

SEOUL (Reuters) - Iran ranked as South Korea's second-biggest oil exporter over the first three months of 2017 as it ramped up output to regain market share after sanctions were lifted last year, the first time ever it has claimed the No.2 spot on a quarterly basis. South Korea's March imports from Iran more than doubled from a year ago to a record 18.54 million barrels, or 597,935 barrels per day (bpd), data from state-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) showed on Monday. For the January-March period of 2017, Iran seized the No.2 spot with shipments of 46.73 million barrels, also more than double from the same period last year and the highest on record for a quarter.

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- The seventh meeting of the Iran-P5+1 Joint Commission, which monitors the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, was held in this Austrian capital on Tuesday. Iranian Deputy Foreign Ministers Abbas Araqchi and Majid Takht-e-Ravanchi, along with the Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Helga Schmid, as well as senior diplomats from other P5+1 group of countries attended the meeting of the commission tasked with monitoring the implementation of the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

**Viewpoint**  
By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer  
**2 Post-War Syria Must Decide Own Fate**

**Ancient Civilizations Call for Cultural Campaign to Maintain Peace**



**Persepolis Held by Al-Hilal**



**8 Iraqi Forces Liberate Largest Neighborhood in Western Mosul**



## Miracle of Tabas - Warning to All Would-be Aggressors

Kayhan Int'l Political Desk

**"They planned and God planned, and certainly God is the Best of planners."** (Holy Qur'an 3:54)

It is obvious that God is the Best of planners, and this is the reason for the constant fall of tyrants, tyrannical regimes, and their tyrannous plots against those believing in divine values and striving for promotion of divine laws in society.

One evident example of a miserably humiliating fate to befall an intricately devilish plot was the American debacle in the sands of Tabas in 1980, when the Great Satan, after months of strenuous training in similar conditions, dispatched a military force to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the dead of night, to either kidnap or kill the top leadership, and free the 50-odd US spies being held in Tehran.

To the surprise of the harebrained administration in the White House and to the exasperation of the goose-headed military brass in the Pentagon, Operation Eagle Claw sank in the Iranian desert as aircraft and helicopters of the well-trained Delta Force blindly collided with each other, turning the dangerously-armed men into charred corpses and their fully equipped machines into burnt scrap, without the serene sleep of Godly nation of Iran being the least disturbed.

The next morning, as the world learned how the Americans were struck by divine wrath when they tried to invade a country whose people, leadership, and system of government are God-oriented, Iranians thanked the Lord Most High for the modern day miracle, as He had saved the holy Ka'ba over a millennium-and-a-half ago from the mighty army of Abrahah, the Abyssinian governor of Yemen.

**"What! Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the hordes of the Elephant? Did he not cause their stratagems to go awry? And send against them flocks of birds; pelting them with stones of shale. Thus making them like chewed-up straw?"** (Holy Qur'an 105)

The Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) had called "symbols of God's Will" the sands of Tabas that whirled and swirled 10,000 feet in the air while twirling around Delta Force to reduce it to ashes in a matter of a few minutes.

The coincidence this year of the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American debacle at Tabas with the Grand Day of Mab'ath is an excellent omen for the Islamic Republic and its goals and aspirations in the region in defence of the oppressed people, since it was on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Rajab that true faith heralded its arrival when God formally entrusted the universal mission of Islam to Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) to end the era of ignorance amongst the Arabs and to prepare Iranians, Syrians, Egyptians, and others to end the tyrannical rule of the Sassanid and Roman Empires.

Consequently, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April is a constant reminder to all would-be aggressors of the divine wrath awaiting them if they are fools enough to try to attack a nation adhering to the dynamic teachings of Islam, as taught by the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, and as rationally propounded by the Infallible Imams of his Blessed Household.

Indeed, God Almighty protects from those striving in His path for justice from the stratagems of the evil powers.

The nose of the arrogantly ignorant US was again rubbed in the dust.

Today, 37 years later when much water has flowed under the bridges and Uncle Sam has agreed to a seemingly workable nuclear accord after seeing failure after failure of its plots against Islamic Iran, including the 8-year war it had imposed through Saddam, the assassination of several senior officials by the MKO, and the yet to be completely lifted illegal sanctions, the questions that arise are: Has Washington learned from its mistakes? Can Iran trust the US?

The answers are a big NO.

The hyena cannot change whatever it has got of stripes. By nature it is scavenger, devoid of any courage and integrity. It means the moment Iran drops guard, the rapacious beast would attack, irrespective of whichever devil is in the White House.

It is in view of these facts that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has cautioned Iranian officials against being duped by the US. He recently said that neither the US nor a more evil power can do any harm to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is clear by American behaviour in arming to the hilt Arab reactionary regimes, military presence in the region, continued support for the crimes against humanity of the illegal Zionist entity, destabilization of Syria and Iraq through the Godless Takfiri terrorists, and instructions to the Wahhabi minority regime of Riyadh to bomb the hapless people of Yemen for the past two years.

US lawlessness warrants that Iran should spare no efforts in strengthening its defences, including the range and precision of its missiles, with complete trust in God Almighty that He will never let down a grateful Shari'ah-abiding nation.

## Ayatollah Khamenei: Candidates Should Not Look Outside for Progress



**Ayatollah Khamenei addresses Muslim ambassadors and Iranian state officials and prominent figures during a meeting in Tehran, April 25, 2017.**

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on Tuesday on candidates for next month's presidential election not to look to other countries as examples for progress.**

Speaking at a meeting of ambassadors from Muslim nations in Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei encouraged candidates not to look abroad but to pin hope on the capabilities of the nation for progress.

"They should pledge that they would look toward the nation itself, and not look beyond the borders, for the advancement of the country's

affairs, its economic development, and for removing obstacles," the Leader stated.

The May 19 election will see incumbent President Hassan Rouhani face off against five rivals.

Under Rouhani, Iran in 2015 reached an accord with world powers to lift economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic in return for curbs on its nuclear program. But disappointment with the government's handling of the economy is palpable.

Rouhani's main rival in the election, Principlist cleric Ebrahim Raisi, has promised to create over

1.5 million jobs a year if elected. Another candidate, Tehran Mayor Muhammad Baqer Qalibaf has promised to create 5 million jobs per year.

"Our problems are not something to be resolved by Americans and Westerners ... Iran's problems can only be solved by the capable hands of domestic experts," Raisi said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the United States and the Zionists are directing belligerence against Iran because Islam is prominent in the Islamic Republic.

"Today they assail the Islamic Republic more than anywhere else,

because Islam has manifested more clearly in Iran, and there is more room in this country for acting upon Islam. They are against Islam, because it interferes with their greed."

The Leader made his remarks on the occasion of Eid al-Mab'ath which marks the appointment of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as the Last Divine Messenger.

"After the establishment of the Islamic Republic, where a characteristic of the Prophet's rule emerged and still continues, the enemies of human societies began battling what constitutes the reason for the progress of human societies, namely Islam, because Islam can stop oppression against humanity," the Leader said.

"Today, all these animosities are spearheaded by the U.S. and the Zionists," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader also said "the creation of terrorist groups in the name of Islam and engendering divisions among Muslim countries, including in Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen, are among the conspiracies devised by the oppressive U.S. and the evil Zionist regime to fight Islam."

"This is a conspiracy. Setting Islamic countries against one another and getting them tied into wars are other forms of hostility."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemies of human societies are confronting Islam because it is the source of growth for humankind.

"It is the source of the emergence of talent. It is the source of the creation of a shared and common

(Continued on Page 7)

## Ya'alon Admits Tacit Israel-Daesh Alliance

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel's former war minister Moshe Ya'alon has admitted to a tacit alliance with Daesh, saying the Takfiri group had "immediately apologized" to Tel Aviv after firing "once" into Israel.

International media outlets have already reported extensively on Zionist commandos' missions inside Syria to rescue wounded militants but a senior regime official's acknowledgement of a link with Daesh is unprecedented.

Ya'alon's explosive revelation came during an interview reported Saturday on Israeli Channel 10's website, content portal Mako, which acts as a gateway to Zionist media outlets and websites.

Mako also incorporated footage of the event in the northern city of Afula, during which the former military affairs chief was seen describing an occasion in which Syria-based Daesh terrorists had fired into the Golan Heights. Golan is a Syrian territory, which

Tel Aviv has been occupying since 1967 and lays claim on as its own property. Save some rare alleged rocket attacks from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, for which Daesh has reportedly claimed responsibility and have not resulted in any human injury or losses, the group has generally refused to target either the Zionist regime or the territories under its occupation.

However, Ya'alon said, after opening fire on Golan, Daesh served Tel Aviv with a quick apology, pointing to the alliance between the two, and also suggesting that the group had agreed not to target Israeli interests in line with the rapport.

"On most occasions, firing comes from regions under the control of the (Syrian) regime. But once the firing came from ISIS (Daesh) positions—and it immediately apologized," he said.

Israeli media outlets, meanwhile, refused to report on the Daesh strike, probably because of either

## Muslims Converge on California for 'Resistance'

SACRAMENTO, California (Dispatches) – **Hundreds of people travelled to California's capitol on Monday for the "Muslim Day at the Capitol", with political activism in Sacramento described by a senior state official as "the resistance" to President Donald Trump.**

The annual national advocacy event aimed to promote four propositions that can block some of the U.S. president's most controversial policies, including those that have only been hinted at, like a national Muslim registry.

According to the organizers, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the sixth annual "Muslim Day" has been the most successful so far.

"This year we've had almost 800 people and last year 650 attended the rally," Yannina Casillas, legislative and government Affairs coordinator for CAIR, told Middle East Eye. CAIR is sponsoring two bills: SB

31, also known as the California Religious Freedom Act, which calls for the barring of any state officials or local authorities from setting up their own, or assisting in, the creation of any religious registry. Democratic assembly member David Chiu introduced the bill which is part of a package of legislative proposals on civil liberties.

"It's not only religious, but any kind of registry detailing national origin or ethnicity," said Casillas. Asked if the proposed bill draws on the landmark ordinance passed in San Francisco earlier this year, Casillas clarified that in fact, it was the opposite.

"We began working on the bill in December and San Francisco's ordinance took the language from us. Nevertheless, it doesn't matter, we are aiming now to pass it on a state-wide level, which would be a victory for all of us," she said.

CAIR also sponsors SB 54, which (Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7)