

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed in training plane crash



IRNA - Two people died after a training plane crashed on Monday west of Iran's capital Tehran, according to Iran's Civil Aviation Organization. The plane's pilot and a university student were on board when the training plane crashed in Alborz Province.

According to CAO officials, the incident happened at Payam International Airport at 05:45 local time (02:15 GMT). Investigation is underway to determine the cause of the deadly crash. Payam International Airport is located 40 kilometers west of Tehran, near the city of Karaj, in Alborz Province.

Ministry proposes cities' shutdown over heatwave

IRNA - Iran's Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said his ministry has proposed shutdown of some cities, which are experiencing temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius. Referring to the health impacts of the heatwave hitting the country, Einollahi said that people's health is related to a series of internal and environmental factors. Einollahi noted that sometimes these environmental factors can disrupt people's lives and cause problems for people's health. The Health Ministry proposes shutdown of these cities.

Iran urges South Korea to 'act wisely', on frozen funds

National Desk

Tehran has urged South Korea to "act wisely" and release billions of dollars' worth of Iranian funds frozen in the country's banks under the pretext of US sanctions. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Tehran is in continuous consultations with Seoul to restore the rights of the Iranian nation, but complained about the limited progress of the talks.

"We expect the Korean government to act prudently and wisely in releasing Iran's assets in a timely manner," he asserted. Iran has commenced formal legal proceedings against South Korea as Seoul refuses to release billions of dollars' worth of Iranian funds on the pretext of US sanctions.



Iran sees new market for its drones in South America

International Desk

Iran is seeing new demand for its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), with Bolivia expressing interest in obtaining Iranian drones, a development that shows Tehran's focus on deepening its alliances in South America.

Bolivia's defense minister has recently confirmed his country's interest in acquiring Iranian drones, days after he visited Tehran for a bilateral meeting.

Bolivia is interested in obtaining Iranian drone technology to protect its borders and combat smuggling and drug trafficking, the An-

dean country's Defense Minister Edmundo Novillo said on July 26, a day after Argentina expressed concern about an agreement reached between Iran and Bolivia and demanded information on the deal, according to AP.

Novillo dismissed those concerns, saying they were "exaggerated" and came from an Argentine lawmaker "who, I understand, has Israeli origins," whom he did not name.

"Their technology could satisfy the requirement that we have raised," he said, according to reports, without specifying what kind of drones his government

wanted.

In 2022, Iran had the largest arsenal of missiles and drones in the Middle East, according to the US Defense Intelligence Agency, CNBC reported.

Iran's drones have made "considerable impact on any battlefield they have appeared in," according to Farzin Nadimi, an arms expert at The Washington Institute said. Despite production and trade challenges due to heavy Western sanctions, the performance of Iranian drones is "at par with the competition, and in some respects, even better" — while also being cheaper, Nadimi said in a re-

port by the U.S. Institute for Peace. Two days after Novillo's remarks, John Kirby, communications chief for the US National Security Council, said in an interview that the Biden administration is concerned about any export of Iranian technology.

An apparent marketing push to countries in the developing world has strengthened Iran's alliances, while also improving revenue streams — something of critical importance to Tehran after several years of economic pressure under US sanctions.

Many Latin American countries cooperate with Iran as part of a

broader opposition to the US, or because they are under US sanctions — in particular Venezuela, which has been receiving Iranian drone technology since 2007. On a recent visit to Latin America, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi stressed the importance of an alliance between Iran, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in a common struggle against "imperialism and domination" by the US and the West.

Since the socialist party returned to power in Bolivia in 2020, the country has made a concerted effort to revive ties with Venezuela and Iran.

Iran, Belarus sign MoU to boost defense cooperation

The defense chiefs of Iran and Belarus signed a memorandum of understanding to improve cooperation in the defense sector.

The MoU was signed by Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and his Belarusian counterpart Viktor Khrenin following a meeting in Tehran on Monday, Press TV reported.

Pointing to the two countries' common stance on many regional and international issues, Ashtiani said Belarus has a special place in Iran's foreign policy. He added that Belarusian Pres-

ident Alexander Lukashenko's talks with senior Iranian officials in Tehran in March, and his meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei indicate the significance of Minsk in Iran's foreign policy.

During Lukashenko's state visit to Tehran, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Belarusian counterpart signed eight agreements on various fields, including trade, transportation, agriculture and mining, under a cooperation roadmap which marked 30 years of diplomatic

relations between the two countries.

Referring to the defense cooperation between Tehran and Minsk, Ashtiani said, "Making use of the two countries' capabilities and capacities and defense synergies will establish peace, stability and security in the region."

He reaffirmed the determination of the two countries' top officials to improve the level of bilateral cooperation in various areas as a strategic principle to overcome the West's sanctions policy against independent states, including Iran and Belarus.



Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani (R) and his Belarusian counterpart Viktor Khrenin sign a memorandum of understanding during a meeting in Tehran on July 31, 2023.
● IRNA



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran to bring to justice ...

The judiciary has tasked the group and headquarters to thoroughly comprehend the crimes committed by the terrorist groups during the early days of the revolution, Ejei said.

They will consider various aspects, including the atrocities committed against women and children, the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, collaboration and coordination with hostile forces, and providing information to them, he added.

Mizan news agency reported on Saturday that a top Iranian criminal court plans to bring more than a hundred members of the anti-Iran terrorist cult Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), which has murdered tens of thousands of Iranian citizens, to trial. According to the report, Branch 1 of Tehran's Criminal Court has announced that 104 MKO members, including the ringlead-

er of the terror cult Maryam Rajavi, must introduce their lawyers to the court so that they will represent and protect the rights of the defendants. Otherwise, a due decision would be made in accordance with the law, the report noted. 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.

On June 20, Albanian police forces entered the MKO camp, known as Ashraf-3, near Tirana, due to its engagement in "terror and cyberattacks" against foreign institutions. Authorities seized 150 computer devices linked to terrorist activities.