

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRGC develops
new missile
training system

TASNIM – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force successfully tested a home-grown system that trains crew members to fire the Fath 360 missiles.

The training system, designed and manufactured by the IRGC Ground Force's experts, simulates all the stages, from loading and preparation to the launch of the Fath 360 missile, for the officers. The training system uses the airframe of a real Fath 360 missile, but its engine and warhead have been replaced by an Arash 122-mm rocket.

Kuwait urges
Iran border
talks

● WIKIPEDIA

AFP – Kuwait reinvited Iran on Monday to talks on their sea borders after Tehran said it was ready to start drilling in a disputed gas field in the resource-rich Persian Gulf.

The field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, is also claimed by Riyadh and Kuwait in a dispute which dates back several decades. "The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... alone have exclusive rights to the natural wealth in the Al-Dorra field," a Kuwaiti foreign ministry statement said.

Navy to install
hypersonic
missile on
destroyer

● IRNA

PRESS TV – Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said a hypersonic missile will be installed on Iran's home-grown Damavand-2 destroyer, which will join the Navy in the near future.

On Monday, Irani said the Damavand-2 destroyer will be equipped with "defensive and offensive missiles." "All defensive equipment installed on Damavand-2 destroyer is completely up-to-date," he stated.

Iran acquires MKO's digital data

International Desk

An Iranian official said a number of electronic and storage devices captured during the Albanian police's recent raid on a base of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) have arrived in Iran. The head of the Iranian government's Information Council said on Monday that a consignment of hard drives and computer cases confiscated during the recent raid on the MKO camp near Tirana have reached Iran, according to Tasnim news agency. Sepehr Khalaji announced in a post on his Twitter account that Iranian experts are retrieving data from the devices and detecting the MKO's "links, sabotage cells, and blind spots". The results so far are promising, he added.

In late June, the Albanian police forces raided a camp hosting the MKO over its engagement in "terror and cyberattacks" against foreign institutions. Authorities seized 150 computer devices linked to terrorist activities. At least one MKO terrorist was killed and dozens of others were injured during the clashes at the camp, known as Ashraf-3, in the northwest of the capital Tirana. An informed source has

said that the computer servers captured in the raid contain important information including data about the terrorist group's links and elements inside Iran.

Tehran slams France
for hosting MKO rally

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Sunday that hosting the terrorist cult's recent gathering — which coincided with widespread political and social unrest in France — proves the French government's disregard for the demands of its own citizens and its continued political support for terror groups, Press TV reported.

"Instead of repeating their past brazen mistakes in supporting the killers of the Iranian people and [instead of] focusing on [finding a] radical solution for their country's profound problems and crises, and [instead of] correcting their biased and racist treatment of French citizens, the French authorities paved the way for a meeting of terrorists who have been recently put to shame in Albania," the spokesman said.

Kanaani then warned the French government against the political and legal consequences of its support for and hosting of terrorists and murderers of Iranian citizens and officials.



The undated photo shows members of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization at a base in Albania. ● mashreghnews.ir

"Those terrorists, who have betrayed their own country and nation by committing shocking and horrible crimes, will certainly not hesitate to betray their foreign supporters as well. Therefore,

those who support terrorists will not only fail to benefit from them but will also be eventually harmed by the moves of these evildoers," he said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman's remarks came after the Iranian Intelligence Ministry said earlier on Sunday that it is seriously pursuing terrorists beyond the country's borders, citing successful operations that led to the arrest of individuals affiliated with the MKO terror cult.

The ministry also commended the Albanian government for its recent action against MKO terrorists during a raid on their camp in the northwestern region of the capital, Tirana, describing the operation conducted by the Albanian police as a "step forward."

The European Union, Canada, the United States, and Japan had previously listed the MKO as a "terrorist organization." In 2012, however, the group was taken

off of the US list of terrorist organizations. The EU followed suit, removing the group from its list of terrorist organizations. The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

Iran's full SCO ...



● moderndiplomacy.eu

Earlier on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "The full membership of Iran would be approved at the summit, which will be

chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Secretary General of the organization, Zhang Ming, had also said that Iran's membership would be officially announced at Tues-

day's meeting. "From July 4th, Iran will enjoy all the rights related to the member countries of the organization," he told Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a phone conversation on Friday. Amir-Abdollahian said that he is confident Iran's membership in the organization will provide the SCO with a growing capacity. He said the Iranian Parliament and administration, particularly the Foreign Ministry, have made substantial efforts to prepare and approve all the doc-

uments pertaining to the country's full membership. Iran first applied for membership in the alliance 15 years ago, but it took until 2021 for the request to be approved. Iran and the organization started a formal process for Tehran's accession in March 2022. In September of the same year, Iran signed a memorandum of commitment to join the SCO. A month later, the Iranian Parliament approved the country's accession. The SCO is a diplomatic organization with eight members, namely, Russia,

China, India, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Set up in 2001, the organization's members work to tackle joint security issues, cooperate militarily and promote internal trade. SCO membership was already in the cards, and Iran is also hoping to be quickly accepted into another grouping that excludes Western countries — the BRICS group with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Iran can economically play an important role in the

organization due to having a suitable infrastructure in transportation, including railways, roads, airports and ports, especially the Chabahar port in south-eastern Iran. On the other hand, the two largest energy importers in the world, namely, China and India, are members of the organization, and Iran, as one of the largest energy exporters, will have good opportunities to strengthen its energy cooperation with these countries within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran marks US downing
of passenger flight

Iran commemorated the 35th anniversary of the downing of its passenger plane by a US Navy guided-missile cruiser over the country's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf, which killed all 290 people on board. During a memorial ceremony on Monday, local officials and the families of the tragedy's victims tossed flowers into the waters near the site of the crash, wrote Press TV. Chanting slogans such as "Down with the US" and "Down with Israel," the par-

ticipants condemned the inhumane US crime and expressed their utter disgust at the criminal act. Reacting to the occasion, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani noted that the Iranian nation will never forget this horrible crime committed by the US. "We are commemorating the anniversary of the tragic incident of the Iranian passenger plane being hit by the US, which gave the commander of this terrible operation a



Iranians toss flowers into the water at the site of the 1988 US downing of a civilian aircraft, near the Strait of Hormuz and Hengam Island, on July 3, 2023. ● TASNIM

medal of courage," he said. On July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes fired missiles at an Iran Air Airbus A300B2 which was flying over the Hormuz Strait from the port city of Bandar Abbas to Dubai, carrying 274 passengers and 16 crew members.