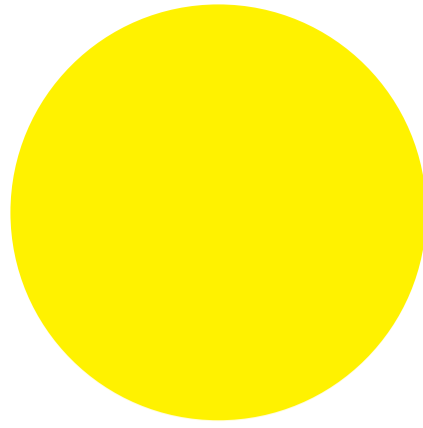


## Restoration of Iran-Egypt ties closer than it looks



## Leader criticizes domination of foreign stories

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# Iran Daily

# Iran tops world in oil pipeline construction: Report

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## Iranian naval flotilla overpowers high seas

By Amir-Hossein Seirafizadeh  
Defense affairs expert

**EXCLUSIVE**

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy has been executing its assigned tasks with a resolute approach, as one of the pillars of its military might. The force's unwavering readiness, agility, and supremacy have instilled fear in both overt and covert adversaries, while also exhibiting ideal Islamic attributes such as popularity, self-reliance, discipline, modesty, and cooperation with other military branches and propelling the nation

toward greater national prowess. The Navy is founded upon the principles of the Islamic Revolution, devotion, and integrity. The unwavering faith, conviction, and dignity of its personnel are fortified by cutting-edge equipment, technology, and military hardware. Thanks to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, we have proudly developed a "strategic" naval force — in the words of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei — marking a significant milestone in the nation's military might.

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A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Ankara, Turkey, on May 14, 2023, for parliamentary and presidential elections in Turkey. **BULENT KILIC/AFP**

## Erdogan ahead in Turkey initial vote results

Early results from Turkey's national election late on Sunday showed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with a solid lead after nearly 20% of ballot boxes were counted, the Turkish state-run news agency said. Erdogan had 55% of the vote, compared to 39% garnered by main opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, Anadolu Agency reported. Faik Oztrak, a spokesman for Kilicdaroglu's center-left party, cautioned the early returns were preliminary and said the "picture

is extremely positive" for the opposition. Erdogan has ruled Turkey as prime minister or president since 2003. Pre-election polling suggested he faced the toughest reelection battle of his two decades leading the NATO member country, which has grappled with economic turmoil and the erosion of democratic checks-and-balances in recent years. Polls closed in the late afternoon after nine hours of voting in the national election that could grant Erdo-

gan, 69, another five-year term or see him unseated by Kilicdaroglu, who campaigned on a promise to return Turkey to a more democratic path. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the winner will be determined in a May 28 run-off. Voters also elected lawmakers to fill Turkey's 600-seat parliament, which lost much of its legislative power under Erdogan's executive presidency. Pre-election polls gave a slight lead to Kilicdaroglu,

74, who was the candidate of a six-party opposition alliance. He leads the center-left, pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP. More than 64 million people, including 3.4 million overseas voters, were eligible to vote in the elections. Turkey is wracked by a steep cost-of-living crisis that critics blame on the government's mishandling of the economy. The latest official statistics showed inflation at about 44%, down from around 86%, though indepen-

dent experts believe costs continue to rise at a much higher rate. Turkey is also reeling from the effects of a powerful earthquake that caused devastation in 11 southern provinces in February, killing more than 50,000 people in unsafe buildings. Erdogan's government has been criticized for its delayed and stunted response to the disaster, as well as a lax implementation of building codes that exacerbated the casualties and misery.

## Iran-IAEA cooperation to witness great progress: Iran's FM

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the course of the country's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within technical frameworks will soon witness a great progress. Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in an exclusive interview with IRNA published on Sunday. He said that "a good development has taken place in the course of cooperation" between Iran and the UN nuclear agency, noting that Iran had always been critical of IAEA chief Rafael Grossi's politically-charged approach towards the country and that he has even brought up the issue in a face-to-face meeting with him. "The more the IAEA distances itself from a political approach and moves towards technical cooperation, the more the path for our agreements opens up," he pointed out. Iran and the IAEA are currently in a dispute triggered by the agency's accusations, which were leveled against Tehran's nuclear activities. The IAEA insists to probe into what it claims to be "uranium traces" found at "undeclared nuclear sites" in Iran.

## Overcoming challenges: Restoring trade ties with Riyadh

**Economic Desk**

Recent developments indicate a primary shift in the relationship between two Middle Eastern powerhouses — Iran and Saudi Arabia — with both countries expressing a desire to reinforce political, trade, and tourism ties. This marks a major departure from the past seven years, in the course of which the two neighbors had been at loggerheads over a wide range of issues including the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen and the foreign-backed conflict in Syria. But a China-brokered

deal in March paved the ground for Iran and Saudi Arabia to repair their diplomatic ties. While the focus of the accord was initially on political and security issues, both countries quickly commenced exploring the possibility of fostering economic cooperation. The Trade Promotion Organization of Iran has now voiced its interest in restoring commercial ties with Saudi Arabia with a target of achieving a trading volume of \$1 billion annually in the first phase and ultimately increasing it to \$1 billion.

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## Gaza cease-fire takes effect after five days of deadly fighting

**International Desk**

A cease-fire was in effect on the Gaza Strip Sunday, drawing people back into the streets after five days of clashes killed at least 34 Palestinians and one Israeli. Egypt brokered the latest cease-fire, saying it had secured agreement from both Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Islamic Jihad. At least 13 of those killed in Gaza were civilians, among them children as young as 4 years old, as well as women. Israel has faced criticism in the past from rights groups over the civilian casualties in its bombardments in Gaza. The Israeli military reported over 1,400 launches throughout the fighting, with some rockets reaching as far as the Tel Aviv and Al-Quds areas.



A woman sits amidst the rubble of her house at Nusseirat refugee camp in Gaza, on May 14, 2023, following a ceasefire ending days of fighting between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group. **MOHAMMED ABED/AFP**

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