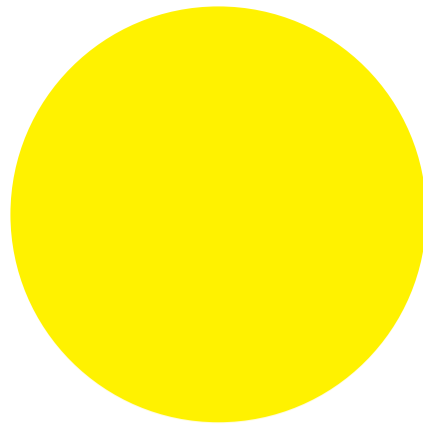




Envoy: Azerbaijan won't let airports be used against Iran 2 >

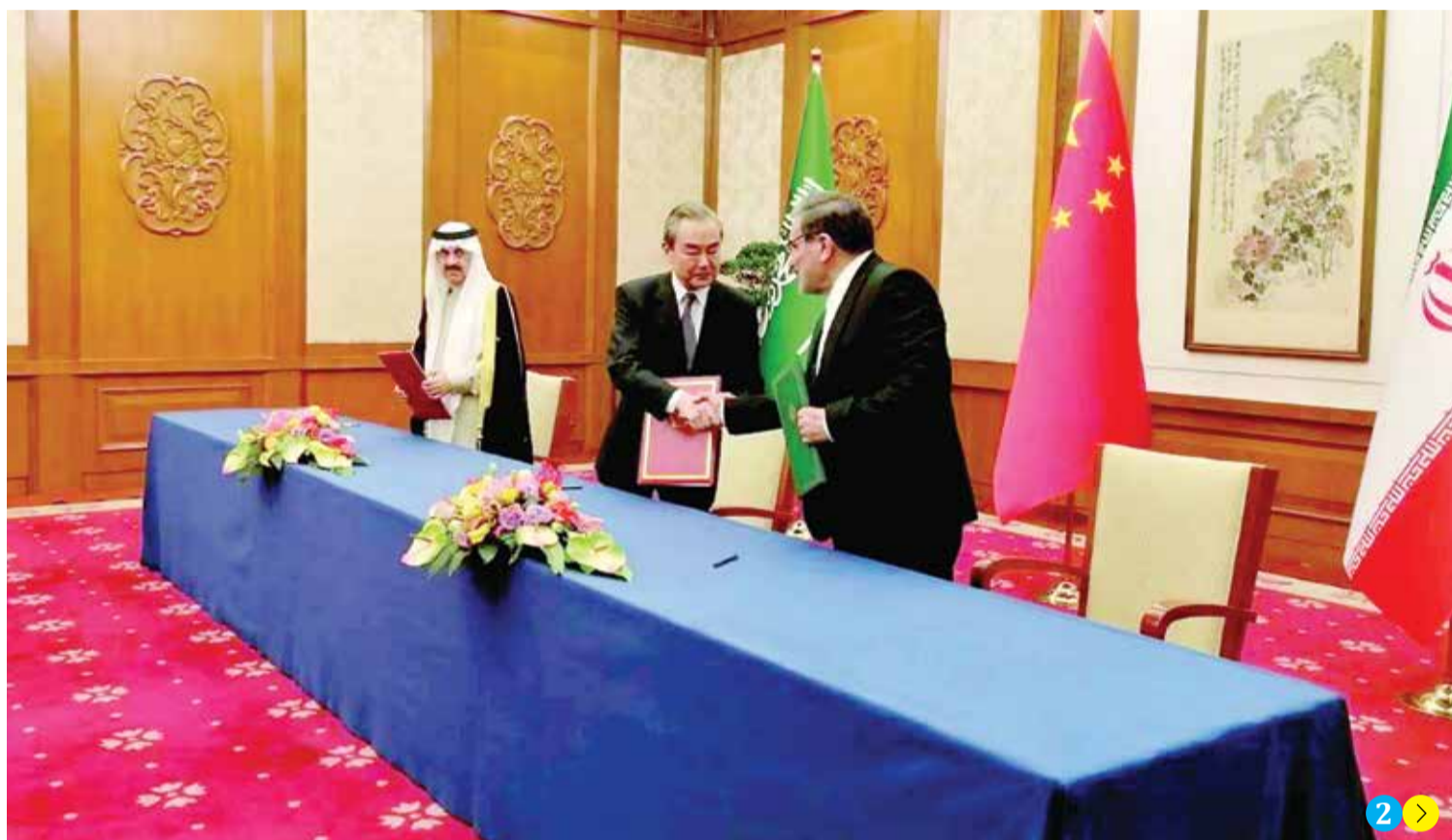


Prominent researcher Abdullah Anwar passed at 98 12 >



Iran Daily

Iran, Saudi Arabia Agree to Resume Diplomatic Ties in Two Months



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (r) shakes hands with China's top diplomat Wang Yi in Beijing, China, on March 10, 2023, as Musaid Al Aiban, Saudi Arabia's national security adviser, looks on. 2 >

Fresh horizon for Tehran-Riyadh relations



The recent developments in the international system have created an impetus to foster better relations between countries, especially those sharing similar threats and interests within the same region. And diplomatic ties are extended by nations to reap greater benefits. The absence of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, two dominant nations in the Muslim world, for almost seven years has had adverse effects on both parties. It has presented an opening for extra-regional powers, including Israel, to capitalize on "Iranophobia" and "Islamophobia" in the region. Direct negotiations have been the best strategy for resolving differences between Tehran and Riyadh. To this end, Iranian and Saudi delegations have held talks, hosted by Iraq over the last two years, to reach an agreement and resume diplomatic ties. During Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi's recent visit to Beijing, which has amicable relations with both Tehran and Riyadh, it was agreed to take practical steps to bring the two regional powers closer together. China has welcomed the initiative, and a trilateral statement was issued for the reopening of embassies. Page 2 >

New warship, missile-launching boats join IRGC Navy



Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy took delivery of a new ocean-going warship and scores of missile-launching speed boats. Equipped with offensive and defensive systems, the Shahid Mahdavi warship was officially added to the IRGC Navy's fleet in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Thursday. Also, 95 Ashura- and Tareq-class missile-launching speed boats joined the IRGC Navy's fleet. IRGC Navy Chief Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said the warship is a heavy, multi-purpose and long-range vessel capable of carrying and operating all kinds of helicopters, drones, and high-speed missile launchers, as well as missile, defense and radar systems. The 2,100-ton warship has a length of 240 meters and a width of 27 meters, he said, adding that she is equipped with a 3-D-phased-array radar as well as surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, highly advanced electronic warfare telecommunications system, and Khordad-3 missile systems, all of which are designed and manufactured by young Iranian technicians. TASNIM

French strikes disrupt fuel deliveries, power supply for fourth day

Deliveries were blocked from leaving TotalEnergies' refineries and depots on Friday, a company spokesperson said, as workers extended a strike over planned pension reforms to a fourth day. About 40% of the morning shift of refinery operators were continuing the strike, the spokesperson said. Deliveries were also disrupted at the Fos refinery, operated by ExxonMobil



subsidary Esso, a spokesperson for hardline union CGT said. "The strike has been lifted at Port Jerome since Wednesday, but we are hopeful it will be there again next week," the CGT spokesperson said. Disruptions also continued at liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, with company Fluxys saying that their Dunkirk terminal jetty and truck loading bay were unavailable and delivery capacity was reduced to a minimum. The disruptions were expected to continue until Tuesday, Fluxys said. French power supply was also reduced by 14.4 gigawatts (GW) at nuclear, thermal and hydropower plants, a CGT spokesperson said. Power supply disruptions have lasted for over a week. That equates to 22% of current total power supply, data from grid operator RTE showed. REUTERS

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Georgia drops foreign agents law after massive protests



3 >

Science has the smudgy fingerprint of humanity all over it



EXCLUSIVE

6-7 >

Europe's banks sucked into global rout as high rates reality hits home



9 >

Iran's economy expands by 3.3% in nine months

Economy Desk

Iran's economy witnessed a notable expansion of 3.3% in the nine months to December 21, 2022, with the country's gross domestic product (GDP) reaching over 58,000 trillion rials. The growth, as reported by the Iranian government's statistics agency on Thursday, was largely driven by the non-oil sectors, which saw an increase of 2.9% year-on-year during the period. The manufacturing and mining sectors, in particular, showed a robust growth of 5.3% year-on-year in the three quarters to late



IRNA

December, according to the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI). The SCI, while calculating the GDP, considers fixed prices reported in 2011 as a baseline. In 2011, the U.S. dollar was valued at nearly 18,000 rials in the Iranian market, whereas its current value is around 498,000 rials. Page 8 >

Sexual assault reports rise at U.S. military academies

Reported sexual assaults at U.S. military academies shot up during the 2021-22 school year, and one in five female students told an anonymous survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact, The Associated Press has learned. A Pentagon report on alleged assaults at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies shows an overall 18% jump in assaults reported by students compared with the previous year. The increase was driven largely by the Navy, which had nearly double the number of reported assaults in 2022, compared with 2021. An anonymous student survey accompanying the report shows increases in all types of unwanted sexual contact - from



AP

touching to rape - at all the schools. And it cites alcohol as a key factor. The military services and the academies have struggled for years to combat sexual assault and harassment, with a myriad of prevention, education and treatment programs every year. But despite reams of research, recommendations and a shift to more independent prosecutions, the numbers continue to grow. Page 10 >