

NEWS IN BRIEF

Upgraded
Shahed-149
Gaza drone
unveiled

● PANA

IRNA – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) unveiled an upgraded version of the domestically-made Shahed-149 Gaza drone in the central city of Kashan on Sunday.

The drone has reportedly been equipped with a new landing gear system and a hardpoint.

Shahed-149 Gaza, manufactured by Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Corporation, was unveiled in May 2021. It is an advanced high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned combat aircraft, capable of flying for over 35 hours and covering 7,000 kilometers on a single mission.

Qatar to
facilitate talks
with West

● mfa.gov.ir

ISNA – Minister of State at Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi arrived in Tehran on Sunday to meet with Iranian senior officials including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. The purpose of this visit is to negotiate bilateral relations, reduce tensions between Iran and the West in the region, and facilitate dialogue to advance negotiations on lifting sanctions and removing obstacles in the way of the issue of prisoner exchanges between Iran and the United States.

Serbian
speaker:
Improved ties to
boost security

IRNA – Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Vladimir Orlic said the better economic cooperation between Iran and Serbia, the greater security and stability would be brought about to the Balkans and the Middle East.

The visiting Orlic made the remarks at a joint press briefing held in Tehran on Sunday with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, referring to the oil industry and petrochemicals as fields to be used to further bilateral relations.

Iran mulling over 'non-diplomatic'
ways to restore Hirmand water rights: **MP**

Locals hit by drought collect water from tankers in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Iran.

● IRNA

International Desk

An Iranian lawmaker says Iran is studying "non-diplomatic" ways to restore its right to its water share from the Hirmand River

(known as Helmand River in Afghanistan), which the Taliban government in Afghanistan is currently not allowing to be fulfilled.

Fadahosseini Maleki, who represents the southeast-

ern city of Zahedan in the Iranian Parliament, said on Sunday that a committee of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has assumed the responsibility, IFP reported.

Maleki, who sits on the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said among the options being studied were closing the Afghanistan Embassy in Tehran, or reducing political, trade, and economic relations through the Chabahar port in the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province. The Taliban have been refusing to allow Iran's share of water from Hirmand to stream into the country. This has caused a drought in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan, which has in turn sparked a national debate in the country.

The lawmaker described the situation as "the gradual death of Sistan and Baluchestan Province," pointing out that the villages there are being deserted one after another.

Iran's Space Agency said recently that images obtained from Iranian satellites show that the Afghan government is preventing water from reaching the Iranian side of the border by building numerous dams and diverting the flow of the water.

Earlier this year, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi

"warned" the Taliban to open the gates into Iran. To the dismay of Iranians and their lawmakers, Maleki noted, nothing tangible has happened since the warning was issued.

"The Parliament's National Security Committee had a meeting with the foreign minister two days ago where some members complained about the undermining positions taken by Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan and some others in the government," he added.

The legislator warned against appeasing the Taliban government too much as Iran has already met their every demand.

Maleki, however, emphasized that he does not believe that the Taliban is under the influence of certain non-Afghans present in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban has always stressed that the Americans and the British are trying to cause friction between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Afghanistan in any way possible. They were unable to achieve their dreams before, but they are progressing now."

Report: Tehran may join five-nation
group on Lebanon

Officials from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the US, and France held a second meeting to discuss the ongoing political and economic crises in Lebanon on July 17, 2023.

● SPA

A source close to a senior leader participating in the five-nation group on the Lebanese presidential file said that the group might expand to resemble the famous 5+1 format after Iran joins it in a certain manner.

"There have been communications aimed at achieving this goal," the source told the Lebanese ad-Diyar newspaper in remarks published Sunday. Representatives from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the US, and France have held two meetings thus far to discuss the urgent need for Lebanon's leadership to hold the much-delayed presidential elections and implement vital economic reforms.

Another informed source claimed that the French presidential envoy for Lebanon Jean-Yves Le Drian will arrive in Beirut on Tuesday and will amend the roadmap he had launched on his first visit.

"He will not raise the idea of holding a dialogue table, but he will stress Paris' readiness to work for helping Lebanon and aiding the Lebanese exit the current crisis and elect a president," the source added. "Political circles believe that the crisis will likely protract, in the absence of serious solution indications," the daily said.

Terrorists kill four police officers
in SE Iran

National Desk

Four police officers of the Khash-Taftan Traffic Police Station in the Iranian southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan were martyred in a terrorist attack.

Sistan and Baluchestan Police Information Center made the announcement on Sunday, saying that four police officers were patrolling when they were attacked by terrorists.

The report says that the officers were on a routine mission on a road linking Khash and Taftan towns some 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran. The perpetrators and their motives were not immediately clear, but a judicial order has been issued to arrest the perpetrators, Tasnim news agency reported. The province, which borders Pakistan, has witnessed several terror attacks targeting both civilians and security forces over the past years.



● TASNIM



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran among major ...

He added that 304,000 tons of grapes are produced in this city every year, of which nearly 70% to 80% are turned into raisins. Rahmani referred to the province as one of the most important provinces in the fields of agriculture and industry. In spite of the fact that the province makes up only one-hundredth of the country's land, five percent of the mineral and production facilities are located in this province, he said. The parliamentarian also

pointed to the problems facing agricultural productions, saying that damage inflicted by frost and pests as well as water shortage have negatively affected production in the province. Currently, 194 villages and 14 cities in the province are facing severe shortage of agricultural and drinking water. However, he said that several plans have been proposed in Parliament to settle the problem, said Rahmani.

He said that three dams have been built so far while three more are under construction in the

province to supply drinking and agricultural water to the people and farmers. He also said that Parliament has approved a law to reform the horticulture system.

Rahmani said that Qazvin Province ranks among the country's top provinces in terms of agricultural production, which also produces vegetables, especially tomatoes, potatoes and onions.

Given its geographical location, the province meets the needs of most of the country's cities in the field of agricultural products.