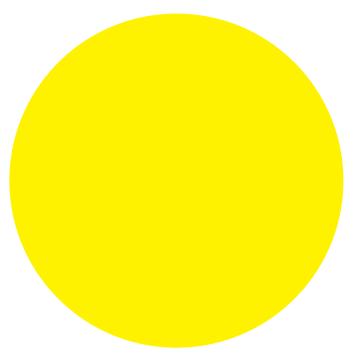


Hundreds of artists sign letter urging cease-fire in Gaza



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> [irandaily.ir](http://irandaily.ir)

| [newspaper.irandaily.ir](http://newspaper.irandaily.ir)

| IranDailyWeb

## Redrawing of borders 'red line': *Iran*

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

### OPINION

The Iranian foreign minister has emphasized that "any threat from North, South, East, or West to the territorial integrity of our neighbors or any redrawing of boundaries is totally unacceptable and a red line for Iran." The warning issued by Abbas Araghchi appears to be a direct response to recent reports of Russia's insistence on establishing the Zangezur Corridor along Iran's northern borders, which Tehran has vehemently and repeatedly opposed.

Due to longstanding disputes between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, which have resulted in multiple wars, Azerbaijan seeks to create a transportation corridor linking its mainland to the Nakhchivan region. Following the recent conflict between Yerevan and Baku, the Nakhchivan region was ceded to Azerbaijan. As this region lies within Armenian territory, Baku aims to establish the Zangezur Corridor to directly connect these two parts of its territory.

Serving as a key transportation route, the Zangezur Corridor would connect Azerbaijan to Russia and Turkey through Armenia, facilitating connections between Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. It would also enable Azerbaijan to access the Armenian province of Syunik, which borders Iran, without having to pass through Armenian checkpoints. However, the critical issue for Tehran is that constructing this corridor would sever the land connection between Iran and Armenia and divert the transit route from Turkey to Baku away from Iranian territory.

In late July 2022, during a trilateral meeting between Iran, Russia, and Turkey regarding developments in Syria, the presidents of Russia and Turkey met with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei reminded them of Iran's explicit and unwavering position on the Zangezur Corridor and border changes.

In his meeting with Vladimir Putin, the Leader emphasized, "The Islamic Republic will never tolerate policies and plans that would lead to the closure of the Iran-Armenia border." He further reinforced this stance in his meeting with Recep Tayyip Erdogan, stating that if there is a policy to block the Iran-Armenia border, the Islamic Republic will oppose it because this border represents a multi-millennial connection.

# Netanyahu's Refusal to Sign Truce Deal Infuriates Israelis

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Israeli demonstrators carry symbolic coffins during a protest calling for action to secure the release of Israeli captives, in Tel Aviv on September 5, 2024.  
● JACK GUEZ/AFP

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### Iran, Spain to boost cooperation in sea transport services

Officials from Iran and Spain emphasized expanding cooperation in the field of shipping, port and maritime transport services.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Iran, Spain to boost cooperation in sea transport services**

Officials from Iran and Spain emphasized expanding cooperation in the field of shipping, port and maritime transport services.

The Shipping Association of Iran inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Advanced Training Course in Transport and Logistics in Barcelona, Spain, to enhance bilateral relations in the field of shipping lines.

Under the agreement, the two sides will cooperate in developing joint training programs, holding digital simulation courses and providing specialized training contents for activists working in the field of port and maritime transport services, IRNA reported.

Increasing the technical know-how, knowledge and skills of manpower in the maritime transport and logistics sector has been cited as the main goal of this cooperation.

The memorandum of understanding was signed with the aim of taking advantage of the advanced platform of Port Virtual Lab (PVL) and improving the level of knowledge and practical skills in supply chain and international transportation.

The PVL is a digital and innovative training platform in the field of maritime, port and international transport logistics and allows users to gain practical experiences of the real operations in the supply chain through interactive simulations and strengthen their skills in facing routine challenges of this field.

**Iran to produce 5K electric, hybrid cars by March 2025**

An official at Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT) unveiled plans to manufacture 5,000 electric and hybrid passenger cars in the country by the end of the current Iranian year, which will end on March 20, 2025.

Mehrdad Khosravi said the production of hybrid cars in Iran during the first five months of the current Persian year has increased by 45 percent compared to the last year's corresponding period, reported Tasnim News Agency.

He put the number of hybrid cars produced in Iran from March 20 to August 21 at more than 1,200, predicting that a total of 5,000 hybrid cars will be manufactured by March 2025.

Khosravi noted that the MIMT has also devised plans for the import of electric and hybrid cars, adding that around 5,000 EVs and hybrid cars have been cleared from the customs offices of the country since March 2024.

# Supply of Russian gas to Iran 'quite feasible': *Putin*

Iran has been asking Russia to supply gas and this is a quite feasible project, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, speaking at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

"Iran has been asking us for supplies for a long time. Well, this is also a very convenient place for us, the field

is nearby. I believe that this is a quite feasible project, I mean that the markets are huge. And there is simply a huge need in the countries neighboring Iran," Putin was reported by TASS as saying.

According to the Russian leader, Gazprom will restore gas supply volumes both through new markets and the domestic market owing to the Russian economy's growth.

"There are different possibilities here. And we will

develop different markets, we will work on swaps, we will liquefy, as I have already said, and so on. Of course, we will gradually restore sales volumes. There is no doubt about this. And we will develop our own economy. In many regions of the Far East, we do not have enough gas generation. We need to unite - Gazprom has such plans - the European part of the gas transportation system and the Far Eastern part in order to carry out the flows accordingly. All this is in our plans, all this will be implemented," Putin said.

**Iran to expedite giant copper project in impoverished region**

Iran is planning to speed up a giant copper mining project in its southeastern Sistan area as the country seeks to use the economic benefits of the project to develop the relatively impoverished region near the border with Afghanistan.

Iran's newly-appointed Industry Minister Mohammad Atabak took a maiden trip to Nimrooz county in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Wednesday to tour the Janja copper and gold mining project, Press TV reported.

Atabak said during the visit that the completion of Janja should be accelerated to allow the Sistan region to benefit from its major economic benefits, including its considerable job creation capacity. He said the government will provide extra funding to developers and contractors who have sped up their projects as he reiterated that the Janja mine will create an opportunity for the province to catch up on Iran's leveling up programs. "Some of the best experts of the country's copper sector are involved in this project and it will have a significant impact on the economic situation in the province," said the minister.

The Janja copper and gold mine, located some 210 kilometers to the north of the provincial capital of Zahedan, has a proven reserve of 312 million metric tons (mt) as experts believe the reserve could reach over 1 billion mt with more exploration activities in the mine.

A consortium of four major Iranian metals companies is responsible for developing the mine with an initial investment of \$400 million. It is expected to produce 130,000 mt of copper concentrate and 3,000 mt of copper cathode in its first year of production in 2028.

Government estimates show the project will create 1,000 direct jobs while some 5,000 more people will be indirectly employed on the company's wider supply chain.

**OPEC chief hails progress in Iran's oil sector despite sanctions**

OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais has acknowledged that Iran made significant progress in its oil industry in recent years despite crippling sanctions imposed on the country by the United States.

Al Ghais said in a letter addressed to former Iranian oil minister Javad Owji that the minister had achieved major breakthroughs at the helm of the petroleum industry in a key OPEC country, Press TV wrote.

He said Owji had elevated Iran's oil industry in a significant manner in the past three years, according to a Persian translation of the letter published in the Iranian media.

The remarks came more than a week after Owji was replaced by Mohsen Paknejad as part of a government change in Iran.

During his time in office, Owji managed to increase Iran's oil exports and production to levels not seen since the country came under US sanctions in 2018. Iran's oil production has reached 3.271 million barrels per day (bpd), according to latest data by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

That comes as exports have reached well beyond an average of 1.5 million bpd in recent months, up from



just 0.3 million bpd reported in 2018 when Washington toughened its sanctions on Iran.

New Oil Minister Paknejad has promised to follow up on Owji's plans to further increase Iran's crude oil production to meet a target of 4 million bpd next year.

**Iran orders over 40 bulk carriers to Chinese builder**

China's COSCO Shipping Group has concluded a contract with domestic Iranian companies for the construction of 42 bulk carriers, valued at more than \$2 billion. The contract for manufacturing the bulk carriers is the largest contract of China COSCO Shipping Group since 2016, making it one of the largest companies active in

the shipping industry.

Under the contract, China's COSCO Heavy Industries is responsible for building 20 bulk carriers, while CSSC's Chengxi Shipyard subsidiary is responsible for building 22 others, Mehr news agency reported.

COSCO Shipping Group will manufacture five 64,000-ton ship, two

82,000-ton ship and 35 80,000-ton ship.

The vessels, which will be delivered between 2026 and 2027, will be chartered by COSCO Shipping Bulk on a long-term basis. These ships will be energy efficient and environment friendly. Some of these vessels have been designed specifically to operate with methanol fuel.

According to an official at China's COSCO Shipping Group, the new ships will be equipped with the world's strongest permanent magnet generator and intelligent systems. These vessels will comply with the third phase of EEDI energy efficiency indicators and the latest cyber security regulations.



# Nature and tradition of Hawraman in Kurdistan Province

*Nestled in the verdant valleys and rugged mountains of the western province of Kurdistan, Hawraman, also known as Uramanat, is a region that radiates ancient charm and natural beauty. This remote area is characterized by its terraced villages, rich cultural heritage, and stunning landscapes, offering a unique glimpse into the traditional Kurdish way of life.*

## Ancient origins

The history of Hawraman dates back thousands of years, with evidence of human settlement dating to the Neolithic period. The name 'Hawram' is thought to have originated from 'Ahura Mazda,' the Zoroastrian, implying that the region has held spiritual significance for centuries. Overtime, Hawraman has been shaped by various civilizations, such as the Medes, Persians, and Greeks, each leaving their mark on the region's culture and architecture.

## Cultural significance

Hawraman holds a special place in Kurdish history and culture. The area is renowned for its traditional Kurdish music and poetry, which have been passed down through generations. The people of Hawraman have preserved their unique language, Hawrami, a dialect of the Gorani language, enriching the region's diverse cultural heritage. The cultural practices and customs of Hawraman serve as a living link to the region's ancient past. Hawraman Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the 26th tangible cultural heritage of Iran at the 44th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

## Stunning landscapes

Located in the Zagros Mountains, Hawraman offers breathtaking views of towering peaks, deep valleys, and lush forests. The region's terraced villages, built in a stepped fashion on the mountainsides, create a picturesque and harmonious landscape. The rugged terrain, along with numerous rivers and streams, enhances the area's natural beauty, making Hawraman a truly captivating destination.

## Climate and seasons

The climate in Hawraman varies with altitude, typically featuring cold winters and mild summers. During winter, snow blankets the higher elevations, transforming the region into a winter wonderland. Spring and summer usher in vibrant greenery and wildflowers, while autumn offers mild weather and colorful foliage, ideal for hiking and exploration.

## Hawraman Takht

Among the renowned villages in Hawraman is Hawraman Takht, celebrated for its historical and cultural significance. Perched on steep mountain slopes, the village showcases stone houses cascading down the hillside. Hawraman Takht is home to ancient Zoroastrian temples and shrines, contributing to its spiritual heritage. The annual Pir Shalyar festival, a lively event featuring music,

and communal feasting, attracts visitors from far and wide.

## Palangan

Another notable village in Hawraman is Palangan, famous for its striking architecture and natural beauty. Positioned along a narrow valley, Palangan's houses are built into cliffs on either side of a river, connected by stone bridges that enhance its picturesque allure. The village is renowned for its traditional Kurdish hospitality, with visitors often welcomed into homes to partake in meals and learn about local customs.

## Other villages

Hawraman boasts numerous villages, each with its own unique charm and attractions. Villages like Zhawaro, Hajji, and Noudshe offer glimpses into the traditional Kurdish lifestyle, opportunities to explore ancient ruins, and the chance to revel in the region's natural splendor. These villages provide insights into a way of life that has endured for centuries.

## Traditional music

The region is famed for its distinctive Kurdish music, featuring traditional instruments such as the *tanbur*, *daf*, and *ney*. Festivals and celebrations showcase traditional dances with intricate footwork and vibrant costumes.

## Handicrafts and art

Artisans in Hawraman craft a variety of products reflecting their cultural heritage. Handwoven kilims, adorned with intricate geometric patterns and vibrant colors, are highly prized. Other traditional crafts include pottery, metalwork, and embroidery, highlighting the locals' creativity and craftsmanship.

## Festivals and celebrations

Hawraman hosts several significant festivals drawing visitors from near and far. The Pir Shalyar festival, held biannually in Uraman Takht, is a cornerstone event. This ancient celebration, dating back over a millennium, honors the legend of Pir Shalyar, featuring music, storytelling, and communal feasting, offering a glimpse into Hawraman's rich cultural traditions.

## Hawraman Valley

The Hawraman Valley stands as one of the most breathtaking natural wonders in Hawraman. This verdant expanse is adorned with terraced fields, fruit orchards, and traditional stone houses. Meandering rivers and streams crisscross the valley, offering abundant opportunities for hiking, picnicking, and immersing oneself in the region's natural splendor. Ancient caves and rock shelters dot the landscape, providing a glimpse into Hawraman's prehistoric past.

## Shaho Mountain

Shaho Mountain, a towering peak in the Zagros range, commands the skyline of Hawraman. A haven for hikers and mountaineers, Shaho Mountain presents challenging trails and awe-inspiring vistas from its summit. Its dense forests are teeming with wildlife,

including deer, wild goats, and a diverse array of bird species. Considered sacred by the local Kurdish community, the mountain is believed to harbor ancient spirits.

## Rivers and waterfalls

Hawraman is graced with a profusion of rivers and waterfalls that enhance the region's natural allure. The Sirwan River, a prominent waterway, winds through deep gorges and valleys, offering picturesque landscapes ideal for rafting and fishing. Enchanting waterfalls like Hinar and Sarvabad beckon nature enthusiasts and photographers alike.

## Hiking and trekking

Hawraman boasts some of Iran's finest hiking and trekking opportunities, with rugged mountains, verdant valleys, and lush forests awaiting exploration. Trails meander through remote villages, ancient ruins, and scenic viewpoints, catering to both seasoned trekkers and casual hikers. Notable routes include the path from Uraman Takht to Palangan and the ascent of Mount Shaho.

## Birdwatching

Birdwatching enthusiasts will find Hawraman a haven, with its diverse habitats supporting a myriad of bird species. Golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and an array of finches and warblers thrive in the region's forests, rivers, and wetlands. Guided birdwatching tours and walks offer an immersive experience of Hawraman's avian diversity.

## Cultural tours

Immerse yourself in the cultural heritage of Hawraman through guided tours of villages, historical sites, and festivals. These tours provide insight into traditional ways of life, interactions with local artisans, and a taste of Kurdish culture. Engage in activities like rug weaving, pottery making, and folk dancing to gain a deeper appreciation of Hawraman's rich cultural tapestry.

## Accommodation options

From traditional guesthouses to modern hotels and eco-lodges, Hawraman offers a range of accommodation choices to suit every traveler's preference. Traditional guesthouses, known as '*kanj*' or '*sarai*,' provide an authentic experience of Kurdish hospitality, while modern hotels offer convenience and comfort. Camping sites and eco-lodges cater to those seeking a closer connection to the region's wilderness.

Hawraman beckons with its enchanting landscapes, cultural richness, and warm hospitality, promising an unforgettable journey through time and nature. Explore ancient villages, vibrant festivals, majestic mountains, and serene valleys in this hidden gem of Kurdistan Province, and uncover a region steeped in tradition and history. Whether seeking adventure, cultural immersion, or a tranquil retreat, Hawraman welcomes you with open arms, ensuring a memorable experience for all who visit.





A Chinese BYD car carrier ship offloads vehicles in Bremerhaven, Germany, on February 26, 2024.  
● FOCKE STRANGMANN/AFP

By Simon Wilson  
Author

### PERSPECTIVE

China passed a milestone in the green revolution last month when sales of electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids surpassed those of internal combustion engine cars for the first time. Retail sales of “new-energy” cars — the umbrella term used in China for EVs and hybrids — made up 51.1% of all sales in July, a giant leap from just 7% three years ago. The landmark follows a continuing surge in the popularity of EVs in China over the past year, even as growth in other key markets, including the US and Europe, has slowed. The number of “new-energy” cars sold last month in China, 878,000, was 37% higher year on year; sales of conventional cars fell 26% to 840,000.

# Is China winning electric car race?

## Global electric car market

To put the 50% landmark in perspective, the share of electric and hybrid vehicle sales in the US amounted to 18% in the first quarter of this year. China is by far the world's biggest market for EVs, accounting for three-fifths of all units sold this year. According to forecasts from the International Energy Agency, some 10.1 million EVs (including hybrids) will be sold in China this year. That compares to 3.4 million in Europe and 1.7 million in the US. All other markets combined account for fewer than 1.5 million.

The agency forecasts that global EV sales will grow to 20 million in 2025 and then double to 40 million by 2030 — accounting for 30% of all car sales by that point. China has been a leading market for EVs for several years, but recently the growth has been explosive. This year's total of 10.1 million units is an eight-fold increase in just three years from 2021 when 1.3 million vehicles were sold. What's driving the boom is that years of government subsidies and tax breaks for both producers and consumers and major strategic investment in the development of technology and infrastructure, mean that EVs are now the lower-cost option for consumers.

## Why is electric car market booming in China?

Marketing of EVs in China rarely, if ever,

emphasises the environmental benefits, says Helen Davidson in The Guardian. Instead, it's all about cost, and the range of available products, from compact city runarounds to luxury sports cars and large hybrid SUVs, powered by CATL batteries and Huawei technology. “EVs happen to be one rare area where China seems to be leading the world — high quality and low price, not to mention dizzying variety,” says Tinglong Dai, a business professor at Johns Hopkins University. “This is one of the incredible opportunities for China to dominate a highly respected marketplace. And it's also in line with broad environmental goals in the West.” Yes, the Chinese government is motivated in part by climate and economic factors, but far more importantly, the long-term investment that is now paying off was “more of a geopolitical move — a way to get to the top of the food chain of a high-end, high-status industry”.

## What about exports?

They are growing fast, especially in developing markets, and Chinese companies are also investing heavily in local manufacturing and supply-chain capabilities (including batteries and raw materials) in countries such as Indonesia and Brazil.

However, China faces serious headwinds in the existing biggest non-Chinese markets, the US and Europe, both of which have

ramped up protectionist tariffs on Chinese cars, on the grounds that unfair state subsidies are distorting competition and making them unfairly cheap. The US, where China has achieved little market penetration, recently raised its import duty on Chinese EVs from 25% to an intentionally crippling 100%. It was part of a package of measures including increasing levies from 7.5% to 25% on lithium batteries, from zero to 25% on critical minerals, from 25% to 50% on solar cells and from 25% to 50% on semiconductors. In Europe, Chinese EVs are a far more common sight. According to EU data, the market share of EVs imported from China (including those made under joint ventures with European firms) surged from 4% in 2020 to 25% by September 2023, making China's EV exports to Europe last year worth about €10 billion. Brussels, too, has announced punitive new tariffs.

## What is EU tariff on Chinese EVs?

Up to 48%. Brussels already imposes a 10% tariff on Chinese EVs. It will now impose additional duties of 17%–38%, depending on the extent to which individual manufacturers complied with an EU anti-subsidy investigation. The biggest exporters, including BYD, the world's largest EV maker, will pay additional tariffs of 17%–20%. European brands such as Mercedes and Renault, which export EVs made in China, will pay 21%. Companies deemed not to have

co-operated, including Shanghai-based SAIC, will pay 38%. The state-owned firm dominates the lower end of the European EV market through the MG brand.

The charges came into effect last month, but are currently provisional while the investigation into Chinese state support for the country's EV makers continues. The tariffs are strongly backed by France but opposed by Germany, which fears a costly trade war with China. Beijing has lodged complaints with the World Trade Organisation.

## Is EU's action justified?

No, says the Financial Times. EU governments — like others across the developed world — have a dilemma. They have pledged to decarbonise their economies within decades, but they are “also moving to limit imports of Chinese green tech, without which decarbonisation will take more time and money — if it can be achieved at all”. At some point they will need to choose between their climate goals and their protectionism, and “it would be better for everyone if it is protectionism that has to give”. Europe's problem is “not too many Chinese imports but rather too few”. It is “heartening to see the UK refraining from joining the tariff wars”.

The article first appeared on MoneyWeek.

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China now sells more electric cars than conventional ones within its territory. Western countries seem determined to stop them from crossing their borders. Why?



BYD's Yangwang U9 electric supercar at 2024 Goodwood Festival of Speed  
● YANGWANG



Chinese BYD Yangwang U9 electric supercar  
● BYD



Inside the Chinese Yangwang U9 electric supercar  
● BYD

EU introduces tariff regime on Chinese electric vehicles

# Paradoxes in EU environmental sustainability goals?

By Bawa Singh  
Scholar

## OPINION

The European Union has established itself as an international leader in the field of environmental sustainability, showcasing a steadfast dedication to tackling environmental protection against climate change through a range of ambitious policies and programmes. The organization is dedicated to promoting electric vehicles (EVs) as a crucial solution in combating carbon emissions and the development of a greener future. However, the European Union's tariff regime on electric vehicles from China has sparked significant narratives and debates.

The EU's dedication to advancing environmentally friendly technologies and mitigating the impact of greenhouse gas emissions is being investigated following the implementation of tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. This decision raises significant concerns regarding the alignment and stability of the European Union's environmental and trade policies. This apparent contradiction highlights the complex interplay between economic interests, environmental objectives, and global trade dynamics.

The air quality issue throughout Europe is a mix of positive developments and persistent issues and challenges for a greener future. In recent years, there has been a noticeable decrease in pollution levels in numerous cities, thanks to the implementation of effective policies, local initiatives, and improved air quality management practices. Nevertheless, numerous urban areas continue to grapple with higher pollution levels that surpass the health recommendations set by the World Health Organization.

The ongoing problem of air pollution in EU urban areas has led to a concerning number of premature deaths, estimated to be around 400,000 each year. This highlights the urgent need for effective measures to improve air quality and protect public health. There are ongoing challenges in effectively communicating air quality issues, garnering public and political support for additional measures, and ensuring policy coherence across different administrative levels. Although there have been some positive outcomes from local initiatives such as the promotion of cycling and the introduction of low-emission zones, it is clear that further efforts are required to achieve consistent and comprehensive improvements in air quality throughout Europe.

### Role of vehicles in Europe's air pollution

Air pollution continues to be one of the significant concerns for both public health and the environment in Europe, particularly in urban areas, where transportation plays a major role as a contributor. Despite recent advancements, pollution levels caused by vehicles, such as cars, vans, and trucks, still surpass the recommendations set by the World Health Organization (WHO). This unfortunate reality results in approximately 330,000 premature deaths each year in the EU. The annual health costs attributed to road transport pollution are estimated to be between €67–80 billion, with a significant focus on diesel vehicles.

The EU's Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD) and Euro standards have been subjected to criticism for their perceived inadequacy in addressing these issues. The latest Euro 7 standards, scheduled to take effect in 2028, are widely regarded as ineffective and unlikely to have a substantial impact on emissions reduction. Although there have been some advancements, such as the implementation of zero-emission and low-emission zones in urban areas, there are still areas that need improvements. Implementing effective solutions, such as enhancing fuel quality and adopting cleaner technologies, is of utmost importance in mitigating pollution and safeguarding public health.

### EU's environmental policy

The EU's environmental policy is driven by a commitment to precaution, prevention, rectifying pollution at its source, and holding polluters accountable. Its primary objective is to tackle pressing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The policy is based on Articles 11 and 191–193 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European

Union (TFEU) and covers a range of environmental issues including air and water pollution, waste management, and climate change. In this respect, the notable advancements include the 2019 European Green Deal, which places a strong emphasis on environmental issues and sets the ambitious goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP) sets forth a comprehensive set of goals for the year 2030. These goals encompass a wide range of areas, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building climate resilience, transitioning to a circular econ-

17–30% lower than those of traditional petrol and diesel vehicles. This percentage could potentially increase to 73% by 2050 as the carbon intensity of the EU's energy mix continues to decrease.

The EVs contribute to the improvement of local air quality by reducing emissions along with minimized release of particulate. In addition, the EVs help to decrease noise pollution, particularly in urban environments. The report highlights the potential for mitigating these impacts by implementing circular economy practices that prioritize the reuse and recycling

was not extended to Chinese firms. In addition, prominent companies such as Tesla and Volkswagen, which have manufacturing operations in China, are not subject to these tariffs. The EU has expressed concerns regarding the impact of China's industrial overcapacity on EU-China trade.

China, on the other hand, has accused the EU of engaging in "foul play". China has raised objections to these tariffs at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The European market for electric vehicles (EVs) is significant, with projections indicating it will reach a value of \$145 billion by 2024 and experience

### EU's concerns, response

The European Union's investigation into Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) in 2023 underscores concerns regarding the potential unfair competitive advantage created by Chinese government subsidies. According to the EU, there are claims of significant state support for Chinese EV manufacturers, resulting in reduced production costs and enabling them to offer lower prices compared to their European counterparts. The market distortion has the potential to negatively impact European EV producers, resulting in a decrease in their market share and profitability. This, in turn, could lead to financial losses and put them at a competitive disadvantage. The investigation conducted by the EU seeks to evaluate the potential violation of trade regulations and the negative impact on the European industry caused by these subsidies. In response, the EU has the option to implement tariffs or other trade barriers in order to address these unfair practices and safeguard its domestic market.

On July 3, 2023, the European Commission implemented provisional countervailing duties on Chinese battery electric vehicles (EVs) in response to concerns regarding unfair competitive practices. The duties for BYD, Geely, and SAIC were determined to be 17.4%, 20%, and 38.1% respectively. These rates were established after conducting tests on electric vehicle samples and evaluating the subsidies provided. Companies that have not undergone testing are subject to a 20% duty, whereas those that have refused to cooperate are subjected to the highest rate. The EU's action is intended to address the perceived imbalance caused by Chinese government subsidies, a matter that China disagrees with. The responsibilities will be applicable to electric vehicles that have been registered starting from March 7, 2023.

### Paradoxes of EU's environmental policy

The EU's tariff regime on Chinese EVs brings attention to certain contradictions within its environmental protection policies. Although the tariffs have been implemented to protect European manufacturers from unfair competition resulting from Chinese subsidies, there is a potential conflict with the EU's environmental protection goals. The imposition of tariffs on electric vehicles could potentially impede their widespread adoption and hinder the overall progress in reducing emissions.

This short-term protection of domestic industries could potentially hinder the long-term shift towards cleaner technologies. In addition, it is important to consider the broader impacts of making EVs more affordable, as this can greatly contribute to global climate efforts. The tariffs fail to adequately acknowledge the environmental consequences of EV production materials or take into account the wider advantages of higher EV adoption, which could undermine the EU's overarching environmental sustainability goals.

The article first appeared on Eurasia Review.



A batch of China's electric vehicles wait to be exported at a terminal in Taicang Port, east China.  
● CFP

omy, eliminating pollution, and safeguarding biodiversity.

Horizontal strategies of the EU have encompassed various aspects such as sustainable development and biodiversity. The 2024 Nature Restoration Law aims to restore land, sea areas, and ecosystems. On an international level, the EU actively participates in global environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement. The Aarhus Convention guarantees the involvement of the public in making environmental decisions. Implementation requires a coordinated effort at the national, regional, and local levels, with the support of tools such as the Environmental Implementation Review and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

### EVs better for environmental sustainability

A recent report from the European Environment Agency (EEA) highlighted the environmental benefits of battery electric cars compared to petrol and diesel vehicles. The report, "Electric Vehicles from Life Cycle and Circular Economy Perspectives," emphasized the overall eco-friendliness of electric vehicles throughout their entire life cycle. Although the production of EVs may result in higher emissions, their overall impact on greenhouse gases and air pollutants is significantly lower throughout their lifespan. At present, electric vehicles produce emissions that are approximately

of batteries. The EEA highlighted the concerns rising in EU transport sector emissions since 2014. Preliminary data from 2017 reveals a significant 28% increase in emissions compared to 1990 levels. Despite significant increases in registrations of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids in 2017, these types of vehicles still make up a relatively small portion of total new registrations.

### EU's protectionism against Chinese EVs

In a recent statement on May 8, 2024, Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, expressed her concerns regarding the influx of affordable EVs from China into the European market. In response to this, the EU launched an investigation into the manufacturing of EVs in China for potential subsidies in 2023.

A regulation was enacted by the European Parliament on June 8, 2016, with the objective of safeguarding domestic industries within the EU from the impact of subsidized imports originating from non-EU countries. An official notice released on July 3, 2023, stated that Chinese electric vehicles were having a detrimental impact on the electric vehicle industry in the Union. The EU's approach demonstrates a strong alignment between public and private sectors. European manufacturers and suppliers involved in the complaint were granted complete immunity and anonymity, a privilege that

a growth rate of 12.5% by 2028. The electric vehicle market has experienced substantial growth, with a notable 25% surge in sales during the first quarter of 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period in 2023. The sales growth in 2022 was also 25%.

On a global scale, electric vehicles (EVs) are projected to make up 20% of all vehicle sales. China is expected to dominate the market with a 45% share, followed by Europe with 25% and the US with 11%. Chinese manufacturers, including BYD, are strategically investing in European production facilities, such as a new plant in Hungary, in response to EU tariffs and trade restrictions. In addition, they are establishing collaborations with European EV companies to lower expenses and considering the possibility of manufacturing EVs in Europe, which could help minimize the effects of tariffs. In July, there was a significant decline of 45% in Chinese EV exports to the EU, despite the efforts made previously. Overall, the EU's protective measures against Chinese EVs are motivated by considerations surrounding market competition and trade imbalances. Chinese companies are responding to the changing landscape by expanding their operations in Europe and forging important partnerships. However, the current trade tensions serve as a reminder of the challenges involved in international trade within the fast-paced electric vehicle industry.

World Cup Asian qualifiers:

# Taremi on target as lackluster Iran edges out Kyrgyzstan

## Sports Desk

On a day of shock results across the World Cup Asian qualifiers, Iran delivered a drab display but still managed to beat Kyrgyzstan 1-0 at home on Thursday.

Wearing the armband for the day, Mahdi Taremi scored in the first half to lead Team Melli to a winning start to its Group A campaign.

Omid Nourafkan's effort from outside the box was parried by Kyrgyz keeper Erzhan Tokotaev into the path of Inter striker, who tapped in from close range 11 minutes before the break.

Clear-cut chances were few and far between for Iran against a solid opposition backline, though Nourafkan came within inches of an all-important second goal right before the hour mark, only to see his left-footed strike come off the post.

Routed 5-1 by Iran on home soil in last year's CAFA Nations Cup, Kyrgyzstan, which sat deep with numbers for the best part of the game, found the courage to push forward in the closing stages.

The home side had goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand to thank for making a superb save to deny Joel Kojo an equalizer five minutes from normal time as the Asian powerhouse staved off a

late surge from the minnow visitors in what had been tipped to be the easiest of the 10 games in the group for Amir Qalenei's men.

The Iranian manager, however, was left with plenty to think about ahead of Tuesday's visit to the UAE, which came from behind in the second half to walk away with a 3-1 win against reigning Asian Cup champion Qatar in Al Rayyan.

"We had a decent ball circulation in the second half. The team created chances and hit the woodwork. I have to admit the overall performance should have been much better though it was normal for the first game, as you saw Australia lost to Bahrain at home while South Korea could only manage a draw against Palestine," Qalenei said after the game.

Harry Souttar scored an 89th-minute own goal as Australia, down to 10 men in the 77th minute, suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Bahrain in Group C, with South Korea – favorites in Group B – held to a goalless stalemate by Palestine in Seoul.

"Four or five players were far from their best form today and the frontline substitutions didn't quite work out. We will try to show better quality in the

next game," added the Iranian coach. Meanwhile, Taremi, complaining about the pitch quality in the Fooladshahr Stadium playing a significant part in his side's insipid performance, was fu-

rious with some of the criticism the Iranian players received from the stands after the final whistle.

"We will have both good and bad days in every



tournament and today's game doesn't mean we are the worst team in Asia...

We qualified for the World Cup on three successive occasions and that's what we're going to do again," said the Iranian striker, whose netted his 51st international goal to become the third all-time top scorer for the country.

Elsewhere in Group A, Esteghlal midfielder Jaloliddin Masharipov scored midway through the first half as Uzbekistan came out on top against North Korea 1-0 in Tashkent.

Asian Cup finalist Jordan and Kuwait played to a 1-1 draw in Amman in Group B, while Aymen Hussein's first-half strike helped Iraq defeat Oman 1-0 at the Basra International Stadium.

Japan got off to flying start in Group C, inflicting a 7-0 humiliation on Branko Ivankovic's China, while Roberto Mancini's Saudi Arabia salvaged a point in a 1-1 draw against Indonesia in Jeddah.

Iranian players celebrate the winner in a 1-0 victory over Kyrgyzstan in the World Cup Asian qualifiers at the Fooladshahr Stadium, Isfahan, Iran, on September 5, 2024.  
● FFIRI

Paris Paralympics:

## Iran's Pirouj 'disappointed' with javelin silver



## Sports Desk

Iranian Ali Pirouj said he was "disappointed" to settle for a silver medal in the men's javelin throw F13 contests at the Paris Paralympics.

Pirouj registered a personal-best record of 69.74m in his third attempt, though it eventually proved not enough for the Iranian to improve on his silver medal in Tokyo three years ago, as Briton Dan Pembroke threw 74.49m with his fourth effort to smash the world record and retain his Paralympic title.

His throw bettered the previous record – set by Aleksandr Svechnikov of Uzbekistan in 2017 – by 3.48m.

Pembroke had already broken Svechnikov's mark with an effort of 71.15m from his third throw. Ulicer Aguilera of Cuba took the bronze with 62.51m.

"It was such a high-level event. The British athlete was brilliant today, though I didn't back off and made my best-ever throw," Pirouj said after the

final.

"Pembroke broke the world record twice but I gave it my all till the end and am so disappointed to end my campaign with the silver," added the Iranian, who also settled for back-to-back runner-up finishes to Pembroke in the past two World Championships.

Pirouj's silver was a 10th para athletics medal for Iran in Paris.

Elsewhere at Stade de France on Thursday, Hassan Bajoulvand took the silver in the men's discus throw F11 class, courtesy of a 41.75m effort – 17 centimeters adrift of Italian gold medalist Oney Tapia – with Spanish Alvaro del Amo Cano finishing on 39.60m for the bronze.

In the men's shot put, Aliasghar Javanmardi grabbed the bronze in the F35 class with a best effort of 15.84m.

Uzbekistan's Khusniddin Norbekov set a new Paralympic record of 16.82m to win the gold, with Hernan Emanuel Urrea of Argentina throwing 16.11m for the runner-up spot.

## 'Unique milestone' as Ronaldo reaches 900 career goals

BBC – Cristiano Ronaldo reached a significant milestone on Thursday by scoring the 900th goal of his illustrious career.

The 39-year-old struck for Portugal in their Nations League game against Croatia, putting them 2-0 up.

It prompted an emotional celebration by the forward, as he dropped to his knees by the corner flag in tears.

The goal was his 131st for his country, while he has also scored at club level for Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and current club Al-Nassr.

"It was emotional because it's a milestone," Ronaldo said. "It seems like any other milestone but only I know, and the people around me, how hard it is to work every day, to be physically and psychologically fit, to score 900 goals."

"It's a unique milestone in my career."

Such is Ronaldo's longevity that if someone was born when he scored the first competitive goal of his career they would now be 21.

He struck a double for Portugal's Sporting on 7 October 2002 at the age of 17 years, eight months and three days in a 3-0 win against Moreirense.

He then moved to Manchester United, scoring 118 goals in 293 games for the Red Devils before joining Real Madrid in 2009 for a then world record 94m euros (£80m).

In nine years at the Spanish giants, he scored 450 goals in just 438 games before making the move to Italy to join Juventus.

He added another 101 goals to his tally during his three years with the Italian club before returning to United, where he would score 27 goals in 54 games.

But a return to the Red Devils did not have a fairytale ending – and in 2023 he made the move to Saudi Arabia with Al-Nassr, where he has got 68 goals and counting.

Incredibly, almost half of Ronaldo's goals (437) have been scored since he turned 30 in February 2015.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his 900th career goal in a 2-1 victory over Croatia in the UEFA Nations League in Lisbon, Portugal, on September 5, 2024.  
● JOSE SENA GOU-LAO/EPA

# Netanyahu's refusal to sign truce deal infuriates Israelis

## International Desk

Israel's prime minister's insistence on an open-ended control over Gaza's southern border area with Egypt – known as the Philadelphi Corridor – is derailing cease-fire efforts to end the regime's genocidal war on the Palestinian territory.

Benjamin Netanyahu is under increasing pressure domestically to sign a cease-fire agreement with Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, especially after the bodies of the six more captives held in Gaza were recently retrieved from the Palestinian territory.

The international community is also exerting pressure on Israeli officials to end their devastating war on the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of nearly 41,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – since last October.

On Thursday, thousands of Israelis took to the streets for the fifth straight night to protest against Netanyahu's policies in Gaza.

The protesters marched through Tel Aviv, carrying 27 mock coffins representing 27 captives killed in Gaza, demanding a deal to secure the release of remaining captives held by Hamas in Gaza. Significant crowds also gathered in other cities across the occupied territories.

It was the fifth straight night of demonstrations, following the last Saturday recovery of the bodies of six captives.

On October 7, Hamas arrested 251 people during an unprecedented attack on Israel's positions in the occupied territories.



A sign lies on the ground as Israeli demonstrators set a fire during a protest calling for action to secure the release of Israeli captives held in Gaza, in Tel Aviv on September 5, 2024.  
● JACK GUEZ/AFP

Of 251 captives seized by Palestinian fighters, 97 remain in Gaza, including 33 the Israeli military says are dead. Scores were released during a one-week truce in November.

News of the deaths of the six captives sparked outrage in Israel, and drew charges that Netanyahu has been refusing to pursue negotiations with Hamas in earnest, avoiding concessions that might have allowed the Israelis to come home alive but would have endangered his ruling coalition.

"Gaza must be demilitarized, and

this can only happen if the Philadelphi Corridor remains under firm control," Netanyahu told foreign journalists on Wednesday.

Netanyahu said Israel must maintain control of the corridor – which was seized by Israeli forces in May – to prevent weapons being smuggled into Gaza and that Israel would only consider withdrawing from the strategic location when presented with an alternative plan to police the area.

In a statement released on Thursday, Hamas blamed Net-

anyahu for the ongoing impasse in cease-fire talks and accused the Israeli leader of wanting to prolong the war on Gaza.

"Netanyahu's decision not to withdraw from the Salah al-Din [Philadelphi Corridor] axis aims to thwart reaching an agreement," Hamas said in the statement.

"We warn against falling into Netanyahu's trap and tricks, as he uses negotiations to prolong the aggression against our people," Hamas said, adding that Israel must adhere to a deal that was agreed earlier this year.

Washington has been pushing a proposal it says could bridge the gaps between the warring sides, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying, "90 percent is agreed."

"It's really incumbent on both parties to get to yes on these remaining issues," Blinken said during a visit to Haiti.

But Netanyahu said there is "not a deal in the making."

"Unfortunately, it's not close but we will do everything we can to get them to the point where they do make a deal," he told US media.

## Iran, Bahrain upbeat about promoting political dialogue



Iran and Bahrain have expressed hope to promote joint political dialogue as there are signs of improvement in relations between the two Persian Gulf countries after years of differences.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani called his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Thursday to congratulate him on becoming the new foreign minister of Iran.

Regarding the importance of bilateral relations with Iran, the Bahraini foreign minister expressed hope that joint political dialogues between the two nations will be upgraded in the new era.

Araghchi thanked his Bahraini counterpart for his call and his participation in the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Araghchi described the development of relations with neighbors within the framework of the Islamic Republic's policy toward neighboring countries as one of the Pezeshkian government's important priorities.

Both foreign ministers emphasized the continuation of talks and exchange of views within the framework of the agreements made.

Last month, Zayani also held talks with Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani.

They discussed Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip as well as the regime's expansion of war to the regional countries. During the talks, Bagheri Kani said Iran considered any silence against the expansion of the evils of the regime to the detriment of the stability of the West Asia region.

Back in 2016, Bahrain followed suit with Saudi Arabia to sever diplomatic relations with Iran after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its diplomatic mission in Iran.

Tehran and Riyadh reached an agreement in the Chinese capital city of Beijing in March 2023 to restore diplomatic relations and re-open embassies and missions.

During a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in May, King Hamad said Bahrain looked forward to improving its relations with Iran. He added that there was no reason to postpone the restoration of diplomatic ties between Bahrain and Iran.

## Redrawing of borders ...

Tehran's unequivocal position on this matter effectively sidelined discussions

about the Zangezur Corridor for an extended period. However, Russia's stance on this issue has recently become a subject of controversy. Moscow had initially opposed the establishment of such a corridor, particularly due to support from the US and Turkey, and the warming of relations between Armenia and the West raised concerns for both Iran and Russia that the corridor could bring NATO to their doorstep.

During the recent visit of the Russian president to the Republic of Azerbaijan, there were reportedly discussions about this corridor, according to media accounts. Subsequently, Maria Zakharova, the spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry, brought the issue into the public eye by stating that Moscow is aware of the Iranian concerns regarding the Zangezur Corridor, and they need to clarify this issue with Tehran, but Moscow's position on this matter is absolutely clear.

Moscow's controversial stance has triggered a wave of critical reactions in Iran, especially as the two countries are on the brink of finalizing a long-term cooperation agreement. The signing of a joint statement by the [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council countries, alongside Russia, in support of the UAE's claims over three Iranian is-

lands, had already generated significant criticism of Russia. Now, Moscow's new position on the Zangezur Corridor, coinciding with the inauguration of Iran's new government, has fueled pessimistic analyses and raised questions about Russia's intentions towards Iran.

Moscow's stance on the aforementioned corridor is of such significance to Iran that, in response, the Russian ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry. Iran's opposition to any changes in internationally recognized borders and geopolitical shifts in the region was reiterated, emphasizing the need to respect the legitimate interests and concerns of all regional countries.

As part of the ongoing reactions, Araghchi published a message on the social media platform X, stating, "Regional peace, security and stability is not merely a preference, but a pillar of our national security. Any threat from North, South, East, or West to territorial integrity of our neighbors or redrawing of boundaries is totally unacceptable and a red line for Iran."

Contrary to the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson's assertion about clarifying the issue for Iran, it seems that it is the Russians who need to provide clarity. From the Iranian perspective, it is the contradictory and unfriendly Russian stances that require rectification, as they are perceived as unclear and ambiguous.

## Iran repudiates allegations of interference in US election

Iran rejected as "hackneyed and groundless" the US administration's claims of Tehran's interference in the forthcoming American election.

"Once again, we consider these hackneyed allegations to be groundless, biased, and to serve domestic political purposes in the United States, and we reject such accusations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Friday, according to Press TV.

The comment came after US Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and some other intelligence agencies accused certain countries, including Iran, of engaging in efforts to influence the outcome of the US presidential vote in November by conducting cyberattacks.

Kanaani stressed that US officials, unable to heal rifts and settle their country's internal problems, which have structural, political and social roots, seek to shift the blame on others by leveling accusations against various countries.

"The US government, which spearheads illegal interference in the internal affairs of the other independent states and has a long list of such destructive measures on its

record, cannot attribute its domestic problems and crises to other countries by making accusations against them or covering up the dark record of its extrajudicial actions and interference in the internal affairs of the independent states," Kanaani added.

Garland recently accused Iran of "aggressive" actions aimed at swaying the November election in the US, citing what he claimed as intelligence reports.

In a joint statement last month, the FBI, Office of the Director of National Intelligence and Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) also claimed that Iran was taking measures to target political campaigns and American public with cyber and influence operations. Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations rejected at the time the "unsubstantiated" allegations of efforts to interfere in the 2024 US presidential election.

The US presidential election will be held in November, pitting former US president Donald Trump against Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, with the latter commanding a marginal lead in the latest polls.



Nasser Kanaani



## Hundreds of artists sign letter urging cease-fire in Gaza

Artists4Ceasefire, the industry collective that has been pushing for an end to the current war in Gaza (and whose pin badges were worn by various attendees at this year's Oscars ceremony), is spearheading a new initiative calling for a halt to illegal arms sales to Israel. Through a partnership with artist Shepard Fairey and several humanitarian organizations — including Oxfam America, ActionAid USA and War Child Alliance/Children in Conflict — the group has launched a call to action bearing the message "Ceasefire Now, Stop Weapons, Save Lives" that urges the halt to what it says are "weapons transfers that violate US. and international law." Such laws state it is illegal to supply or use weapons to commit "grave human rights violations," including striking schools or hospitals, restricting humanitarian aid, and killing children, Variety reported. To accompany the effort, Fairey has launched a new artwork featuring a peace dove holding

barbed wire in its beak, an image he said "carries the message of the collective humanity we must find to rise above hostility and put an end to the destruction and devastation." The call comes as part of what Artists4Ceasefire says is its ongoing advocacy for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, the safe return of all hostages and the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, a call it first issued through an open letter to President Joe Biden in October 2023 signed by more than 470 major Hollywood and cultural figures, including Joaquin Phoenix, Cate Blanchett, Jon Stewart, Kristen Stewart and Riz Ahmed. Among the members of the Artists4Ceasefire collective speaking out for the new effort are Mark Ruffalo, Mahershala Ali, Cynthia Nixon and Ilana Glazer. Ruffalo in his statement asserted that in his view, the US. government holds "the cards to achieving a permanent cease-fire," he added. "We keep hearing that they're working around

the clock to achieve a cease-fire. Let's be clear: Biden already has the authority to condition or cut off offensive military aid to Israel if Netanyahu refuses to accept a permanent cease-fire." Ali, meanwhile, called for an end to the "mass destruction" being perpetrated using US. tax dollars. "We are standing together to remind US. and global leaders that the lives of millions of human beings are on the line — both Palestinians and Israelis — and by sending an endless barrage of weapons, we are in fact facilitating death and destruction, while merely paying lip service to peace, security and humanity for both people," he said. "Our demand is simple — our elected leaders must enforce existing US. and international humanitarian laws that prohibit the use of military assistance to commit 'grave human rights violations,'" said Ruffalo, who has long been an advocate for Palestinian rights and has spoken out against Israeli military aggression. Ruffalo noted that the

UK. had recently announced that it was halting 30 arms exports licenses to Israel, something he said was "not enough, but it's a start, and more than the US., the biggest supplier of arms and weapons to Netanyahu and the state of Israel, has done." "Words without action will not end the unbearable suffering of Palestinian and Israeli mothers, fathers and children," said Nixon. "Enough is enough. The global call for a permanent cease-fire — supported domestically by an overwhelming majority of Americans — must be answered." Glazer said that the way in which the US. is "breaking international law" with regard to arms sales to Israel was "making Jewish people less safe and contributing to the global rise of antisemitism." She added: "The safety and security of Jews and Muslims, of Israelis and Palestinians, is inextricably intertwined. We have a moral and legal obligation to stop the flow of weapons." After 11 months of war, Israel's

military operations in Gaza have killed at least 40,000 Palestinians, 16,500 of them children, according to the local ministry for health. The devastation has also led to a major humanitarian crisis, with nearly all of Gaza's 2.2 million people having been displaced from their homes. Some 96% of Gaza's population is reportedly facing acute food insecurity. "The direct targeting of hospitals and obstruction to health-care facilities by Israeli forces, alongside the limited access to medical supplies, has endangered around 50,000 pregnant women and 20,000 newborn babies," said ActionAid USA, as part of the new call to action. "The humanitarian crisis in Gaza grows more dire each day, fueled by the United States' seemingly limitless provision of weapons to Israel," added Oxfam America's associate director for peace and security, Scott Paul. "The US. must stop the sale of lethal arms to Israel in violation of its own law and policy. It must push for an immediate and per-

manent cease-fire in Gaza and secure the return of all hostages and illegally detained prisoners. Palestinian civilians and Israeli hostages remain at risk until a cease-fire is secured; it is the only way to ensure peace and security for all Palestinians and Israelis." Rob Williams, War Child Alliance CEO, said: "The situation for children in Gaza is the deadliest we at War Child and Children in Conflict have seen in our over 30-year history. But for every minute this war continues, children's lives are in danger. We can't say it enough: An immediate and permanent cease-fire is desperately needed to protect children from this worsening catastrophe. Furthermore, all hostages and Palestinian civilians detained without due course must be released. Only when this war ends will it be possible to rebuild homes and livelihoods and get children the food, water, and mental and physical health support they desperately need."

## Indonesia, Iran to forge closer ties as Jakarta celebrates 79th independence anniversary



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

Indonesia's ambassador to Iran said Thursday that bilateral cooperation between the two countries is expected to strengthen in the coming years, particularly in the fields of trade, health, science, and technology. Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro, the Indonesian ambassador to Iran, made the remarks during a ceremony marking the 79th Indonesia's Independence Anniversary at the Azadi Hotel in Tehran. Yuliantoro expressed confidence that the two countries

will deepen their ties, citing the strong historical and cultural bonds between them. He noted that Indonesia and Iran have been actively engaged in diplomatic talks to address common challenges and opportunities based on mutual respect and understanding. The envoy highlighted Indonesia's significant progress in maintaining political and economic stability, reducing poverty, building infrastructure, and promoting trade and investment. He said the country's economic growth has consistently been around 5% or higher, above the global average of



3.4%. Yuliantoro also mentioned Indonesia's plans to relocate its capital to a new city, Nusantara, which is part of the country's vision to become a

developed and prosperous nation by 2045. He expressed optimism that Indonesia will become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2045, citing the coun-

try's population of around 309 million, economic growth of 5-6%, and a projected GDP of \$9.1 trillion. The envoy noted that this year's independence anniversary theme, "Nusantara Baru Indonesia Maju"... which implies to Indonesia's new capital to advancing Indonesia. He also congratulated the Iranian government and people on the successful election of a new president and the formation of a new cabinet. Yuliantoro said that Indonesia and Iran have signed several agreements, including a preferential trade agreement, which is currently in the final stages of approval.

He also highlighted cooperation in the health sector, citing the signing of several agreements, including a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of a robotic surgery project in four Indonesian hospitals. In the field of higher education, four memoranda of understanding have been signed between Indonesian and Iranian universities, including the University of Tehran. The ambassador expressed hope that the two countries will strengthen their bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade, health, science, and technology, under the new Iranian government.



The mayors of Tehran and Damascus signed a sister city agreement, paving the way for increased cooperation between the two capitals in various fields. Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani, who visited Syria at the invitation of the Syrian government, inked the agree-

## Tehran, Damascus ink sisterhood agreement

ment with Damascus Governor Mohammad Tariq Krichati on Thursday. The deal aims to strengthen ties and exchange experiences in areas such as services, economy, and tourism. Zakani said the agreement will help both cities improve their services and work together on strategic projects, including metro systems, waste management, and transportation. Krichati expressed Damascus' eagerness to boost cooperation and

achieve a higher level of performance based on planned and evaluable programs. He also highlighted the importance of working with Tehran to benefit from its expertise and resources to meet the current and future needs of citizens. Zakani pointed out that the two cities have the potential to continue their joint cooperation to help rebuild Damascus.

## Iranian 'The Old Bachelor' to be screened in Italy

Iranian film 'The Old Bachelor' will be screened at the 20th Lucca Film Festival in Italy later this month. The movie, directed by Oktay Baraheni, will compete in the main section of the festival, which runs from September 21 to 29. This marks the film's fourth international appearance. Starring Iranian cinema heavyweights Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, and Hassan Pourshirazi, 'The Old Bachelor' has already made waves in the international film circuit. It won the Best Film Award at the 53rd International

Film Festival Rotterdam and was praised for its performances at the Transilvania Film Festival in Romania. Pourshirazi also took home the Best Actor Award at the Transilvania Film Festival for his role in the movie. Plus, 'The Old Bachelor' won the Best Film Award at the Galway Film Festival in Ireland. The Lucca Film Festival, which has been running since 2005, showcases a range of international films every year in the Italian city of Lucca.