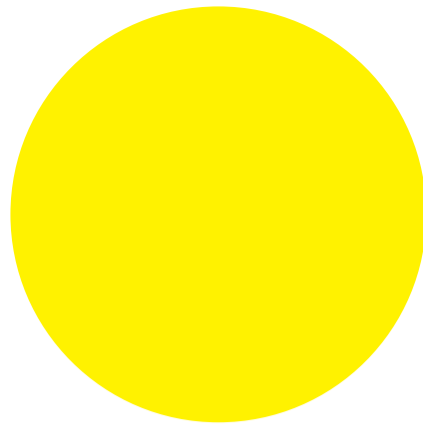




Iran Daily wishes all its readers a happy Nowruz; may the joys of spring fill your hearts and lighten up your souls.



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Putin hails Assad ties

Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad at the Kremlin in Moscow on March 15, 2023. Vladimir GERDO/SPUTNIK

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday hosted Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad for talks as the Kremlin seeks to mend ties between Damascus and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Ties between Erdogan and Assad were severed after

the outbreak of fighting in Syria in 2011. "We are in constant contact and our relations are developing," the Russian leader told Assad at the televised start of their meeting, hailing "significant results in the fight against international terrorism".

Assad said the visit would mark "a new facet" in his country's ties with Moscow. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier told reporters the talks would focus on bilateral ties but said "Türkiye-Syria relations will certainly be

touched upon in one way or another". Syria's war strained relations between Damascus and Ankara, which has long supported militant groups opposed to Assad. Erdogan has indicated he could meet with Assad, and their defense ministers

met in Moscow in December, in the first such talks since the Syrian war began. Diplomats from Russia, Türkiye, Syria and Iran are due to meet in Moscow this week to pave the way for a foreign ministers' meeting, according to Turkish media.

Saudi Arabia could invest in Iran 'very quickly': Finance minister



Saudi Arabia could start making investments in Iran "very quickly" after they agreed to restore diplomatic ties, the Saudi finance minister said on Wednesday.

Mohammed al-Jadaan said there were "a lot of opportunities" in Iran and that he couldn't see any reason to prevent investments taking place between the two Persian Gulf heavyweights.

"I would say quickly," he told the Financial Sector Conference in Riyadh, when asked how soon Saudi Arabia could start making "significant" investments in Iran.

"When people really stick to the principles of what was agreed, I think that that could happen very quickly."

In a Chinese-brokered announcement on Friday, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to work toward restoring ties and reopening diplomatic missions within two months.

The oil-rich regional powers severed relations in 2016 after Saudi's execution of a Shia cleric triggered protests in Iran. [Page 2 >](#)

Gas production of South Pars tops 240 bcm

Economy Desk

Iran's gas extraction from the South Pars Gas Field hit 241 billion cubic meters (bcm) during the first 11 months of the current Iranian year, said deputy head of the South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) which is in charge of developing the field's refineries.

Salman Khazaei added that currently 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) of gas condensate are being produced at the field, IRNA reported.

South Pars Gas Field is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment. The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.



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