

## NEWS IN BRIEF

IRGC busts  
Daesh-K  
network  
in Iran

**TASNIM** – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps intelligence forces smashed a network affiliated with the Daesh Khorasan (Daesh-K) terrorist group in Iran's southern province of Fars. The IRGC Intelligence Department busted the "operational and media network of Daesh-K" in the southern province of Fars and arrested the network's main element.

The ringleader, who was being monitored by the IRGC forces for four years, was in charge of detecting and recruiting extremist elements in a number of Iranian provinces, including Tehran.

The network has been smashed following a deadly terrorist attack last October on the Shah Cheragh Shrine in the southern city of Shiraz, the capital of Fars Province. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. On October 26, 2022, an armed terrorist barged inside the revered holy shrine, killing 15 pilgrims, including women and children, and injuring dozens before being arrested by security forces.

Keeping  
interaction  
with Tehran  
is important:  
IAEA chief

**CBC** – Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi stressed the necessity of keeping the agency's interaction with Tehran.

He said the chances of Iran returning to the JCPOA are slim, but it's important to keep interacting with Tehran.

"There could be a return to the negotiating table, but if the interactions between Iran and the agency are seen or assessed as bad and the cooperation is not good, the chances are zero," he said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Sunday that the course of the country's cooperation with the IAEA within technical frameworks will soon witness great progress.

Iran: US accusations aimed at justifying  
Persian Gulf presence

A Saikrone Explorer takes part in a joint US and UK naval drill in the Persian Gulf on Oct. 7, 2022. **AP**

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly condemned Washington's latest accusations against Tehran, saying the United States is just trying to justify its own meddling presence in the region. Nasser Kanaani made his

late Monday remarks in response to recent allegations by John Kirby, who currently serves as the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, Press TV reported.

On May 13, Kirby said the US "will work to bolster" its "defensive posture" in the Persian Gulf after Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Navy seized two invading foreign oil tankers in the country's territorial wa-

ters in the Strait of Hormuz in recent weeks. Kirby used the oft-repeated refrain that Washington will not allow foreign or regional powers to jeopardize freedom of navigation through regional waterways.

Responding to Kirby's remarks, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Islamic Republic has played the most effective role in ensuring safe naval traffic in the Persian Gulf as well as other regional and international waters, and "has always guaranteed secure passage of ships and other vessels through the Strait of Hormuz."

"The recent measures taken with regard to the two seized ships were due to their violations and taken through the court verdict. The goal was to prevent behaviors and moves that are against international navigation regulations," Kanaani noted.

He added that the United States "continues to accuse Iran while its interfering and destructive policies throughout long decades have fomented and exacerbated instability and insecurity in the Persian Gulf region."

"The new accusations leveled against Iran are mere excuses, which are aimed at justifying the continuation and further bolstering of [the United States'] meddling presence in the region," Kanaani said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the continued presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf waters as a threat against security of marine traffic in this body of water and believes that regional countries are capable of safeguarding peace and security of navigation without [any need to] the presence of foreigners."

Iran, Russia stand united against  
threats, arrogant domination:  
Army commander

A senior Iranian Army commander said the country will enhance cooperation with its allies, including Russia, to counter threats posed to regional security by "global arrogance."

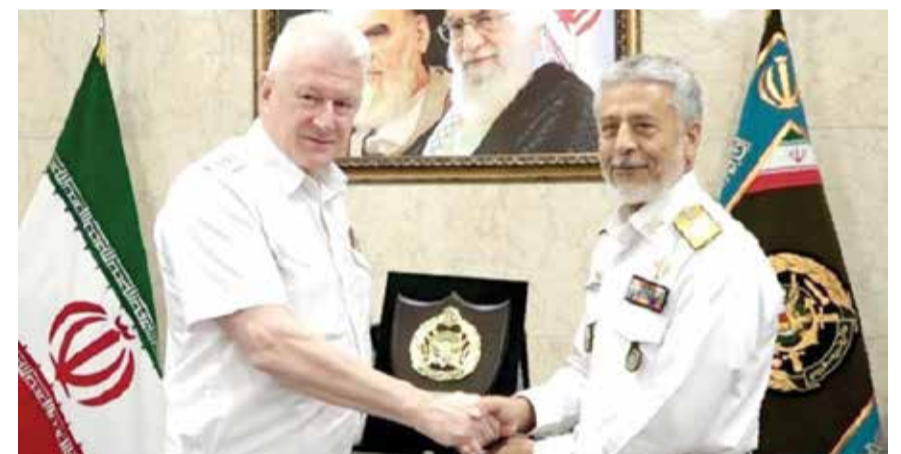
In a meeting with Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Navy Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov in Tehran on Monday, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, urged vigilance to prevent any domination of the global arrogance.

"We do not want to dominate and attack any country, but we stand against any threats and arrogant domination. In this regard, we will strengthen our cooperation and synergy

with friendly and allied countries, including Russia," Sayyari said.

"We must certainly be strong to ensure security and peace in the region... Also, we must have unity and synergy, and use each other's experiences in such a way that ... leads to effective deterrence."

The commander also expressed the Iranian Army's readiness to implement joint cooperation projects with Russia in the fields of making mutual visits, improving the quality of military competitions, as well as maritime patrols and exercises, ensuring economic security, taking counter-terrorism measures, conducting maritime search and rescue operations and trainings, and



helping damaged vessels. He further hailed the capability of Iran's Navy, saying the force has faithful and knowledgeable employees and state-of-the-art surface and sub-surface equipment.

Iranian naval vessels, he added, have today made voyages to important ports, including Port of St. Petersburg, and circumnavigated the globe.

"Following the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran ... put the

appropriate use of the sea on its agenda. After pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden, the Navy developed its powerful presence in international waters ... and even helped many countries."

The Russian admiral also stressed enhanced cooperation between the naval forces of the two countries.

The Iranian and Russian navies enjoy close relations and have staged several joint exercises.

Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah (R) meets with Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Navy, Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, in Tehran, on May 15, 2023. **FARS**



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Assyrian Church ...

During the meeting, the Iranian official dismissed Western-led charges

of supporting terrorism against Iran, saying that it is the same Western states that have turned into a safe haven for terrorist groups. He said the Iranian people are victims of terrorism as 17,000 innocent people have lost their lives in terrorist attacks across the country.

Gharibabadi said the West accuses Iran's of supporting terrorist groups, while the United States overtly assassinated the greatest anti-terror Iranian commander

General Qassem Soleimani three years ago.

He noted that the concept of human rights is rooted in monotheistic religions, adding that, "Western countries are trying to impose their own lifestyle on other countries, but we believe that it is necessary to respect various cultures."

The senior Iranian rights official said Islam and other divine religions attach great significance to human dignity. There are less than 200,000 religious minorities in Iran who enjoy "special rights" and are well-represented in the parliament, he added.