

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed
in a blast
at IRGC
weapons depot
in Semnan

IRNA

National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said two of its staff members have been killed in an explosion at a military facility in the north-central province of Semnan.

In a statement, the IRGC branch in the province's Damghan County said three others were also wounded in the blast, which occurred during the storing of defective ammunition at the weapons depot at the base of Martyr Hasheminejad. The statement added that the cause of the accident is under investigation.

Israel weaker
than 'spider's
web': Iranian
spokesman

National Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed an article by an Israeli center confessing that the regime's deterrence in the face of its enemies is eroding.

Citing the article by the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) about the erosion of Israel's deterrence capabilities, Nasser Kanaani wrote in his Twitter account that the Zionist regime is weaker than a 'spider's web'.

Canada
imposes
human rights
sanctions
on Iran

REUTERS - Canada imposed additional sanctions on Iran on Wednesday over what it called human rights violations within the country and abroad, the government said in a statement, according to miragenews.com.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly on Wednesday announced that Canada is imposing additional sanctions under the Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations. This is the 11th package of sanctions imposed by Canada against Iran since October 2022.

Iran seizes foreign tanker
for breaking maritime law

This still image from video released by the U.S. Navy shows the Panama-flagged oil tanker Niovi surrounded by IRGC vessels in the Strait of Hormuz on May 3, 2023.

AP

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy seized a foreign oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

The foreign oil tanker, which has apparently broken the rules, has been captured by the IRGC Navy forces in the Strait of Hormuz waters on Wednesday, Tasnim news agency reported.

The prosecutor of Tehran announced that the ship was impounded by the IRGC navy following the complaint of the plaintiff and the order of the judicial authority, the Judiciary's Mizan news agency reported.

AP quoted the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet as saying that the vessel was a Panama-flagged oil tanker, identified as the Niovi.

It is a second oil tanker seized in a week on Wednesday in Persian Gulf waters, the U.S. Navy said.

Last week, the Iranian Navy seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Sea of Oman and directed it toward Iran's territorial waters after the tanker hit an Iranian vessel and tried to flee in violation of maritime regulations. That tanker is being held by Iranian authorities in Bandar Abbas, the Marshall Islands flag registry said on Tuesday, Reuters reported. Maritime security firm Ambrey



has said it believed the Advantage Sweet's seizure by Iran was in response to a recent seizure via a court order by the United States of an oil cargo aboard the Marshall Islands tanker Suez Rajan.

The Niovi oil tanker seized on Wednesday had been traveling from Dubai towards the UAE's Fujairah Port, the navy said.

The Niovi last reported its position at 0231 GMT on Wednesday, off the coast of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz, with Fujairah as its destination, Refinitiv ship tracking data showed.

According to the International Maritime Organization shipping database, the Niovi's owner is Grand Financing Company, and

the ship is managed by Greece-based Smart Tankers, which did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

About a fifth of the world's crude oil and oil products passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow choke point between Iran and Oman, according to data from analytics firm Vortexa.

Iran's aircraft building strategy ...



Domestic airplane project

In April of the previous year, the vice president for science and technology declared the initiation of a domestic airplane project. The project aims to make a 72-seater jet and is progressing in a consortium consisting of Iran's Ministry

of Road and Urban Development, the Ministry of Defense, and knowledge-based firms. Also on Monday, a domestically-engineered control system for the aircraft engine, developed by the MAPNA industrial group, was successfully tested in the presence of President Ebrahim Raeisi.

Why is it essential to build
airplanes?

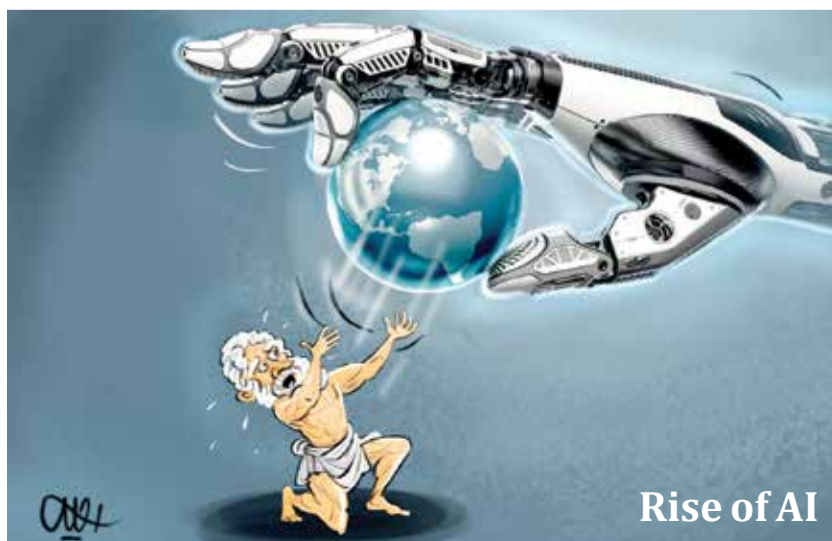
Mohammadi-Bakhsh emphasizes the policy of making indigenous planes through the utilization of domestic knowledge and strategies, stating that the capacity and expertise to build aircraft have been attained in Iran. He also points out that the West has imposed harsh sanctions on Iran that prevent any import, even down to a single bolt. This situation has made it difficult for Iran to acquire the necessary spare parts to maintain its fleet of aircraft up and running. Additionally, the current state of affairs is not to be merely defined by sanctions. It's more akin to an asymmetric war, whereby Iran has procured passenger planes but received no spare parts. As a result, 10 of the 13 airliners bought in the wake of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers are currently grounded.

Long-term strategy

The deputy minister of Roads and Urban Development has underscored that while Iran has been strengthened in all areas, sanctions have been either ineffective or less effective. Wherever those deficiencies have been made public, however, the West has ramped up its pressure, making it necessary to have a long-term strategy to combat shortcomings amid this asymmetric war. Nevertheless, Iranian knowledge-based companies have proven their capacity in the aviation industry as many modern airplanes are repaired and maintained within the country. Iran's know-how to make airplanes and the increased capacity of knowledge-based companies are all positive signs that the country is on the right path toward achieving this goal. If Iran can achieve this, it will not only reduce its dependence on imports but will also strengthen its economy and enhance its national security.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



MP: Border security tied to development ...

"Thus, under the current state of affairs, enhancing the country's relations with the neighboring countries can be considered the correct policy for the purposes of tightening security in Iran's border zones and improving its standing in the broader region."

That is an area where the moderate MP, who represents the province of Sistan and Baluchestan, lauds the efforts of the incumbent government despite being a critic of it in many other areas.

"The policy of the government with regard to its eastern neighbor, Pakistan, has breathed life into the markets held at the border between the two countries and improved the local economy of the surrounding zones as well as the national economy of Iran," Saeedi stated.

He also highlighted the role that these border markets play in increasing the security of the borders and bringing the people of both countries closer together, especially since they have many cultural

and ethnic commonalities. The MP notes that the southwestern province of Pakistan, which is meaningfully also named 'Baluchistan,' was once a part of Iran, but separated from it during the reign of Nassereddin Shah Qajar. Given this shared root, it has been no wonder to Saeedi that many security issues in the region were solved through the same cultural channel in the past.

"Now, this potential can be exploited to cement the cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan," he added.