

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Navy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi on Tuesday expressed hope that Iran and Pakistan navies could hold joint drills during the current Iranian calendar year. In a meeting with Pakistan's Navy commander Admiral Zafar Mahmood on the sidelines of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) here, Admiral Fadavi expressed satisfaction with the current level of cooperation between Iranian and Pakistani armed forces. "The insecurity triggered by the U.S. in the West Asia can equally affect Iran and Pakistan," he said.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said on Tuesday Iran will punish the occupying regime of Israel for airstrikes on Syria that led to the deaths of several Iranian military advisors. The Zionist regime, he said, should have considered the consequences of its action when it launched the act of aggression. Shamkhani said the strikes were pre-planned to target the anti-terrorist forces sent to Syria upon the request of the Syrian government.

Viewpoint

IONS Chairmanship Indicative of Iran's Growing Naval Power

Takhti's Life Goes On Screen



Iran Stomp U.S. in World Para Volley Super 6



Palestinians File Complaint to UN Against Zionist Regime



Arrogant US Ought to Remember the Tabas Miracle

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

*"In the Name of God, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate
"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 Surah 105)

The Holy Qur'an is not a book of history, neither does it record all the miracles that God made manifest for the guidance of the human race, nor is there any mention in its pages of the terrible fates suffered by various nations for their sins and violation of Divine Commandments.

In His Last and Final Scripture to all mankind, the Almighty Creator only chose to highlight certain events that would strengthen the faith of the believers and serve as warning to the arrogant of what would befall them if they crossed the redlines.

The above mentioned passage, famous as *"Surah al-Feel"*, thus remains an eternal reminder of the Infinite Power of God that in a moment could reduce the 'self-smart mighty' and their 'beautiful weapons' to nothingness, similar to the fate that befell the elephantine hordes of Abraha, the arrogant Abyssinian governor of Yemen, who in the year 570 AD, led a mighty force of war elephants and well-equipped warriors towards Mecca to destroy the holy Ka'ba, the supreme edifice of monotheism built by Adam, the Father of the human race at the dawn of creation, and rebuilt by Prophet Abraham for the worship of the One and Only Lord.

Abraha, proud of his power, wealth and weapons, brushed aside advice against violating the sanctity of the symbolic House of the Unseen but Omnipresent Creator, but the moment he reached the precincts of Mecca and was poised for the attack, a swarm of birds appeared in the sky with pebbles in their beaks and claws, which they miraculously dropped on the invaders, reducing most of the warriors and their mounts of horses, camels and elephants to something like chewed-up straw, while the rest fled helter-skelter.

Those who are acquainted with the Holy Qur'an, ponder on its words of wisdom, or, in case of belonging to other creeds, at least have the sense to keep themselves away from self-destruction, refrained from the blunders of Abraha, in respect to the redlines set by God.

The reason we remind readers of this miracle of the distant past is to draw their attention towards a similar miracle of our own modern times, exactly 38 years ago, when aircraft, tanks and missiles (that have replaced war elephants, steeds, swords, and arrows), were turned into useless garbage.

Power, wealth and weapons, however, rob the arrogant of their senses, and in 1980, US President Jimmy Carter and his team of short-sighted advisors, oblivious of *"Surah al-Feel"* and the fate suffered by Abraha, or perhaps dismissing it as a myth of the ancients, made the fatal mistake of confronting those whom God Almighty had empowered to throw off the yoke of domestic tyranny and foreign hegemony.

They planned and plotted against the Islamic Republic of Iran, little realizing that God is the Best of Planners.

After an intensive six-month training for the Delta Force in the US, Egypt and Oman (in conditions similar to Iran's deserts), the US launched Operation Eagle Claw in the dead of the night of April 25 by selecting remote Tabas as the staging point for a surprise assault on Tehran, in collaboration with turncoats among the Iranians, to kill senior revolutionary leaders, overthrow the Islamic Republic, and free the 52 American spies detained by students following the path of Imam Khomeini (RA).

The rest is history. God Almighty decided to show a glimpse of His signs when He decreed particles of sand to rise as high as 10,000 feet in the air in the form of a dense white cloud, swirling, whirling, and twirling around an airborne US invasion force. In a few moments, many US soldiers were reduced to charred bodies and aircraft to burnt debris.

The next morning, as an unaware Iranian nation woke up, it was a pleasant surprise to learn of the miracle in Tabas that forced America's elite force to flee Iran with the remnants of their copters and planes, leaving behind dead soldiers, and wreckage of seven helicopters and a C-130 Hercules aircraft, that had crashed into each other, thanks to the sandstorm.

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

Today, the 25th of April, the 38th anniversary of that memorable modern-day miracle, ought to serve as a lesson to all would-be aggressors of the fate that awaits those who try to mess up with a divine system of government.

In view of the Abraha-like arrogance of Donald Trump, Iran should spare no efforts in strengthening its defences, including the range and precision of its missiles, but with complete trust in God Almighty that He will never let down a grateful Shari'ah-abiding nation.

Insha Allah (God Willing), any wrong move by Washington will bring swift wrath from God, more destructive than what had befallen the US at Tabas in 1980.

Shamkhani: Iran Could Leave NPT

Rouhani: Leave JCPOA and Face 'Severe Consequences'



President Rouhani addresses a crowd of people at a sports stadium in Tabriz, April 24, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday to stay in the nuclear deal Tehran signed with world powers in 2015, or face "severe consequences".

Trump has said that unless European allies fix what he has called "terrible flaws" in the deal by May 12, he will restore U.S. economic sanctions on Iran, which would be a severe blow to the pact.

The other powers that signed the deal - Russia, China, Germany, Britain and France - have all said they want to preserve the agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear program in return for

lifting most sanctions. "I am telling those in the White House that if they do not live up to their commitments, the Iranian government will firmly react," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast live on state television.

"If anyone betrays the deal, they should know that they would face severe consequences," he told a cheering crowd of thousands gathered in the city of Tabriz. "Iran is prepared for all possible situations," he added.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said Iran might withdraw from the NPT (nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty) if Trump scraps the nuclear deal.

In a news conference broadcast live on state television, Shamkhani told reporters here before departing for Russia that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran was ready for some "surprising actions" if the nuclear deal was scrapped.

Answering a question about the possibility of Tehran withdrawing from the NPT, Shamkhani said: "This is one of three options that we are considering."

Russia urged a United Nations nuclear disarmament forum to show its support for the "fragile" Iran nuclear accord by signing

onto a statement, co-written by China, backing the deal.

The head of the arms control unit at Russia's foreign ministry, Vladimir Yermakov, called on UN members to not "keep silence in hope that the situation will somehow blow over."

Addressing the preliminary review meeting of the NPT, Yermakov described the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear agreement as "quite a fragile compromise."

Trump is supposed to waive U.S. sanctions against Tehran by the May 12 deadline to keep the agreement alive but if he refuses to do so, it may unravel.

Russia and China, both supporters of the pact known as the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan (JCPOA), drafted a statement affirming their "unwavering support for the comprehensive and effective implementation" of the deal.

Yermakov urged all nations at the UN nuclear meet to sign on.

"We believe there is a demand for such a collective message by the (meeting) and hope that the document will find broad support," he said.

The Russian official then took a thinly veiled shot at Trump's call to renegotiate the JCPOA in hopes of securing tougher terms.

"Any attempts to amend (the) text for someone's benefit will inevitably... have powerful negative consequences for regional global stability and security," Yermakov said.

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FM Lavrov: U.S. Has No Intention to Leave Syria

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday the United States had no intention to leave Syria despite Washington saying it had such plans, the RIA state news agency said.

Lavrov told reporters in Beijing he hoped it would become clearer how to cooperate on settling the Syrian issue after contacts with his counterparts from France.

Commenting on foreign ministers from Group of Seven leading industrialized nations who united on Monday to condemn Russia, Lavrov said they had an obvious "Russophobic rationale," RIA added.

The Syrian government plans to recover a terrorist-held pocket north of Homs city soon after it completes surrender deals with armed groups around the capital Damascus, a Syrian government minister said Tuesday.

Having taken back the largest militant-held area near Damascus,

eastern Ghouta, in early April, the Syrian army and allied forces are close to recovering the remaining few pockets around the capital.

Government forces are bombarding a militant enclave in south Damascus where Daesh holds a pocket next to one held by rebel factions.

In recent days terrorists in two other enclaves northeast of Damascus, Dumair and east Qalamoun, surrendered and agreed to be transferred by bus to militant-held territory in northern Syria.

Ali Haidar, the Syrian minister responsible for national reconciliation, told Reuters in an interview the government would focus on recovering a militant-held pocket north of the city of Homs after securing the areas around Damascus.

"The issue will not be a long time coming after the final resolution in Qalamoun," Haidar said.

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UK Sells \$445 Million of Arms to Zionist Regime

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Britain has approved the sale of arms to the occupying regime of Israel worth \$445 million since the 2014 Gaza war, including components for drones, combat aircraft and helicopters along with spare parts for sniper rifles, according to figures seen by Middle East Eye.

The government data will raise fresh concerns that British-made weapons are being used by the Zionist military in the Occupied Territories, amid fears that components in sniper rifles used to kill scores of Palestinian civilians in recent weeks could have been made in the UK.

Arms export licenses to Israel soared to £216 million, or \$300 million at current exchange rates, last year from £20 million in the wake of the Gaza war, new Department for International Trade figures show.

They include a major £183 million license covering "technology for military radars", but ministers have also approved the sale for export of grenades, bombs, missiles, armored vehicles, assault rifles, small arms ammunition, sniper rifles and components for sniper rifles.

The value of arms approvals to the occupying regime of Israel more than doubled last year after £84 million in sales in 2016, prompting campaigners to warn that there is "little doubt" that UK-made weapons have been used in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade, or CAAT, which compiled the figures, expressed concern that UK-made radar technology could be used by Israeli jets and helicopters over the Occupied Territories.

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