

Iran arms setup at Belgrade's Partner 2023 turns heads



The photo shows Iranian anti-tank missiles and the M-6 UAV displayed at 11th International Armament and Military Equipment Fair Partner 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia, on September 26, 2023.

● RT BALKAN/JELENA MARKOVIĆ

National Desk
EXCLUSIVE

Iran's towering display of 16 weapons systems at the international arms fair, Partner 2023, in Belgrade, Serbia, drew the attention of experts, especially on its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) produced for reconnaissance or shooting purposes. Placed center stage in Iran's installation were anti-ship cruise missiles, air defense systems, and small-scale prototypes of the M6, Karar, and Shahin drones. Models included the AD-75 air defense missile, with a maximum range of 75 kilometers, the CM-35 anti-ship cruise missile, with a 130-kg warhead, and Shahin vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial system, fitted

with multi-rotor propellers by China-based company T-Motor, defense news.com reported. Shahed drones, however, were not shown as a model at the Iranian installation at this year's arms fair. Months ago, it was speculated that Serbia would buy kamikaze drones of the Shahed-136 type from Iran. Military analyst Andrej Mlakar explains to RT Balkan that the kamikaze drones that Serbia was interested in cannot be seen at the moment, but that does not mean that the Iranian stand is any less interesting. "Unfortunately, Shahed kamikaze drones are not here, unlike variants of Iran's reconnaissance drones as well as quadcopters used in reconnaissance and various transport activities. We can

also see equipment capable of throwing smoke bombs. It is possible that they can be used to aid ground forces, either for reconnaissance or attack purposes," explains Mlakar, showing the unmanned quadcopters. International experts and buyers also got the opportunity to see the Karar drone, another of Iran's kamikaze drones, which is significantly more advanced than the Shahed, and has stirred a lot of debate. "There was speculation that the Russians bought the Karar, but for now there is no confirmation of that. It is a long-range kamikaze drone, much faster than the classic Shahed because it has turbojet propulsion," he noted. Next to the Karar in Iran's stand was the pioneering

Iranian drone M6, which has been claimed by Westerners to resemble the American drone "The Predator". "Iran has the ability to make great copies of American drones, thanks to the fact that they got hold of radio jamming and a large number of American drones," Mlakar stressed. Experts were surprised to see on display Iran's anti-tank missiles inspired by American technology, admitting it gives them strength in action against the US Army. "Toofan is an Iranian copy of the American TOW missiles. Iran has weapons that can act against the US military. The Toofan missile is a laser-guided artillery projectile for 155mm howitzers. Iran also has the Paladin M109 artillery sys-

tem, which is an American self-propelled cannon-howitzer. It has a range of approximately 20 kilometers, but there is the possibility of it operating at longer ranges," a military analyst told RT Balkan. In addition to this, Iranian versions of the Strela are on display — a complete assortment. "Iran has an extremely developed dedicated arms industry that can produce anything from drones to anti-tank missiles and tanks," Mlakar pointed out. An official representing the Iranian Ministry of Defense said that the Iranian delegation was invited to the fair because of good Serbian-Iranian relations. "We export products to more than 40 countries and are here to showcase our

capabilities," Ali Siavash told Sputnik, adding that what was shown at the Belgrade Partner 2023 arms fair is only the tip of the iceberg. According to him, the sanctions have pushed the Iranian military industry to stand on its own feet. "I think that without sanctions we would not have been able to reach this level of development," maintains Siavash. According to Iranians, Tehran's shopping list at the fair included navigation systems for guided artillery. Commanders typically use those munitions for targeting military vehicles or high-value assets like command posts or reinforced structures. The 11th International Armament and Military Equipment Fair Partner 2023 took place in Belgrade from September 25-28.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP: UAE legal action over isles will fail



ISNA – An Iranian lawmaker said the UAE will not get any result if it files a complaint in the international legal bodies against Iran over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, underlined that the three islands — Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa — are part of Iran's territory.

BRICS bank could help offset sanctions: Qalibaf



ISNA – Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran's membership in BRICS' New Development Bank will help Iran nullify sanctions imposed by the Western countries. He made the remarks upon his arrival in Tehran from a trip to South Africa to participate in the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

Iran condemns Pakistan's terrorist attacks 'Terrorists aim to sow discord among Muslims'

International Desk

Iran has strongly condemned twin terrorist attacks on mosques west of Pakistan on Friday, saying that the "blind" actions indicate that "the terrorists aim to sow discord among Muslims". Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi, in a message to his Pakistani counterpart Arif Alvi, expressed his sympathy with the government and people of Pakistan. Raeisi expressed hope that the perpetrators of the attacks would be identified and punished as soon as possible. He said that Tehran is ready to cooperate with Islamabad in the fight against terrorism and extremism. He also asked the

international community, especially Islamic countries, to seriously react to this criminal act and prevent the repetition of such tragic events. At least 57 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured after suicide bombings ripped through two mosques in Pakistan, police and health officials said. No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts, one of which trapped dozens of people under rubble, media said, according to Reuters. The first blast, in the southwestern province of Balochistan, killed 52 people, according to a district health official, Abdul Rasheed. "The bomber detonated



Volunteers carry a victim of a suicide bombing on a stretcher at a hospital in Quetta, Balochistan Province, Pakistan, on September 29, 2023. ● AFP

himself near a police vehicle near Madina Mosque where people were gathering for a procession," added senior police official Munir Ahmed. The second attack, in neighboring northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killed five people at a mosque, according to rescue officials.

Iran calls for regional cooperation on Afghanistan's future

Russia to keep helping Afghanistan

International Desk

Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan highlighted the necessity of increased cooperation among neighboring countries to help resolve the issues in Afghanistan without relying on foreign states. Hassan Kazemi Qomi made the remarks addressing a meeting on the developments in Afghanistan in the Russian city of Kazan on Friday, IRNA reported. He criticized the US interventions in the region and deemed its policies in Afghanistan over the past years as incorrect. The Iranian envoy pointed out that 20 years of continuous and unjustified

occupation by the United States and its allies, along with the creation of foreign-backed fronts, are not in line with the national interests of Afghanistan. He expressed hope that the caretaker government of Afghanistan would implement a neighboring policy that is based on mutual benefit and harm prevention, coupled with consultations with neighboring countries. Representatives from Taliban and 15 countries gathered in Kazan for talks on regional threats and creating an inclusive government, TASS reported. President Vladimir Pu-

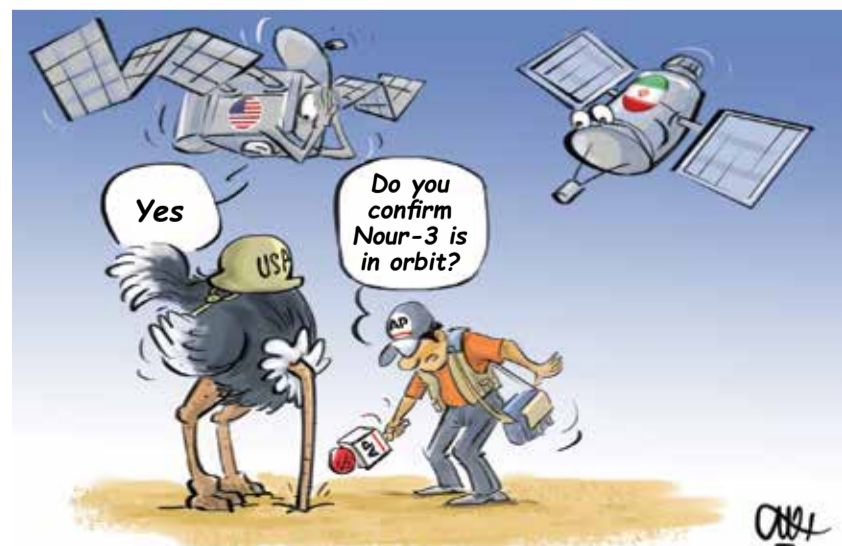
tin's Special Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov attended the gathering and said Russia is inclined to keep helping Afghanistan independently through the World Food Program of the UN. A letter from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was read at the talks, accusing Western countries of "complete failure" in Afghanistan, saying they should "bear the primary burden of rebuilding the country." The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in mid-August 2021 as the US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their pull-out from the country after 20 years of war.

Fire at Tehran battery factory doused



IRNA – Iran's Defense Ministry says it has extinguished a fire in one of its factories north of the capital, Tehran. The ministry said the fire broke out on Thursday at a car battery factory for the second time in less than a week. No one was injured in the blaze, which erupted in an area where plastic waste is stored.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



US quietly acknowledges IRGC satellite blastoff

The US has quietly acknowledged that Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force successfully put an imaging satellite into orbit this week. The launch of satellite Nour-3 (Light-3) into orbit on Wednesday resembled others previously criticized by Washington, as it claims it helps Tehran's ballistic missile program, AP reported. According to AP, the US military has not responded to repeated requests for comment from the news agency since Iran announced the launch of the Nour-3 satellite, the latest successful launch by the IRGC after Iran's civilian space program faced a series of failed launches in recent years. Early Friday, however, data published by the website space-track.org listed a launch Wednesday by Iran that put the Nour-3 satellite into orbit. Information for the web-

site is supplied by the 18th Space Defense Squadron of the US Space Force, the newest arm of the US military. It put the satellite at over 450 kilometers (280 miles) above the Earth's surface, which corresponds to Iranian state media reports regarding the launch. It also identified the rocket carrying the satellite as a Qassed, a three-stage rocket fueled by both liquid and solid fuels first launched by Iran in 2020, when it unveiled its then-secret space program. Speaking on Thursday, Space Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Ali Jafarabadi described the satellite as having "image accuracy that is two and a half times that of the Nour-2 satellite." Nour-2, launched in March 2022, remains in orbit. Nour-1, launched in 2020, fell back to Earth last year.