the minister described as an example of effective project management. He said Iran would tap all available capacity to produce drinking water through desalination, relying on local technology and know-how, with further expansion planned in

later phases. Aliabadi said the plant uses reverse osmosis (RO) technology and is equipped with self-cleaning pretreatment systems to boost efficiency and extend equipment lifespan. The project is part of a broader push to address Iran's severe drought. Bushehr province, with its extensive coastline and the concentration of much of the country's oil, gas and petrochemical industries in the Asaluyeh region, holds significant potential for developing desalination facilities and using seawater as a sustainable water source. The Energy Ministry has made expanding desalination facilities a key strategy for tapping non-conventional water resources, including large-scale transfers of desalinated water from the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf to eastern and

Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (c) inaugurates the first phase of a desalination plant in Asaluyeh, Bushehr Province, on September 8, 2026. ● ISNA

southern regions. A nationwide program launched in 2021 includes five desalinated seawater transfer lines to help ease water shortages. As of July, Iran's total desalination capacity exceeded 658,000 cubic meters per day, according to Hashem Amini, head of the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company. Amini said in mid-July that 109 desalination projects were in operation, under construction, or in the planning stages across 14 provinces, playing a role in stabilizing drinking water supplies, especially in coastal and water-scarce areas.

Minister: Russian, Kazakh investment in Incheh Borun strengthens Iran's transit outlook

Economy Desk

Iran's transport minister said on Tuesday that the presence of Russian and Kazakh investors at Iran's Incheh Borun logistics hub in the northern province of Golestan highlights the area's promising prospects as a transit route for cargo from China and Central Asian countries to Europe. Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony to sign investment documents for the logistics center, IRNA reported. Sadeq stressed the strategic importance of Incheh Borun, saying it was more than a border terminal and could serve as a gateway to Central Asian and Eurasian countries. "Incheh Borun is a very strategic gateway to the Central Asian and Eurasian countries and can play a role as a source of Chinese cargo to Iran and from Iran to Europe," she said. Sadeq said a legal issue that had for several years prevented the logistics



center from fully using its capacity had been resolved with the help of the presidential legal affairs office. Shortly after the issue was resolved, the first three investors, including a Russian company, a Kazakh company and an Iranian investor, took steps to begin operations at the center, she said. Sadeq also pointed to Iran's transit potential along the North-South and northeast-west corridors, saying new investments would turn the area's potential into actual capacity and significantly increase transit and logistics activity. Asked about the impact of foreign investment on the development of

the corridors, Sadeq said Russia and Kazakhstan had cargo entering Iran from China and Central Asian countries. Investment at the site, she added, showed that the outlook for north-eastern Iran was favorable. She said the impact of the investments would extend beyond warehousing and logistics activities, leading to increased transit, stronger business activity and new forms of economic activity by the private sector, which she said would help strengthen the country's economic security. Sadeq also pointed to the government's policy of increasing private-sector participation. "The president has repeatedly emphasized that real development is driven by the private sector and that the government should play the role of regulator and facilitator," she said. She said the approach was now being implemented in the rail and railway sector, adding that its effects would soon be seen in the expansion of the rail network and increased transit.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440048

Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
01	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 12-1/4 IN., I.A.D.C.5.1.7	35	NO
02	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-1/2 IN., I.A.D.C.5.1.7	100	NO
03	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-3/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 5.1.7	80	NO
04	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 8-3/8 TO 12-1/4 INCH	225	NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 25,018.17 EURO or 42,744,220,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI. IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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