

Ministry: Defense Exports to Rise 50%

TEHRAN -- A senior Iranian defense official said Saturday the Islamic Republic plans to increase the export of its defense products by 50 percent.

Brigadier General Reza Talaie-Nik, spokesperson for Iran's Defense Ministry, said the ministry has taken major strides in increasing the production of defense equipment and meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces.

He said Iran has succeeded in meeting all its defense requirements and is now focusing on expanding the export market and responding to many requests for the purchase of the country's defense products.

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Kayhan International

Naval Fleet Completes Int'l Mission, Returns Home

TEHRAN -- The fifth Martyr Lieutenant General Haj Qassem Soleimani fleet of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy returned home Saturday after completing a mission that lasted for 39 days to complete and took it over the line of zero degrees latitude, the Equator, and into the Southern Hemisphere.

The naval fleet, with domestically-developed Shahid Mahdavi oceangoing warship acting as the flagship, berthed in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas after traveling thousands of kilometers in international waters.

"This is the first time that the courageous servicemen (Continued on Page 7)

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Viewpoint

Disappointing ICJ Decision Gives Free Rein to Israel's Genocide

IRGC Outlines Plan to Establish Satellite Constellation



Iran Taekwondokas Win Asian Championships Title



Palestinians Say Ready for 'Long War of Attrition'



Report: Yemeni Forces Target Israel-Linked Ship

SANAA (Dispatches) -- A Panama-flagged crude oil tanker has been targeted around 10 nautical miles from Yemen's coastal city of Mokha, British security firm Am-brey said on Saturday.

Radio communication indicated the ship was hit by a missile and that there was a subsequent fire onboard.

Since November, Yemen's forces have carried out several attacks on vessels in the Red Sea in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Earlier on Saturday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said a ship in the Red Sea was struck by an unknown object and sustained slight damage.

"The vessel and crew are safe and continuing to its next port of call," UKMTO said in an advisory note.

The attacks have caused major disruption to Israeli trade for several months, forcing firms to re-route to longer and more costly journeys around Southern Africa.

The Saturday operation came a day after Yemen's armed forces claimed to have shot down an advanced American drone.

If confirmed, this would be yet another MQ-9 Reaper downed by the Yemeni forces as they press their campaign in solidarity with the Palestinian people against the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said the Yemeni forces shot down the Reaper on Thursday with a surface-to-air missile. He described the drone as "carrying out hostile actions" in Yemen's Ma'rib province.

Online video showed wreckage resembling the pieces of the Reaper on the ground, as well as footage of that wreckage on fire.

Since 2014, the U.S. military has previously lost at least five drones to the Yemeni forces.

Reapers, which cost around \$30 million apiece, can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land.

The downing of the drone came a day after the Yemeni army announced targeting two

ships in the Red Sea, one of them a U.S. warship.

They also confirmed the successful targeting of another ship in the Red Sea, identified as the Destiny. Saree explained that the Destiny was targeted because it violated the blockade on ships headed to Israeli ports.

The statement explained that the ship was headed to the southern port of Eilat on April 20 through "deception and concealment claiming that it was heading to another port."

The shooting down of the drone also came two days after U.S.-UK airstrikes targeted Yemen's Hodaydah airport.

In November, Yemen's armed forces -- militarily aligned with the Ansarallah resistance movement -- began targeting Israeli-linked ships and vessels en route to Israeli ports in the Red Sea and Arab Seas in support of the Palestinian resistance in Gaza. It vowed to continue doing so until the siege of Gaza is lifted and the war brought to an end.

The U.S. and UK have been waging a violent aerial campaign against Yemen since mid-January in response to Yemeni naval operations. When the campaign began, the scope of Yemen's operations was expanded to include U.S. and British vessels.

Yemeni forces remain undeterred by the U.S. campaign. U.S. and European maritime task forces have also failed to deter Yemen.

Earlier this year, the Yemeni armed forces expanded the scope of their pro-Palestine operations to include the Indian Ocean, severely affecting the Israeli economy.

The Yemeni army said on May 3 that it would expand its operations to include the Mediterranean Sea.

On Thursday, Ansarallah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi declared that Yemeni forces will target any ship bound for Israeli ports, regardless of whether they pass through the Red Sea.

"We will target any ship heading to Israel that comes within range of our weapons," al-Houthi said in televised address.

'Losing War', Israel Intensifies Desperate Bombings



Relatives mourn as the bodies of those martyred in the Israeli attacks who are brought to Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City.

RAFAH (Dispatches) -- Heavy Israeli bombardments rocked Gaza's southern city of Rafah on Saturday, which coincided with the Western media fanfare about the first so-called humanitarian aid having entered Gaza via a U.S.-built pier.

Defying international outcry, the Zionist regime launched its so-called "limited" assault on Rafah ten days ago, but later pledged to

widen the scope of its aggression. Israeli strikes and intense clashes with Palestinian resistance fighters rocked the city late Friday and early Saturday, with reports of shelling in the city's southeast and jets bombarding its eastern areas.

Officials at the Kuwaiti hospital said an overnight Israeli strike martyred at least two people in a displacement camp in Rafah.

Israeli bombardment of Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza also martyred at least 15 Palestinian civilians and wounded 30 others, according to Wafa news agency.

Israeli tanks bombed the entrance of a center where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in the camp, and also targeted people attempting to return to their homes in the area.

The camp has been under Israeli siege for several days now, with Palestinian families in the camp running out of food, water and medical supplies. Civil defense crews have been unable to reach the camp to retrieve bodies and tend to the wounded.

Elsewhere on Saturday, three Palestinian civilians were killed and others wounded after Israeli strikes targeted a house belonging to the Qadeeh family, east of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Rafah, which quite recently was a shelter for more than 1.4 million Palestinian civilians, has seen some 640,000 of its inhabitants flee to other areas due to Israel's looming full invasion, the UN humanitarian office said.

Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant said on Thursday that "additional forces will enter" the Rafah area and "this activity will intensify."

The military wing of Hamas said Palestinians are ready for a long war of attrition, pledging to stand up to Israel's ground invasion of Rafah and elsewhere.

"Despite our full desire to stop the aggression against our people, (Continued on Page 7)

Cambridge University Students Snub Ex-Home Minister Braverman

Students Urges Chile President to Cut Israel Ties

SANTIAGO (Dispatches) -- The Pontifical Catholic University Student Federation (FEUC) and the Organization in Solidarity with Palestine (OSP-UC) in Chile delivered a letter to President Gabriel Boric demanding "additional concrete measures and decisions to sever relations with Israel".

The letter delivered during the president visit at the university's headquarters also demanded that Chile provide support for the lawsuit filed by South Africa against Israel in the International Court of Justice.

In their letter, the Chilean students expressed their surprise at their country's delay in joining the lawsuit against Israel, saying that this is inexplicable.

"Given the number of Chileans of Palestinian origin and the fact that the country has

based its foreign policy on adherence to international law."

The students underlined "the need for the executive authority to support the draft law prohibiting the import of goods and services from settlements in the occupied territories, which was approved by the parliamentary Human Rights Committee last January".

They also expressed their "gratitude for your decisions in favor of justice in Palestine, the land of our fathers and grandfathers, but we demand more."

Boric's visit and meeting with university students came one day after they demanded that Chile sever diplomatic, economic and military relations with the entity that "commits genocide".

Boric announced in a speech to students during a demon-

stration at the University of Chile in the capital, Santiago, marking the 76th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, that "it is very important that we do not view this anniversary as just another year but within the framework of the largest genocide in the world."

The students chanted slogans such as "No more death of innocent children," "Let's sever relations with Israel" and "It's not war, it's genocide" while preparing for an encampment and joining the global movement to support the Palestinian people, which is being implemented at various universities around the world.

In the UK, student protesters at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment in Cambridge University refused to answer questions by visiting right-wing Tory member of UK parliament, Suella

Braverman, who has previously called pro-Palestine protests 'hate marches'.

Braverman has repeatedly defended Israel's actions in Gaza and said she is married to a 'proud Zionist' who has family members enlisted in the Zionist occupation army.

Meanwhile, a total of 38% of students at Russell Group universities, a prestigious collection of 24 UK universities, stated that they believe Hamas's October 7 operation against Israel was an "understandable act of resistance," according to a poll commissioned by Stand-WithUs and shared exclusively with the Daily Mail.

The data was collected from 1000 university students across 20 academic institutions.

The poll found only one-third of students consider the operation a "terrorist" attack.