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Iran plans to produce missile systems similar to Russia S-300: official

English.news.cn 2010-04-22 17:32:04

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TEHRAN, April 22 (Xinhua) -- Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said that Iran plans to produce missile defense systems similar to Russia's S-300 system, local satellite Press TV reported on Thursday.

He made the remarks on Wednesday when talking to the reporters about Iran's plan for a military drill which started on Thursday and the country's defense programs.

Asked if Iran has plans to produce an S-300 defense system, Vahidi said "We don't need to produce the S-300 system, but we have plans on the agenda to produce similar weapons," Press TV said.

Vahidi did not give further explanations on the technical capabilities of the missile system.

Iran struck a deal with Russia on buying S-300 systems in 2007, but Russia has delayed the supply of the anti-aircraft missiles.

The S-300 defense system is an advanced mobile system that can travel at more than 2 km per second and shoot down aircraft and cruise missiles from up to 150 km away.

The United States and Israel were trying to persuade Russia not to sell the missile system to Iran because it could foil attempts to hit the country's nuclear facilities with an air strike.

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Iran starts military drill in Persian Gulf: report

TEHRAN, April 22 (Xinhua) -- Iran began a large-scale military exercise in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, local satellite Press TV reported.

To show the country's defensive capabilities and determination to maintain security in the region, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) began a massive military exercise in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, said the report. [Full story](#)

Iran says ready for nuclear fuel swap on its soil

TEHRAN, April 21 (Xinhua) -- The Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi said Wednesday that the Islamic Republic is ready for a nuclear fuel swap "simultaneously" and "inside Iranian territory," the official IRNA news agency reported.

Salehi said Iran is seeking objective guarantee for the nuclear fuel swap, referring to the exchange should be carried out "simultaneously and inside Iranian territory," according to the report. [Full story](#)

Editor: Jiang Yuxia

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