



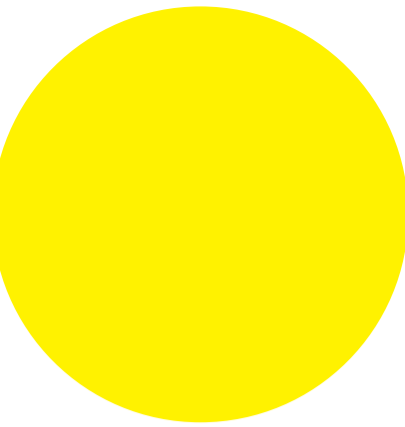
## 'Leila's Brothers', a controversial film in Iranian cinema



## Iran on the edge of a demographic trap



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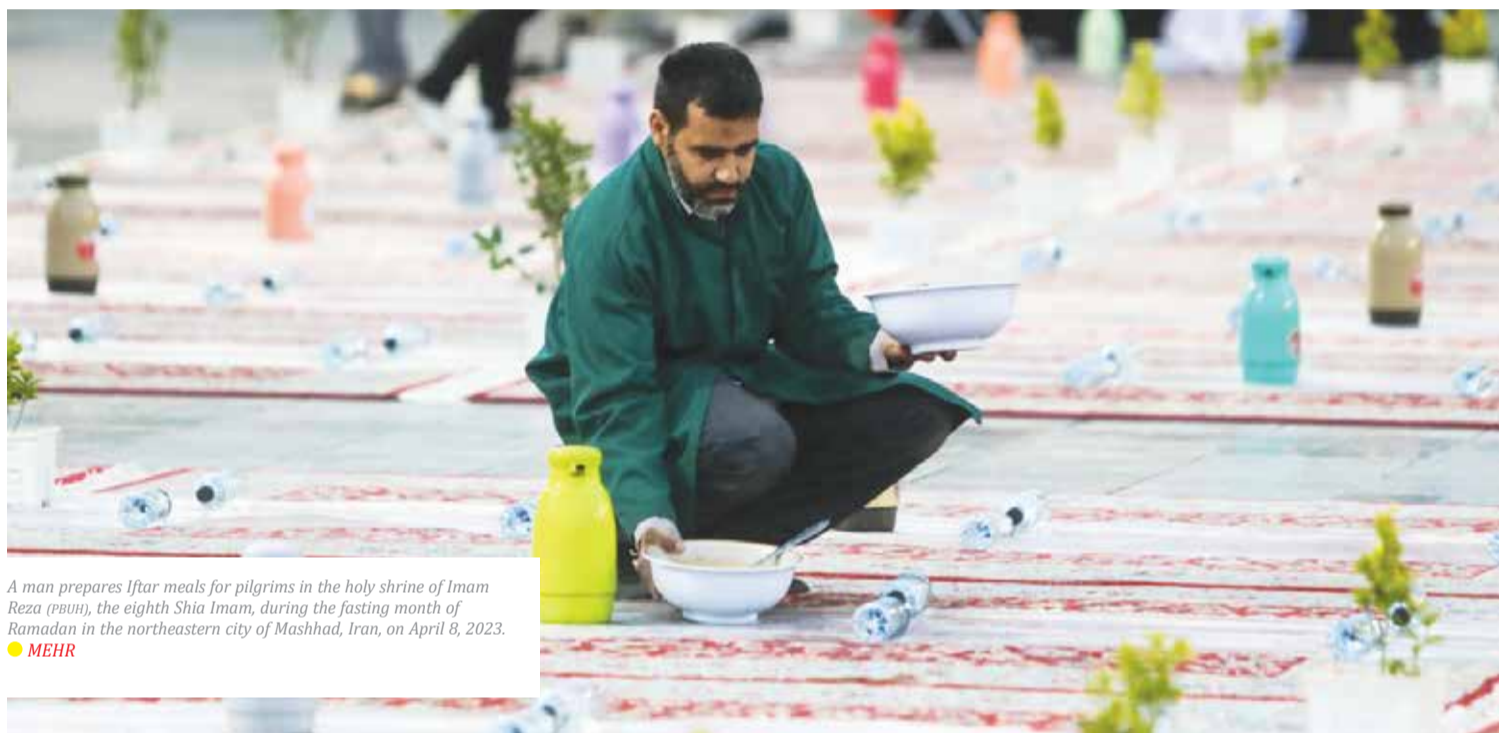


# Iran Daily

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# Iran-KSA move one step closer to reopening missions

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A man prepares Iftar meals for pilgrims in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (عجل الله فرجه), the eighth Shia Imam, during the fasting month of Ramadan in the northeastern city of Mashhad, Iran, on April 8, 2023. MEHR

## New era of regional stability



EXCLUSIVE

In a landmark announcement that has reverberated throughout the Middle East and beyond, Iran and Saudi Arabia restored their diplomatic and official relations, bringing an end to a long period of tension. The historic agreement has the potential to instill tranquility in the region and constrain the behavior of other actors who have long exploited the inter-state tension to their advantage. For the Iranian government, the rekindling

of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia is the culmination of a regional strategy that prioritized the establishment of an equilibrated foreign policy and the augmentation of relationships with nations across the globe. By focusing on the neighborhood policy and resolving disputes with its neighbors, the Iranian government was able to re-establish relationships that had been dormant for seven years. The ramifications of this accord are of paramount significance, mainly in the domains of security and commerce, but also tourism and critical issues of shared investment. Page 2 >

## Shamkhani: Global de-dollarization move will erode West's dominance over economy

National Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said a move afoot to reduce the dominance of the U.S. dollar in regional and international transactions will erode the West's dominance over the world's economy. Shamkhani made the remarks at a meeting with visiting Russian State Council Secretary Igor Levitin. Tehran and Moscow, both under U.S. sanctions, have bolstered their economic relations in recent weeks and are trying to ditch the

dollar from their bilateral trade. Many countries in the world, including, China and India, have also begun to settle their economic deals with other countries in their own currencies. According to a report by the London-based website Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Shamkhani and Russian President Vladimir Putin had extensive talks on de-dollarization of trade between the two countries during Shamkhani's visit to Moscow earlier this year. During his meeting with Levitin on Sunday, Shamkhani referred to the initia-

tives designed by the two countries in their monetary and banking relations as an effective model to foil the West's sanctions. Both sides also discussed the implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries in various economic fields, especially expediting the construction of the North-South transportation corridor. Iran is seeking Russia's financial support for the project, which is estimated to cost €800 million, according to latest estimates by the Iranian government. Once completed, the Rasht-Astara railway will

reduce the time needed to transport cargo from Helsinki, Finland via Russia to Iran's southern ports on the Persian Gulf and on the Sea of Oman by 20 days. Shamkhani said the completion of the North-South Corridor and the expansion of transit cooperation between Iran and Russia is an important part of the joint projects signed between the two countries. The Russian official, for his part, said Moscow is ready to invest in Iran's various economic sectors including steel, oil and petrochemical industries. Igor Levitin, who arrived

in Tehran on Saturday for a two-day visit, also held a separate meeting with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber. Mokhber said that joint production and investment could turn Iran and Russia into a hub of exports of foodstuffs in the region and enable them to meet the needs of regional countries. Levitin said Russia is ready to sign bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements with Iran to carry out various projects. It was the fifth meeting between Mokhber and Levitin during the past six months.

## Iran's water crisis: Balancing economic demands, environmental realities



EXCLUSIVE

Uncontrolled and arbitrary withdrawal of water for financial gain has become a pressing issue in Iran, where the lack of precipitation in recent years has left many Iranians yearning to experience substantial amounts of snow and rainfall once more. Although last winter, even provinces with low precipitation levels were covered in a blanket of snow, experts in the field contend that we must not be deceived by recent rains. They argue that the earth is so parched that these rains will not satiate the thirst of groundwater.

Iran is situated in the dry and semi-arid region, making it inherently predisposed to lower precipitation than other nations. Nonetheless, as Mohammad Darvish, an environmental expert, opines reliance on water has led to excessive pressure on water resources for economic production, rendering water as the axis around which the country's economy revolves. Furthermore, climate change is also a contributing factor in this regard. If appropriate measures are not implemented, the situation will become dire, and the country must reconsider the layout of its development strategies and capitalize on potential advantages. Page 6 >



## Saudis meet with top Houthi officials in Yemen's Sana'a ahead of ceasefire talks

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## Historic houses of Tabriz lure tourists

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## Resurgent Azmoun on target as Leverkusen remains on course for European spot

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## Iran successfully tests new homegrown suicide drone

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force successfully tested a new suicide drone, dubbed Me'raj 532, designed and manufactured by Iranian experts. General Ali Kouhestani, head of IRGC Ground Force's Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization (RSSJO), said the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with a piston engine has a one-way range of 450 kilometers. The kamikaze drone, he added, is capable of flying up to a height of 12,000 feet for 3 hours and taking

off from a vehicle. "With its 50-kilogram warhead, the drone can hit the desired targets with high accuracy. Additionally, the drone's design is of the easy set-up type, reducing the time of its preparation and increasing the speed of reaction and use," Kouhestani told Tasnim news agency. Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great progress in indigenously developing a broad range of equipment, making the Armed Forces self-sufficient in this regard.

## Foreign preachers at Iran Qur'anic expo seek to promote Islamic culture worldwide

The international section of the 30th Tehran International Qur'an Exhibition is hosting Qur'anic experts from various countries around the world. The expo is currently underway in the Iranian capital Tehran. The annual exhibition, which is held during the holy month of Ramadan, kicked off on April 1 and will continue until April 15. The expo's international section was launched to make visitors familiar with Qur'anic activities in the international arena. Al-Mustafa International University runs the event's international section. It is an international aca-



dem, Islamic and university-style seminary in the Iranian city of Qom that was established in 1979. It has international branches and affiliate schools. The institute seeks to promote Islamic sciences, educate religious scholars and disseminate Islamic thought. It provides services in various fields of Islamic and human sciences. Page 8 >

EXCLUSIVE