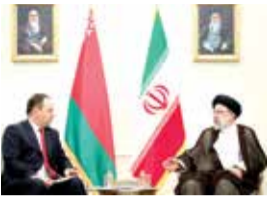


NEWS IN BRIEF

Closer ties
to offset
sanctions

● president.ir

PRESS TV - While meeting Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko in Tehran, President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday called for closer relations among independent countries targeted by Western sanctions to neutralize the bans and mitigate their repercussions.

New
centrifuges
gassed

● ISNA

TASNIM - Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami said Wednesday the country had injected gas into new clusters of centrifuges to enrich uranium in the central Natanz nuclear plant.

Storm copter
to join navy

● TASNIM

IRNA - Commander of Iran's Navy Rear Admiral Shahrām Irāni said Wednesday that Toufan (Storm) helicopter, a twin-engine attack gunship developed domestically, would soon join the army's naval force to hopefully "trigger storms at sea".

Promotion of
multilateralism

● IRNA

IRNA - Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said on Wednesday regional and international cooperation between Iran and India helped promote multilateralism in the world. Bagheri Kani made the comment as he met Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in New Delhi.

Claims of Using Iranian Drones in War yet Unsubstantiated by Ukraine: FM



● ISNA

International Desk
Foreign Minister Hossein

Amir-Abdollahian said on Wednesday Iran had not received any evidence

from Ukraine proving the use of Iranian-made drones by Russia in the war.

"We have not yet had any evidence from the Ukrainian side of the use of Iranian drones in Ukraine," Amir-Abdollahian told a press conference in Tehran on Wednesday. The top diplomat confirmed that an Iranian "political and military team" had recently met with a Ukrainian delegation in a third country to discuss the claim on the use of Iranian drones in Ukraine.

"We are continuing our investigations in this regard."

He disputed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba's claim, which was made during their latest phone conversation, that Kyiv had captured intact a Russian UAV similar to the Iranian Shahed 136 drone.

"The fact that the drone

was Russian proves that Iran has adhered to its stance," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Ukraine and the West have accused Iran of supplying Russia with drones that Moscow is using in kamikaze attacks against Kyiv.

Amir-Abdollahian once again rejected the allegation, saying Iran only sold "a very limited number of Iranian drones" to Russia under a defense cooperation deal before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

"We have announced to the Russian side twice so far, and the Russians have clearly told us that only Russian-made weapons had been used in the war against Ukraine," he said. The top diplomat stressed that Iran was "unhappy" with the war in Ukraine, saying that Tehran would continue its diplomatic efforts for peace.

West should reconsider claims on Iran-Ukraine issue

Abolfazl Amouei
MP

EXCLUSIVE

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian explained at his press conference on Wednesday the Islamic Republic's clear positions on the Ukraine war.

Among other things, he clarified the alleged use of Iranian drones in the Ukraine war. Since the war broke out, Tehran's position has been to speed up the conclusion of the conflict. In this regard, Tehran conveyed the message of the Europeans to the Russian president in Moscow and, in fact, assumed the role of mediator to conclude the war.

On the other hand, some Western countries made accusations that Iranian

drones had been used against the people of Ukraine. These were met with explanations and denials by Iranian authorities.

Of course, Tehran and Moscow have had defense and military relations in the past, but these good relations have not violated Tehran's neutral position towards the war in Ukraine.

To show its goodwill, Tehran did not stop at denying these claims and announced its readiness to hold a joint meeting with Ukrainian political and military experts to investigate their claims and receive their documents. As the foreign minister announced on Wednesday, this meeting was held in a third country and the Iranian delegation received information from the Ukrainian side and



● FARS

gave them explanations. According to the top diplomat, the Ukrainian officials have not provided evidence of the use of Iranian drones and this confirms Iran's position of neutrality and goodwill. Now, after this joint meeting of the Iranian and Ukrainian delegations, it is expected that the Western countries, which have been creating a lot of

media hype against Iran in the past few months, would reconsider their positions and follow the developments with more realism and welcome Iran's action.

They should also accept the fact that Tehran has no intention but to help end the war. From Iran's point of view, the continuation of the war has harmful consequences for

the global economy, and the position of the Islamic Republic is not to intensify these economic consequences for the world. From Tehran's point of view, the end of the war benefits everyone, and it is best if the Europeans use Iran's capacity to help solve the issue and establish peace instead of projecting and accusing Tehran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



IRGC colonel killed by Israeli bombing in Syria

International Desk

An Iranian military advisor from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was killed by an improvised bomb near Syria's capital Damascus, the IRGC said in a statement on Wednesday, blaming the attack on Israel.

"Colonel Davoud Ja'fari, one of the advisors of the IRGC's Aerospace Division in Syria, was martyred in a roadside bomb explosion planted by the associates of the Zionist regime (of Israel) near Damascus yesterday morning," the statement said.

The IRGC vowed that "the criminal Zionist regime will undoubtedly receive the response for this crime".

According to Tasnim News Agency, Ja'fari was "probably" among IRGC troops who captured 10 U.S. Marines on January 12, 2016, after they entered Iranian territorial waters near the Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf.



In this file photo, IRGC Colonel Davoud Ja'fari is seen shaking hands with Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on January 24, 2016, days after Iran captured 10 U.S. Marines in its territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.
● leader.ir