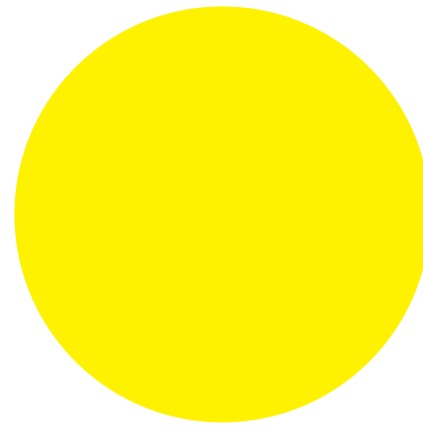


President urges unity in Islamic ummah 2 >



Revival of Arab League 3 >



Iran Daily

Iran, Russia, Syria Diplomats Begin Talks on Ankara-Damascus Ties 2 >



Farmers work in a rice paddy in Qasreqand County, southeastern Iran, on April 3, 2023 during the fasting month of Ramadan. MIZAN

Transforming Iran: Roadmap for progress and prosperity



Transformation, a concept that has been present since the inception of time, refers to a fundamental alteration in the state of being, often indicative of progress. However, transformation is not always a positive force and can lead to perilous outcomes if not implemented judiciously. Thus, it is crucial for individuals, societies, and governments seeking change and reform to comprehend the appropriate form of transformation. In recent years, the Leader of Iran's Islam-

ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has underscored the necessity of transformation in the Islamic Establishment's governance. In light of Iran's current situation, the Leader has suggested eight principles for transformation, founded on the cultural capabilities of Iranian society. The first principle is an unwavering faith in God Almighty, which serves as a compass for navigating the path toward progress. Islam and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his Household provide a copious source of transformation for those seeking it. Page 2 >

Iran's economic revamp



Iran's economic landscape observed some favorable developments during the previous Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20. Notwithstanding some setbacks in the final months of the year such as a surge in foreign currency rates stoked by a "hybrid war" and the lack of regulatory oversight in certain markets, the nation witnessed growth in both domestic and foreign investments and production, accompanied by the expansion of industries and factories. Furthermore, the removal of "golden signatures", the offering of facilities to boost production and employment, a significant decrease in

tax evasion, an increase in capital, and a rise in non-oil exports accelerated the country's positive momentum. However, despite the growth in production and investment, the high inflation which plagued the economy for the past four years continued into the previous calendar year. This prompted the government to launch the "Non-inflationary Growth Roadmap" two years ago, which included measures to curb the government's budget deficit, discipline banks' liquidity growth, and encourage private sector financing. The plan was accepted by the government, but the central bank's efforts to control the liquidity growth were overshadowed by the currency jump in the last months of the year. Page 6 >

Finland to join NATO today, Sweden still waiting

Russia vows to beef up military in northwest

Finland will join NATO on Tuesday, marking the completion of a swift journey into the Western military alliance for the Nordic nation following Russia's war in Ukraine, officials said on Monday. Finland has a 1,300-km (810-mile) border with Russia, meaning NATO's frontier with Russia will roughly double in length, and the

move drew a pledge from Moscow that it will beef up its forces in border regions. "Tomorrow we will welcome Finland as the 31st member of NATO making Finland safer and our alliance stronger," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels, hailing the move as "historic". Russia will strengthen its

military capacity in its western and northwestern regions in response to Finland's expected accession to NATO, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said, state-owned news agency RIA reported. Finland and Sweden applied to join NATO last year after the conflict broke out in Ukraine in February last year. Finland has a 1,300-

km (810-mile) border with Russia that will roughly double the transatlantic alliance's frontier facing Moscow. Finnish President Sauli Niinisto will travel to Brussels to take part in the ceremony, his office said. The last hurdle to Finland's membership was removed last week when Turkey's parliament voted to ratify

Helsinki's application even as it kept Sweden's bid on hold. Turkey continues to hold up Sweden's application. It says that Stockholm harbors members of what Ankara considers terrorist groups - a charge Sweden denies - and has demanded their extradition as a step toward ratifying Swedish membership.



Trump faces setbacks in other probes as NY case proceeds 3 >



Alarming decrease in 'reading literacy' among new generations of Iranians 7 >



Persepolis, Iran's most visited global heritage during Nowruz 8 >

Iran, Saudi FMs agree to meet soon

Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian discussed the impending meeting with his Saudi counterpart on Sunday night. During a phone conversation with his Saudi Arabia's top diplomat Faisal bin Farhan, Amir-Abdollahian expressed pleasure with the positive trend of ties between Tehran and Riyadh and underlined the Islamic Republic's determination to expand its policy of

neighborliness. During the phone conversation, the two top diplomats also discussed the latest state of the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement and their upcoming meeting. Bin Farhan stressed the need for Iranian and Saudi officials to keep in touch and described the current measures of the two sides as positive and satisfactory. Amir-Abdollahian and bin Farhan agreed to meet each other in the coming days.



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Oil prices, oil stocks surge on OPEC+ move

Oil prices surged on Monday after Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ producers announced a surprise cut in their output target, a move that rippled through stock markets, though the dollar failed to hold onto its early gains. Brent crude futures looked set for its biggest daily percentage gain in around a year, jumping 5.77% to \$84.52 a barrel on news OPEC+ would aim to cut output by around 1.16 million barrels per day. U.S. crude climbed 6.22% to \$80.38, Reuters reported. Goldman Sachs lifted its forecast for Brent to \$95 a barrel by the end of the year and to \$100 for 2024 following the oil output

change, which was announced on Sunday, a day before a virtual meeting of an OPEC+ ministerial panel including Saudi Arabia and Russia. "I think the alliance wants to make sure that (oil) surpluses don't extend into the second half of 2023, as they know that most of the economic weakness is going to come then," said Samy Chaar, chief economist at Lombard Odier. "It's simply indicative of the global economy slowing, which is not necessarily bad news as it's mainly a self-inflicted slowdown caused by the U.S. and Europe to make sure that inflation is brought closer to target." Page 6 >