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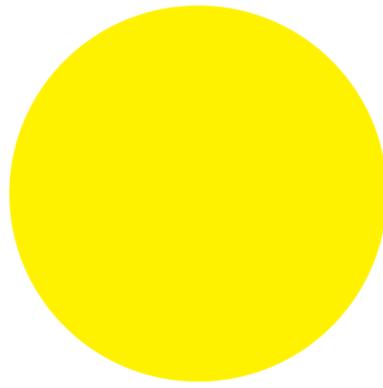
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Leader: States Under U.S. Sanctions Must Join Hands to Destroy Them

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said those countries that have been put under unilateral sanctions by the United States and its Western allies must join hands to destroy those sanctions. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Monday, according to Press TV. Explaining the existing

common grounds between Iran and Belarus, the Leader said imposition of bullying sanctions by the United States and some other Western states on Tehran and Minsk are one of those common grounds. "Countries that have been sanctioned by America must destroy the weapon of sanctions through cooperation with one another and forming a common group, and we believe this is possible," the Leader

said. Referring to the U.S. sanctions against Iran since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the imposition of the toughest sanctions during the past 12 years, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Severe sanctions made Iran aware of its own intrinsic capabilities and forces." "During the period of sanctions, many grounds for progress have been provided to Iran and our

country succeeded in making eye-catching advances in various fields, including science and technology, medicine and biology, aerospace, [as well as] nuclear [science] and nano[technology]," the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized, "If those countries that have been sanctioned by America make use of one another's capacities, it will have great benefits for all of them."

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) speaks to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (C) in a meeting attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on March 13, 2023. leader.ir

Iran's water crisis: Urgent measures for long-term sustainability



Reza Abesh Ahmadlou Staff writer

Iran is currently facing an acute water crisis that poses a significant threat to the country's long-term sustainability. Outdated irrigation practices, over-extraction of groundwater, and climate change are primary factors contributing to the depletion of Iran's water resources. According to some estimates, Iran could run out of water in as little as 25 years if corrective measures are not taken urgently.

To ensure the preservation of social - as well as wild - life in Iran's mainland, the government must take several steps to maintain and conserve the country's dwindling water supply. One of the most critical measures is to abandon outdated irrigation practices, such as flood irrigation, which wastes significant amounts of water due to its inefficient water usage. Adopting modern irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers, can meaningfully cut water wastage and improve water efficiency.

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Russia's economy holds up amid Western sanctions



AP

Western sanctions have hit Russian banks, wealthy individuals and technology imports. But after a year of far-reaching restrictions aimed at degrading Moscow's war chest, economic life for ordinary Russians doesn't look all that different than it did before the conflict in Ukraine. There's no mass unemployment, no plunging currency, no lines in front of failing banks. The assortment at the supermarket is little changed, with international brands still available or local substitutes taking their place, AP wrote on Monday.

Crowds might have thinned at some Moscow malls, but not drastically. Some foreign companies like McDonald's and Starbucks have been taken over by local owners who slapped different names on essentially the same menu.

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Chaharshanbe Suri Festival, a prelude to Nowruz

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Signature Bank becomes next casualty of banking turmoil after SVB

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'Everything Everywhere All at Once' triumphs at Oscars with major sweep

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Saudi Arabia tightens grip on Israel after deal with China



Saeed Azimi Staff writer

After a Chinese-mediated deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia on March 10 that broke a seven-year deadlock of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Riyadh, the region's power dynamics may have changed focus entirely.

In the most recent development in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia declined to issue visa for the Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and his accompanying delegation

who wanted to participate in the United Nations' World Tourism Organization conference, Axios reported.

According to the officials, Saudi Arabia told the World Tourism Organization that Cohen could attend the conference with two staffers. But when it came time to finalize Cohen's security arrangements - a typical step for any traveling Israeli minister - it became clear that the Saudis weren't going to have a serious discussion, the Israeli officials said. That forced Cohen to take the trip off his agenda.

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Iran, Iraq sign agreements to boost bilateral ties

Economy Desk

Iran and Iraq have signed new agreements in transportation, trade, power, electricity, gas, water, banking, and financial interactions during their fifth meeting of their joint economic commission, Iranian Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said Monday. Speaking at a joint press conference with Iraqi Trade Minister Atheer Daoud al-Ghurairy in Baghdad, Khandouzi said bilateral trade has increased by 20% over the last 11 months. He emphasized the positive cultural and economic interactions between the two neighboring nations, saying security and common cultural are the driving force behind the ongoing development of bilateral ties.

With more than seven million people traveling between the two countries as travelers and pilgrims, the strengthening of economic relations between Iran and Iraq is expected to continue to grow, Khandouzi added.

He also pointed out the similarities in the neighborhood diplomacy of the Iranian government and the policies of the Iraqi government, expressing hope that the steps taken in the past would continue, leading to further enhancement of relations between the two nations. The signing of the new agreements is expected to provide a significant boost to the economies of both Iran and Iraq and further promote cultural and economic ties between the two neighboring nations.