

TEHRAN -- Haniyeh Rostamiyan has become the first female Iranian sports shooter to clinch a medal in 25-meter pistol competitions after she put on an awe-inspiring display of skills at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Baku 2023 in Azerbaijan, and managed to snatch a silver medal. On Saturday, the 24-year old 2022 ISSF World Cup gold medalist vied for the top honor in women's 25-meter pistol individual contests at Baku Olympic Shooting Range, and recorded a score of 33 points to finish in the second place. Chinese shooter Sixuan Feng scored 38 points to receive the gold medal. Doreen Vennekamp, a female sports shooter from Germany, won the bronze with a final score of 30.

MOSCOW (Reuters) -- Russia's Defense Ministry said on Saturday that Ukrainian aircraft had struck two industrial sites in the Russian-held city of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine with Storm Shadow long-range cruise missiles supplied by Britain.

Britain on Thursday became the first country to say it had started supplying Kyiv with long-range cruise missiles, which will allow it to hit Russian troops and supply dumps far behind the front lines as it prepares a major counteroffensive.

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**Viewpoint**

**Emerging New World Order Augurs End of American Hegemony**

**After IRGC's Seizure of Invading Vessels, U.S. Mulls New Military Posture in Persian Gulf**

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States says it will make a series of military moves in the Persian Gulf after Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy seized two invading foreign oil tankers in the country's territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz in recent weeks. "The Department of Defense will be making a series of moves to bolster our defensive posture" in the Persian Gulf, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said at a press briefing.

He said the U.S. Central Command will provide additional details on those reinforcements in the coming days.

Kirby used the oft-repeated refrain that Washington will not allow foreign or regional powers to jeopardize freedom of navigation through the Middle East waters.

He said the U.S. will also be increasing its "coordination and interoperability" with regional allies in the coming weeks.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet said it was working with regional allies to increase the rotation of ships and aircraft patrolling around the Strait of Hormuz.

About a fifth of the world's crude oil and oil products passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a choke point between Iran and Oman, according to data from analytics firm Vortexa.

A spokesperson from the U.S. military's Florida-based Central Command, which oversees American forces in the Middle East, said the United States was discussing options with regional partners.

Iran has made it clear that it views U.S. military vessels lurking in the waters of the Persian Gulf as a threat to its national security and a source of tensions and instability in the region.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly vowed to give a decisive response to any hostile move by Washington that would disrupt the security of the strategic waterway.

Earlier this month, a Panama-flagged oil tanker was confiscated by the IRGC's naval units in the strategic waterway near the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, the second such incident in

less than a week.

The Bahrain-based U.S. Fifth Fleet claimed in a statement that the Greek-owned tanker, going by the name of Niovi, was sailing from Dubai towards Fujairah, a port and oil terminal in the United Arab Emirates, when it was stopped by the IRGC Navy on May 3.

At the time, the official IRNA news agency cited Tehran's Public Prosecutor as saying that the oil vessel had been impounded by the IRGC Navy following a complaint by a plaintiff and on a judicial order.

The seizure came six days after Iran's Navy seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Sea of Oman. The oil tanker, named Advantage Sweet, had been involved in a maritime accident with an Iranian fishing craft, which resulted in the injury and missing of a number of its crew.

After the collision, the oil tanker attempted to flee the scene in serious breach of international laws and regulations, which require the provision of medical treatment and supply of proper and sufficient medicine to seamen in case of sickness or injury.

The Iranian fishermen managed to issue a distress call long after recovering from the shock.

**IRGC Equips Vessels With 2,000-km Range Missiles**



**Iran Win 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships**



**Hezbollah: Netanyahu Launched Gaza Aggression to Divert Attention From Zionist Crisis**



## Resistance Keeps Retaliating With Rockets



Trails of smoke are seen as rockets are fired from Gaza toward Zionist targets on May 13, 2023.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — The occupying regime of Israel and Palestinian militants unleashed salvos of fire for a fifth day on Saturday, with the Islamic Jihad resistance movement launching dozens more rockets and the Zionist military pounding the Gaza Strip. So far 34 Palestinians have been martyred, at least 14 of them civilians, according to Palestinian health officials. Over 147 have been wounded. In a reminder of the combustible situation in the occupied West Bank, the Zionist military raided the Balata refugee camp near the northern city of Nablus, sparking a fire

that martyred two Palestinians. In a separate incident near the northern city of Jenin, Israeli forces said they shot and killed a suspected Palestinian assailant who ran toward soldiers wielding a knife. Meanwhile, hopes for an imminent ceasefire between the occupying regime of Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad were fading as the Israeli military Saturday bombed an apartment belonging to Islamic Jihad commander Mohammed Abu Al Atta, among other targets including rocket launchers, it said.

Islamic Jihad combatants fired a barrage of rockets toward southern Occupied Palestine, where tens of thousands of Zionists were instructed to remain close to safe rooms and bomb shelters. Hundreds of residents near the Gaza fence were evacuated to hotels farther north. Islamic Jihad promised a further onslaught. "As assassinations and the bombing of apartments and safe houses continue, the Palestinian resistance will renew its rocket fire ... to emphasize the continuation of the confrontation," the group said. Mortar shells fired by Palestin-

ian combatants crashed into the Erez crossing between Gaza and Occupied Palestine. Zionist officials told media that Egyptian-led efforts to broker a ceasefire were still underway but that Israel has ruled out the conditions presented by Islamic Jihad in the talks. The occupying regime has said only that quiet will be answered with quiet, while Islamic Jihad has been reportedly pressing Israel to agree to halt targeted assassinations, among other demands. If the rocket fire continues from Gaza, Zionist officials told local media, "the strikes (on Gaza) will continue and intensify." The hostilities erupted on Tuesday when the occupying regime of Israel targeted and martyred three senior Islamic Jihad commanders who it said were responsible for firing rockets toward the country last week. At least 10 civilians, including women, young children and uninvolved neighbors were martyred in those initial strikes, which drew regional condemnation. Over the past few days, the Zionist regime has conducted more airstrikes, martyring other senior Islamic Jihad commanders. On Friday, Israel martyred Iyad al-Hassani, an Islamic Jihad commander who had replaced a leader of the group's military operations killed in a Tuesday airstrike. On Saturday, Palestinians ventured out to assess the damage

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**Turkey Goes to Polls**

**Erdogan Accuses Opposition of Working With Biden**

ISTANBUL (Reuters) -- Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan held his last election rallies in Istanbul on Saturday, accusing the opposition of working with U.S. President Joe Biden to topple him while making a final appeal ahead of the biggest challenge to his 20-year rule. If neither of them win more than 50% of the vote and secure an outright win, the vote will go to a runoff on May 28. Voters will also elect a new parliament, likely a tight race between the People's Alliance comprising Erdogan's conservative AK Party (AKP) and the nationalist MHP and others, and the main opposition candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu's Nation Alliance formed of six opposition parties, including his secularist Republican People's Party (CHP), established by Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Polls will open at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) and close at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT). By late on Sunday there could be a good indication of whether there will be a runoff vote for the presidency. Erdogan's campaign over the past month has focused on his government's achievements in the defense industry and infra-

structure projects, and his assertion that the opposition would roll back such developments. One of his talking points has been that the opposition is receiving orders from the West, and that they will bow down to Western nations' wishes if elected. At a rally in Istanbul's Umraniye district, Erdogan recalled comments made by U.S. President Joe Biden and published by the New York Times in January 2020, when he was campaigning for the White House. At that time, Biden said Washington should encourage Erdogan's opponents to defeat him electorally, stressing he should not be ousted in a coup. The comments, which resurfaced later that year in a video that made Biden the most popular topic on Twitter in Turkey, were condemned by Ankara at the time as "interventionist." "Biden gave the order to topple Erdogan, I know this. All my people know this," said Erdogan, 69. "If that is the case, then the ballots tomorrow will give a response to Biden too," he added. Erdogan also criticized Kilicdaroglu for his comments on Russia, calling Moscow

an important partner for Turkey. "Russia has been one of our most important allies regarding agriculture products," he said. Turkey's Western allies have been irked by closer ties between Ankara and Moscow under Erdogan. Turkey is a member of NATO, which has stood staunchly behind Kyiv since Moscow began a war with its neighbor last year but it has not imposed sanctions on Russia. Kilicdaroglu told Reuters on Friday that his party has concrete evidence of Russia's responsibility for the release of "deep fake" online content ahead of Sunday's elections. He did not present the evidence and Reuters could not independently verify it. But he added that if he wins the presidency he will maintain Ankara's good ties with Moscow. Anticipation and excitement are running high among Turks in the lead-up to the vote with some concerned about rising tensions, even violence, when the results come in. While there has been concern about how Erdogan might react if he loses, the president said in a televised interview on Friday

that he would accept the outcome of the election, no matter the result. Kilicdaroglu, a 74-year-old former civil servant, did not hold a rally on Saturday but visited Ataturk's mausoleum in Ankara. He was accompanied by crowds of his supporters each carrying a single carnation to lay on the tomb. The president's re-election efforts have relied heavily on accusing the opposition of cooperating with Kurdish militants and those Ankara holds responsible for a 2016 coup attempt. Kilicdaroglu is a "separatist," Erdogan later said in Kasimpasa, an AK Party stronghold where he grew up. "Whatever the terrorists in Qandil are, unfortunately, that is what (Kilicdaroglu) is," he added, referring to the location where leaders of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) are based. Kilicdaroglu has denied such accusations. Tension has risen in the days leading up to the election, with Kilicdaroglu wearing a bulletproof vest to his rallies on Friday in response to intelligence his party received about an attack.