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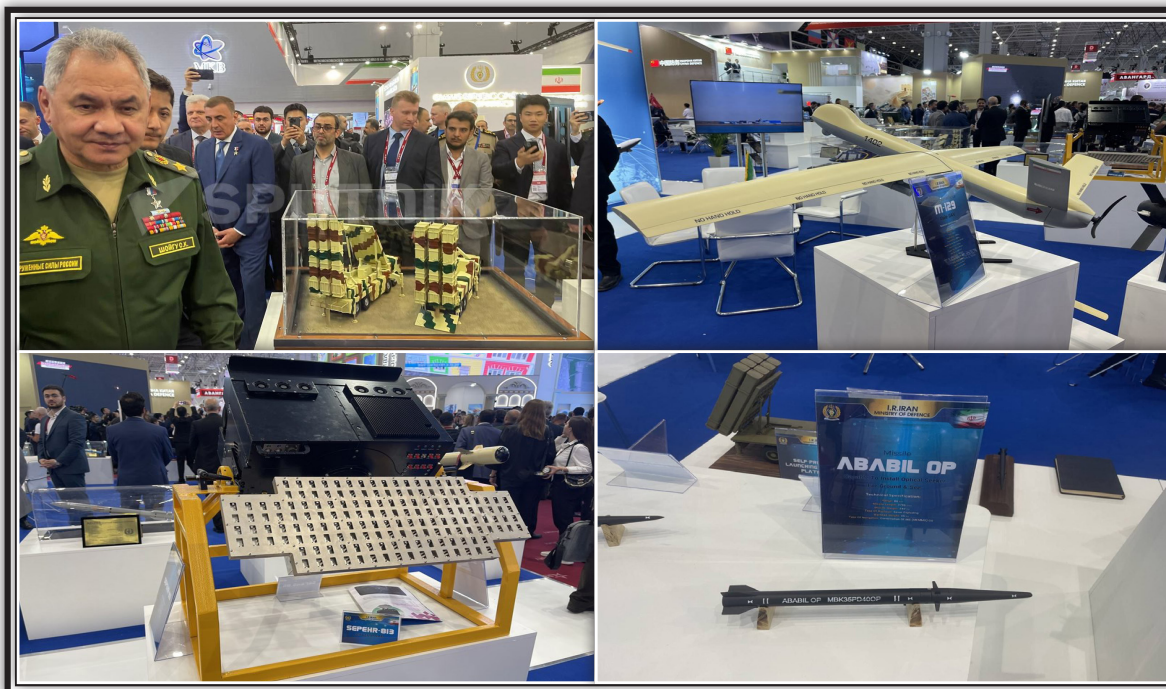
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Iran-Made Military Equipment on Show at Moscow Expo



Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu visits Iran's pavilion at Army-2023 expo in Moscow on Monday.

TEHRAN – The Iranian defense ministry has put a number of home-grown military systems and weapons on display at the International Military Forum ARMY-2023 in Russia.

The expo held at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center, the Alabino training ground and the Kubinka airfield outside Moscow, opened on August 14 and will run until August 20.

Iran has also taken part in the event by displaying its homegrown weapons.

Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu paid a visit to the pavilion of Iran at the expo on Monday.

Iran has put various products on display at the expo, including Balaban guided bomb, Qaem bomb, as well as Sadid, Almas, Toofan and Ababil missiles.

Ababil is a ground-to-ground ballistic missile that is equipped with an optical seeker and can hit even naval targets in a range of 86 kilometers.

Iran has also showcased the replicas of homegrown drones such as Mojajer-6, Karrar, Arash-2, and Shahed-129, Saba-248 helicopter,

Yasin training jet, Zolfaqar missile-launching speedboat, and Fateh submarine.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force has further put on display a number of arms such as Zuhair ballistic missile, Sep-e-813 radar, Khordad 3rd air defense system, and Shahed-129 and Shahed-133 drones.

The stand also featured the Shahin combined-type UAV, Iran's first domestically-manufactured digital drone. Equipped with five electronic engines, the drone is capable of being in motion for two to three hours, reaching a maximum flight altitude of about four kilometers.

The Hunter-2 EW system capable of detecting aircraft-type drones from a distance of up to 200 kilometers and the CM-300 anti-ship cruise missile system were also on display at the Iranian defense ministry's stand at the international exposition.

Iran has for the first time showcased a replica of its 'Tactical Sayayd' air defense system in a foreign exhibition.

Unveiling the Iranian missile system in an exhibition abroad signifies that it has successfully passed all tests and has become operational in Iran.

The forum's scientific and business program will include over 300 events to focus on the development of Russia's armed forces and its defense industry and international military-technical cooperation.

About 1,500 leading Russian defense enterprises take part in the event and as many as 85 foreign companies and organizations from seven countries plan to participate in the forum.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great progress in indigenously developing a broad range of military equipment, making the Armed Forces self-sufficient in this regard.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to build up its defense capabilities, emphasizing that such abilities are entirely meant for the purpose of defense and will be never subject to negotiations.

Ministry Confirms FM Amir-Abollahian to Visit Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abollahian will travel to Saudi Arabia soon at the invitation of his Saudi counterpart and the kingdom's senior officials, the foreign ministry announced on Monday.

Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the two sides will discuss bilateral ties and the latest regional and international developments.

Saudi Arabia severed its relations with Iran in 2016 after its embassy in Tehran and its consulate

in Mashhad were attacked during protests over the execution of Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.

The two countries signed a normalization agreement in March, under which the two committed to ending a seven-year rift.

Kanaani said a delegation of Iranian experts and officials visited Deh Rawood water measuring station in Afghanistan for the first time in more than five decades to verify Kabul's claim of water shortage.

Iran and Afghanistan are locked

in a dispute over the Hirmand water supply, which rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains west of Kabul and flows in an arc southwest until it empties out into the Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's arid Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

The Islamic Republic says Afghanistan is blocking the flow of water, but the Taliban administration claims there is not enough water to flow into Iran.

Kanaani noted that the delegation has returned to Iran and their

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

Now hath come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that ye should perish: ardently anxious is he over you: to the Believers is he most kind and merciful.
The Holy Qur'an (8:128)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:09
Evening (Maghreb)	19:13
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:23
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:51

Deputy Chief of Staff

Gen. Nasirzadeh:

Russia, Iran Working to Boost Int'l Security

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said here Monday that Iran and Russia are cooperating to boost international security.

Nasirzadeh made the remarks upon his arrival at Vnukovo airport in Moscow at the head of a delegation to attend Russia's Army Forum 2023.

The Iranian commander said the unipolar U.S. system is collapsing and the world is experiencing embracing a multipolar order.

Independent countries in the world that respect the territorial integrity of others should exchange views to counter the crises and insecurities created by the U.S. and its allies, he said.

Referring to his visit to Russia, he said that Iran's and Russia's cooperation will undoubtedly help establish security in various parts of the world.

The Iranian delegation is about to meet foreign delegations attending the forum which will be held from August 15 to 17 with the participation of specialists, military delegations and scientific and business delegates.

The forum will be open to the public on August 18-20.

FM: Release of Funds and Prisoners Not Linked

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abollahian said here Monday that there is no connection between a prisoners exchange agreement with the United States and the release of Tehran's assets frozen abroad "at the order of the U.S."

"The exchange of prisoners is a completely humanitarian issue and has nothing to do with unblocking our funds in foreign banks," Amir-Abollahian said in a meeting to commemorate journalists.

He said the recent agreement reached between Tehran and Washington, mediated by a third country, covers two separate issues, one relating to the prisoners swap and the other about unfreezing Iranian assets illegally blocked overseas under the pretext of U.S. sanctions.

The minister said the process to transfer released Iranian assets from South Korean banks to a European bank started on August 10 and will be completed in several phases.

The funds would be converted into euros in Europe within a few weeks before being deposited into another bank in a regional country, the top Iranian diplomat noted.

Amir-Abollahian said Iran can only access the assets to purchase non-sanctioned goods, which he said was a hostile move.

In a statement on Thursday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced the start of a process to unblock \$6 billion worth of the country's assets frozen in South Korea, emphasizing, "Iran has received the necessary guarantee for the United States' commitment to its obligations in this regard."

In addition to unfreezing the funds, the ministry added, the release of those Iranian prisoners who had been arrested and held in American jails illegally and under the pretext of violating U.S. sanctions will be realized soon.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister reiterated the country's full commitment to remove the unilateral U.S. sanctions against the country through diplomacy and negotiations but emphasized that Tehran will never settle for a temporary or limited agreement.

Amir-Abollahian said that the removal of Washington's unilateral and unfair sanctions through diplomacy has always been on the agenda of the Iranian administration.

He added that the "path of negotiations and indirect exchange of messages" between Iran and the U.S. has been in progress for months but Tehran has never been after "an interim or a small agreement."

path of negotiations, he said.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman earlier said Tehran has received the necessary guarantee on U.S. commitment to a recent agreement to exchange prisoners and free Iran's frozen assets abroad.

"The talks took nearly two years and the process of the release of prisoners and Iran's financial sources will take place within the framework of the reached agreement," Nasser Kanaani told a weekly news briefing.

"The U.S. has given a guarantee for the implementation of that deal," he added.

Kanaani stressed that Iran, under the deal, "has full access to its own sources ... and can buy all goods and what it needs using them, and the remaining will be turned into a deposit for which an interest rate will be paid."

He said the talks for unfreezing Iranian assets are not directly linked to the negotiations aimed to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, but stressed that "issues can affect each other."

The spokesman reiterated Iran's commitment to continue the talks that are aimed at removing anti-Iran sanctions and to restore Iranian people's rights.

Amir-Abollahian further warned that the military presence of extra-regional powers in the Persian Gulf would increase security threats.

All the regional countries are keen to play a leading role in maintaining security in the region, he said.

"Our message to regional countries is nothing but peace and friendship. We defend security of all in the region," the foreign minister said.

The United States has recently increased its military buildup in West Asia, deploying more than 3,000 sailors and Marine to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of protecting ships crossing the strategic waterways.

Pakistan Embassy in Tehran Marks Independence Day



TEHRAN -- An official ceremony to mark the 76th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan was held at Pakistan House Tehran on Monday, attended by members of the Pakistani community in Iran and

officials of the embassy.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of national anthem and hoisting of the national flag by Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi. It was followed by

reading out of messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan.

Ambassador Qureshi paid rich tributes to the founding fathers of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr. Allama Iqbal and other leaders who led the Pakistan movement and offered sacrifices for the creation of an independent Muslim state.

He congratulated the Pakistani diaspora on Pakistan's Independence Day, urging them to serve the country with dedication.

"Pakistan has faced multiple challenges, since independence but by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the dedication and hard work of our citizens, the nation has continued its forward march as a modern and progressive state," he said.

The ambassador underscored that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly and fraternal nations whose relations are rooted deeply in historical, cultural and religious affinity.

"The trajectory of Pak-Iran relations is going upwards due to commitment of leadership of the two countries," he said.

The participants also expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir, with Ambassador Qureshi calling upon the international community to take measures for the peaceful resolution of the dispute with India as enshrined in the relevant resolutions UN Security Council.

The ambassador also appreciated the support of the Iranian leadership to the "just cause of the oppressed Muslims of Kashmir and Palestine".