

Russia Sends New Frigate to Waters Off Syria

MOSCOW (Reuters) -- Russia said it deployed its new frigate with long-range Kalibr cruise missiles to the Mediterranean Sea on Monday, a few months after Moscow had reinforced its naval forces off Syrian coast. "The Black Sea Navy Fleet's frigate Admiral Makarov left (Navy base) Sevastopol and laid a course for the Black Sea straits. The vessel will be acting in the standing naval force of the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean," the Russian Defense Ministry said in statement. Russia has in the past fired Kalibr cruise missiles from frigates and submarines stationed in the Mediterranean Sea at militant targets to support Syrian army offensives.

Kayhan International



11 Terrorist Teams Dismantled During Arbaeen

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alawi said Monday Iran's security forces managed to identify 11 terrorist teams during Arbaeen, Tasnim news agency reported. Over the past months, Iran's intelligence forces have smashed 30 terrorist cells, he said, adding that during Arbaeen, they identified and hit 11 terrorist teams in various cities of the country. The Islamic Republic has been able to foil 95 percent of enemy plots against the country, he added.

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Days of Multiple Grief

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"It is He who sent to the unlettered [people] the Messenger from among themselves, to recite to them His signs, to purify them, and to teach them the Book and wisdom, and earlier they had indeed been in manifest error." (Holy Qur'an 62:2)

We are on the threshold of a very tragic day. It is the eve of the day on which the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, who had been sent to purify and deliver from manifest error an unlettered, unschooled, uncouth, unprincipled and uncivilized people, departed from the mortal world at the age of 63 after molding them into monotheists during his 23 year mission. The path of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was not paved with roses. It was strewn with thorns, at times poisonous and fatal, as is evident by sufferings at the hands of the pagan Arabs, who refused to listen to his words of wisdom, mocked at him, derided him as insane, pelted him with stones, clamped a socio-economic boycott upon him, and plotted to murder him.

When, by the Grace of God, he safely migrated from his hometown Mecca to Yathreb where the people welcomed him and helped him establish the first Islamic state, these hardcore pagans imposed wars upon him, ganged up with the equally treacherous Israelites to try to extinguish his mission, and on the failure of all their murderous plots, resorted to hypocrisy in paying lip service to Islam and claiming to be Muslims, although at heart, the majority of them had no faith in his mission.

The question might arise: How come, a people whose hearts were devoid of the genuine teachings of Islam that he had endeavored to inculcate in them, soon after his passing away, burst upon the Roman and Persian Empires to defeat the superpowers of the day and establish a caliphate that quickly spread over all of West and Central Asia, North Africa, and southwest Europe?

The answer becomes obvious when we properly and rationally focus on the closing months of the mission of the Seal of Messengers.

The books of hadith and history of all Muslim denominations unanimously testify that Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) had foretold about his death during his Farewell Hajj Pilgrimage, when on 9th Zil-Hijjah during his sermon from atop Mount Mercy (Jabal ar-Rahma) on the Plain of Arafah, he pronounced the famous words, known as Hadith Thaqalayn:

"I have been informed (by God) about my imminent death, and I am leaving behind among you Two Weighty Things (Thaqalayn), the Book of Allah (holy Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt. Hold fast to them and you will never go astray, for the two never separate from each other even when they return to me at the Fountain (of Kowthar on the Day of Judgement)."

Again all books of hadith and history unanimously state that nine days later on the 18th of Zil-Hijjah, the Prophet halted the caravan of Hajj pilgrims at the pond (ghadeer) of Khom in the wilderness near Juhfa, ordering that those who had parted ways earlier for different routes should come to this place for he had an important announcement to make. Then in front of a huge gathering of 120,000, after delivering a memorable sermon and repeating the Hadith Thaqalayn, he lifted his dear cousin and son-in-law Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) and proclaimed:

"For whomsoever I am Master this Ali is his Master."

Two months and ten days later on the 28th of Safar, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) passed away in the house of his one and only daughter, the Immaculate Fatema Zahra (SA), with his head placed in the lap of Imam Ali (AS) and his grandsons, the future Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) around him.

Did he leave the world with peace of mind? No, he was not allowed to.

A few days before his death, when he was not feeling well and had asked for a quill and paper to be brought for writing his Last Will, so that Muslims will not meet the fate of Israelites who used to tamper with the holy scriptures, or the fate of the mission of Prophet Jesus (AS), which was distorted by Paul the Hellenized Jew (founder of Christianity and the weird concept of trinity), a group of his supposedly senior companions refused to obey him, with one of them saying in an insolent tone: The man is sick and delirious; the Book of God is enough for us.

This neo Muslim who had spent the greater part of his life in polytheism and sins, uttered these blasphemous words without bothering to read or understand the Book of God (Holy Qur'an), which explicitly says in the opening ayahs of the Surah Najm that Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) does not speak out of his desire, nor is he amiss, whatever he says is revelation revealed.

History bears testimony that the Prophet expelled these persons from his presence, and none of them were near him in his last moments, nor were they involved in his last rites -- performed by his divinely-designated heir, Imam Ali (AS).

Where were these people? The answer is crystal clear. They had assembled at Saqifa Bani Sa'da, where they conspired to seize the right of political leadership of the Ummah from Imam Ali (AS) and to establish the scandalous system known as the caliphate, which would soon be usurped by the Godless Omayyads, including Mu'awiyya and Yazid, the killers of the Prophet's beloved grandsons, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) -- *the Leaders of the Youths of Paradise.*

If today, cannibalistic terrorists are claiming to be revivers of the caliphate, and desecrating the holy shrines of the Prophet's blessed Ahl al-Bayt, they are merely following the ways of the "Salaf" or the progenitors -- the pagan Arabs who had hypocritically claimed to be Muslims in order to hijack the leadership of Muslims from the Prophet's divinely-designated heirs.

Alas, no sooner had the Prophet left the world calamities descended upon his Immaculate Ahl al-Bayt, and the first casualty was his Infallible Daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), who was mortally injured when a roguish group of her father's companions battered the burning door of her house upon her, breaking her ribs, and demanding that Imam Ali (AS) give pledge of allegiance to the usurpers who now styled themselves caliphs.

This is the sad history of Islam, and the emergence of terrorism amongst Muslims. Safar 28 is thus a day of multiple grief, since it also happens to be the martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet's elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), who was martyred through poisoning and his coffin showered with arrows in 50 AH by officials of the caliphate. Incidentally, the last day of Safar happens to be the martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet's 8th Infallible Heir, Imam Reza (AS), whose holy shrine in Mashhad, Khorasan, is flocked by millions of pilgrims from all over Iran and around the world, marking the end of the annual two-month mourning period for the Prophet's younger grandson and 3rd Infallible Heir, Imam Husain (AS), who was slain in the most tragic manner at Karbala by the Godless Yazid.

Iranian Nation to Emerge Stronger Bare-Faced Bullying: U.S. Reinstates Sanctions



Iranians burn U.S. dollars during demonstrations held outside the former American embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 2018.

WASHINGTON/UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- **The United States re-imposed and strengthened economic sanctions on Iran's oil, banking and transportation sectors Monday after the Trump administration withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and vowed further action to pressure Tehran.**

The sanctions cover 50 Iranian banks and subsidiaries, more than 200 persons and vessels in its shipping sector, and targets Tehran's national airline, Iran Air, and more than 65 of its aircraft, the statement said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said temporary oil waivers have been granted to China, India,

South Korea, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Japan and Taiwan, some of which are Iran's top customers. He added that more than 20 countries have already cut their oil imports from Iran, reducing them by more than 1 million barrels.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he expects European nations to honor Iranian sanctions, but that certain transactions, including humanitarian ones, will be allowed.

Pompeo claimed that the sanctions will accelerate the rapid decline of Iran's international economic activity.

Iran's UN ambassador wrote in a letter to Secretary-General An-

tonio Guterres the United Nations should hold the U.S. accountable for re-imposing the sanctions on the grounds that they defy a UN Security Council resolution.

"The irresponsible conduct of the United States necessitates a collective response by the international community in order to uphold the rule of law, to prevent undermining diplomacy and to protect multilateralism," Gholamali Khoshroo wrote, calling for the United States to be held responsible.

Also Monday, the Belgium-based SWIFT financial messaging service said it is suspending some unspecified Iranian banks' access to its messaging system in the interest

of the stability and integrity of the global financial system.

In its brief statement, SWIFT made no mention of U.S. sanctions coming back into effect on some Iranian financial institutions.

U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said there will be additional sanctions, but gave no other details.

"We're going to have sanctions that even go beyond this. We're not simply going to be content with the level of sanctions that existed under (former U.S. President Barack) Obama in 2015," Bolton said in an interview on Fox Business Network, according to a transcript. "More are coming."

Iran dismissed as "economic war" the U.S. drive to curb Tehran's missile and nuclear programs and diminish its influence in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said the "bullying" restoration of oil and banking curbs was backfiring by making Washington more isolated, a reference to other world powers opposed to the initiative.

European powers which continue to back the nuclear deal said they opposed the reapplication of sanctions and major oil buyer China said it regretted the move.

"Today the enemy (the United States) is targeting our economy... the main target of sanctions is our people," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said.

"America wanted to cut to zero Iran's oil sales...but we will continue to sell our oil...to break sanctions,"

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Terrorism Unbound: Zionists Launch Failed Cyber Attack

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's telecommunications minister said on Monday the occupying regime of Israel is behind a new cyber attack on its telecommunications infrastructure, and vowed to respond with legal action.

This followed comments from another official last week that Iran had uncovered a new generation of Stuxnet, a virus which was used against the country's nuclear program more than a decade ago.

"The Zionist regime, with its record of using cyber weapons such as Stuxnet computer virus, launched a cyber attack on Iran on Monday to harm Iran's communication infrastructures," Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Javad Azari-Jahromi said.

"Thanks to our vigilant technical teams, it failed," he said on Twitter. Iran would take legal

action against the Zionist regime at international bodies, he added.

His deputy Hamid Fattahi said more details would be revealed in the coming days, the Tasnim news agency reported.

Stuxnet, which is widely believed to have been developed by the United States and the occupying regime of Israel, was discovered in 2010 after it was used to attack a uranium enrichment facility at Iran's Natanz underground nuclear site.

It was the first publicly known example of a virus being used to attack industrial machinery.

Last week, Gholamreza Jalali, head of Iran's civil defense agency, said Iran had neutralized a version of Stuxnet.

"Recently we discovered a new generation of Stuxnet which consisted of several parts ... and was trying to enter our (Continued on Page 7)

Iran Begins Air Defense Drill, Tests Advanced Systems

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's armed forces have launched an annual air defense drill to test their capabilities in defending the Islamic Republic's airspace against a wide range of threats, using an array of advanced weapons systems.

Dubbed the Defenders of Velayat Skies 2018, the two-day drills kicked off on Monday and will feature joint operations by the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Force and the Iranian Air Force, which is the aviation branch of Iran's Army.

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the deputy commander of the Iranian Army for coordination who also presides over the drills' board of commanders, told a media briefing that the military exercises will cover an area of around 500,000 square kilometers in the country's northern, western, east-

ern and central regions. Sayyari said all of the air defense systems and equipment used in the exercises were designed and developed by Iranian experts.

"All of our weapons, training and coordination fit the nature of the threats that we face because we know these threats very well and build our strategies around them" and then test those strategies by simulating various scenarios in military drills of this kind, he said.

The first phase of the drills will see armed forces take positions and rapidly spread around the country, an area where "we have made great strides in" and reached such levels of readiness "that we never thought we would in the past," the admiral said.

Detection, identification, interception and destruction of threats using advanced equipment, including (Continued on Page 7)