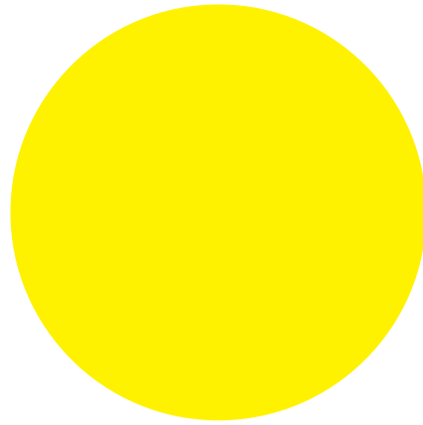




Leader sends message to Spanish speakers on book release 12 >



AFC U20 Asian Cup: Boring Iran loses to Iraq 5 >
EXCLUSIVE



Iran Daily

World Welcomes Iran - Saudi Detente as Israel Feels 'Fatal Blow'

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Protesters shield themselves with umbrellas during clashes with police on the sidelines of a demonstration as part of a nationwide day of strikes and protests called by unions over the proposed pensions overhaul in Nantes, western France, on March 11, 2023. 9 >
● SEBASTIEN SALOM-GOMIS/AFP

Positive changes in Mideast



Mostafa Mosleh-zadeh
Iran's ex-ambassador to Jordan
EXCLUSIVE

Iran and Saudi Arabia's recent agreement to normalize relations will undoubtedly have a positive impact on both countries as well as the region. To understand the relationship between the two regional powers, it is important to first take a look at the nature of the foreign policies adopted by Tehran and Riyadh. Iran pursues an independent strategy in the region and plays a role on the international stage, while Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is not independent since the United States exerts significant influence on it. As a result of this foundational difference in their foreign policy approaches, diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have seen ebbs and flows over the past four decades. The root of this fluctuation can be traced back to, on the one hand, the theoretical differences between the two political systems (Shia Iran vis-à-vis Sunni Saudi Arabia based on Wahhabism), and, on the other hand, the influence of the United States – with its hostility towards Iran – on Saudi Arabia's foreign policy. Recent developments, however, suggest that both Saudi Arabia and the US have come to recognize the need to implement strategic alterations in their policies pertaining to Iran and the wider region. Despite its concerted efforts over the past few years, Saudi Arabia has failed to achieve its anticipated success in the region, particularly in Yemen where the war has dragged on for seven years with no clear end in sight. Further away from home, the kingdom has similarly encountered significant obstacles in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Page 2 >

EXCLUSIVE

Iran-Saudi Reconciliation: Why in China?



Hongda Fan
Shanghai University professor

On March 10, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran issued a joint statement. The core content of this document is that Iran and Saudi Arabia finally reached a settlement agreement under the auspices of China. While the international community is generally surprised by the sudden breakthrough in the normalization process of Saudi-Iranian relations, China's role as a mediator has also shocked the world.

Why China?

Saudi Arabia and Iran have held several rounds of negotiations in Iraq and Oman, as is well known. At a time when more and more regions and countries are focusing their work on development and benefiting from it, the people of the Middle East, which have suffered from too much conflicts, are more eager for peace and development. As early as April 2021, Iran and Saudi Arabia began direct negotiations in Iraq. At the presidential inauguration ceremony in August 2021, President Ebrahim Raeisi stated that the diplomatic focus of the new Iranian government is to improve relations with regional countries: "I extend the 'hand of friendship and brotherhood' to all countries in the region, especially neighboring countries. At the time, the statement was widely seen as Iran's desire to improve relations with Saudi Arabia. Page 3 >

Iran mass produces homegrown training jet

National Desk

Iran's Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Saturday inaugurated the production line of the domestically designed Yasin training jet in Tehran. The aircraft, which was designed by the experts of Iran Aviation Industries Organization, is set to be used for fighter pilot training in various classes. According to Ashtiani, the homegrown characteristics of the training jet make it



● defapress.ir

suitable for close air support (CAS) of military aircraft against hostile targets. The jet's advanced military equipment are localized to improve training duration and quality, the minister noted.

Iran's Air Force Commander Hamid Vahedi said that the use of the Yasin training jet would allow for more comprehensive and shorter periods of training of fighter pilots.

The second prototype of the Yasin training jet was unveiled during the ceremony. The new version has been upgraded and developed in tactical terms with a homegrown ejection seat, avionics, engine, and landing gear. The Yasin training jet weighs 5.5 tons and can fly up to 1,200 kilometers. Its wing design allows the jet to land and take off at a speed of at least 200 kilometers per hour. The new jet training pro-

gram could bolster Iran's ability to train fighter pilots with no need for foreign assistance. Iran has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in recent years, manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment that makes the Armed Forces self-sufficient. The country has repeatedly emphasized that its defense capabilities, including its missile power, are entirely meant for defense and will not be subject to negotiations.



North Khorasan Province a center of grape production in Iran

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One of Silicon Valley's top banks fails; assets seized

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Iran's wheat production increased 28% in 2022

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Tunisian president to send ambassador to Syria



● REUTERS

Tunisian President Kais Saied has said he plans to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, more than a decade after they were broken off. "Nothing can justify the absence of a Tunisian ambassador in Damascus and an ambassador from Syria in Tunis," Saied said during a sit-down with Tunisian foreign minister Nabil Ammar. He added that the "question of the government in Syria concerns only

the Syrians", rejecting any interference in the affairs and "choices" of others. Saied had mentioned his intention to "reinforce the diplomatic representation" of Tunisia in Syria back in February. Tunisia expelled Syria's ambassador in 2012 after protests erupted against President Bashar al-Assad at the outset of the country's devastating war. In 2015, Tunisia took a step toward re-establishing relations when it designated a consular representative to Assad's government to "follow" the situation of Tunisians in Syria.

Iran-Oman annual trade to hit \$2b: Businesswoman



The annual bilateral trade of Iran and Oman is set to reach \$2 billion, according to the secretary general of the two countries' Joint Chamber of Commerce. Announcing the projection, Arzoo Jamali stated that boosting trade infrastructure, along with the development of a road map for economic relations, has played a significant role in increas-

ing trade. The growth of direct sea transportation lines has also helped increase Iran's imports from Oman, leading to a 44% rise in the import of goods during the first 10 months of the current Iranian (\$1.567 billion) compared to the same period last year (\$1.016 billion), according to her. Jamali predicted that the volume of trade between the two countries will continue to rise, potentially reaching \$2 billion by the end of the current Iranian year. "The increase in direct sea transportation lines, especially from the port of Jask to Oman's Al-Suwaiq Port, has provided suitable conditions for imports to the country." Page 8 >