

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High  
**Viewpoint**

## Vital Railroad Network Taking Shape in West Asia

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*In today's world, if the airways are used for speedy travel of passengers and quick transfer of normally lightweight cargo, and if ocean liners transport goods in bulk quantity and heavy merchandise between far-flung geographical areas of the globe, what indicates the trade-economic-industrial progress of a country and subsequently of the region in which it is located, is an efficient railroad network.*

*Thanks to the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran's almost 30,000 km rapidly growing railway network is the largest in Western Asia (Turkey and Pakistan included), and annually transports some 33 million tons of goods in addition to 29 million passengers.*

*In view of Iran's strategic geo-political situation, the Iranian railway network, besides links to neighbouring Turkey and Pakistan, is connected to that of Central Asia through Turkmenistan (all the way to China), as well as to the Azerbaijan-Caucasus network which through Moscow reaches Finland.*

*Such vital connections facilitate trade and commerce, with brighter prospects in the future for the collective development of the entire region.*

*At the moment, it is nothing but a daydream to think that old rivals Pakistan and India will bury the hatchet to open up their border railway links for commerce and passengers that would greatly benefit trade between Iran and the Subcontinent as well.*

*The Islamic Republic of Iran, which is in the process of laying tracks to its borders with Afghanistan on the northeast and to Armenia on its northwest, is now all geared up to build an important railroad connection through its western borders, from Khosravi to the Iraqi capital Baghdad and thence to Damascus, with a branch to Syria's Mediterranean port of Banias and an extension to Beirut in Lebanon, in addition to linking its southwestern region of Shalamchek to Basra, the starting point of Iraq's almost 2,000 km railway network.*

*As part of this plan, Iran, Iraq and Syria are to hold a trilateral meeting on the connection of their railway systems into one, which will not only strengthen trade and economy, but will facilitate pilgrimage by tens of millions of devotees to the holy shrines in the three countries.*

*According to Syria's 'al-Watan' newspaper: "Now, the three countries are working on resumption of the project connecting the railways of Syria, Iran and Iraq."*

*With the weeding out of the terrorists from Syria, as well as from Iraq, there should be no impediment to completion of this vital railway project, which would be beneficial for not just the collective development of the three countries, which along with Lebanon form the Resistance Front, but also for peace, political stability and security against terrorism – both non state actors and the state terrorism of the illegal Zionist regime.*

*This is the reason Israel and the US, the godfather of terrorism, have expressed worries and are desperately trying to throw spanner in the works.*

*It is worth recalling that last March, Iran and Iraq signed five memorandums of understanding to expand their economic ties, one of which includes the construction of the railway line.*

*For their part, Syria and Iraq are jointly exploring the feasibility of linking Deir az Zore and al-Qa'em.*

*The sooner the project is completed the better for regional and international peace and development, in view of the fast coming North-South Transportation Corridor, which through Iran, connects India with the landlocked Central Asia countries, also via the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Caucasus to Russia and Finland.*

*An industrially formidable Iran will indeed be immune from the illegal sanctions of its archenemy as well as any mischief by the Zionists and the Arab reactionary regimes to destabilize West Asia, either directly or through their terrorist protégés.*

## Zarif's Reminder to E3: 'No Prohibition' on Enrichment



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javid Zarif, left, receives new French Ambassador to Tehran Ambassador Philippe Thiebaud on April 14, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javid Zarif said on Monday that a 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, does not prevent Tehran from developing uranium following diplomatic remarks that claimed otherwise.

Tehran agreed with world powers in 2015 to restrict its nuclear program in return for lifting of sanctions. Some of the restrictions are expected to be removed after 10 years, and some after 15 years.

Zarif reminded European states that "there is no prohibition on the enrichment of uranium by Iran under NPT, JCPOA or UNSC 2231. Neither now, nor in 2025 or beyond."

His comments follow a tweet by the French ambassador to Washington, Gerard Araud, that claimed "it's

false to say that at the expiration of the JCPOA (nuclear deal), Iran will be allowed to enrich uranium."

The statement has been removed from Araud's Twitter account.

Zarif's address was directed to Germany, France and Britain, who signed the historic agreement with Iran under which uranium enrichment is limited but not banned.

"Might be useful for European partners to actually read the document they signed on to, and pledged to defend," he said on Twitter.

The three European countries opted to remain in the nuclear deal after U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned it last May and reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Tehran on Sunday summoned French ambassador Philippe Thie-

baud over Araud's comments. Iran's Foreign ministry condemned Araud's statement, saying it is "unacceptable" and an "open violation" of the JCPOA.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Araud's comments were "a major violation of the object and purpose of the JCPOA," adding they needed "immediate clarification by Paris, or we act accordingly".

Araud, who took part in nuclear talks with Tehran, is expected to retire on April 20.

In January, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian threatened Iran with sanctions if it did not address what he alleged as international concerns over Tehran's ballistic missile program.

(Continued on Page 7)

### Foreign Ministry:

## U.S. Claim of Iran Meddling in Latin America 'Laughable'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's new Foreign Ministry spokesman has dismissed U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks about Tehran's alleged interference in Latin America as "laughable".

Abbas Mousavi also hit out at Washington's "blatant" interference in the domestic affairs of Venezuela which has plunged the country into a crisis.

"While Iranian experts are trying to improve that country's power grid and water supply systems as per the request of Venezuela's government, the United States has plundered \$30 billion of Venezuela's foreign currency reserves and has been calling on Venezuelans to stage a mutiny against the government or remain hungry," Mousavi said.

During a tour of South America, Pompeo claimed on Sunday that Iran continued to engage in illicit activities in Latin America.

"This is Iran intervening in South America. That's not in the best interests of the South American people, and the United States stands ready," he said.

The Trump administration supports opposition leader Juan Guaido and tries to block the flow of cash to Venezuela.

U.S.-imposed sanctions have hurt the Venezuelan economy as well as ordinary people, who are already suffering from hyperinflation and food and medicine shortages, triggering mass migration to neighboring countries, such as Peru and Colombia.

Maduro's government has blamed U.S.-backed sabotage for the massive blackouts that have deprived millions of power.

Maduro has called for support from allies, including Russia and China as well as the UN to investigate the "U.S. cyber attack" he claims was responsible for the blackout.

"The U.S. under Trump seeks to turn Latin America into its backyard, just like the way it was in the 19th century. However, nations of the world, particularly the people of Latin America, have woken up and the wheel of time will not move backwards," Mousavi said.

Iran, Russia, Turkey, and China are among the countries that support Venezuela's embattled President Nicholas Maduro.

Iran announced that its Mahan Air, which is sanctioned by the United States, flew to Venezuela on April 8 to debut regular flights to Caracas.

### Senior IRGC Commander:

## Hezbollah Fighters Ready to Take on Zionists

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A senior military commander on Monday touched on Iran's power in the face of U.S. and Israeli plots in the region, warning that tens of thousands of Hezbollah fighters have been stationed near the borders of the occupied territories.

Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s deputy commander for coordination, made the remarks as he addressed a conference here

on the IRGC which was recently designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S.

"In the early years after the (1979) victory of the Islamic Revolution, no country dared to oppose the U.S.-led global hegemony, but today we see that very small countries openly oppose the U.S. in the meetings of the UN Security Council," Fadavi said as he touched on Washington's declining power.

"Today, in the area of (Iran's)

regional achievements, there are tens of thousands of Lebanese Hezbollah forces around the borders of the Zionist regime, and this is something the Americans cannot stomach," he added.

In 2006, Fadavi said, the U.S. and the occupying regime of Israel waged the 33-day war to eliminate Hezbollah and prevent Iran from reaching its goals in the region but "suffered a terrible defeat".

The Holy Qur'an

And there are those of them who hear you, but can you make the deaf to hear though they will not understand? And there are those of them who look at you, but can you show the way to the blind though they will not see? Surely Allah does not do any injustice to men, but men are unjust to themselves.

The Holy Qur'an (10.44)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Noon (Zohr)            | 13:03 |
| Evening (Maghreb)      | 19:57 |
| Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow" | 05:03 |
| Sunrise "Tomorrow"     | 06:31 |

## Army to Hold Parade Thursday, Showcase Achievements

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian army's ground forces are to unveil new military hardware, including armored vehicles and armor piercing weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic warfare equipment, their commander said on Monday.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari said the equipment will be showcased during a military parade on Thursday on the occasion of National Army Day.

The S-300 missile defense system, solid-fuel Sayyad 2 and Sayyad 3 missiles as well as short- and long-range radars and electronic warfare systems will be displayed during the parade.

It will also feature homemade Saegheh, Raad and Azarakhsh aircraft performing aerial refueling operations.

Heydari said Iran has also achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing armored and anti-armored vehicles, artillery, drones and helicopters.

The force under his command, he said, plans to sign an agreement with Defense Ministry to get domestically-manufactured Karrar (Striker) tank.

In March 2017, Iran unveiled its most advanced tank of amphibious mobility for induction into the country's armored assets.

Over the past years, Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware despite sanctions and economic pressures on the country.

The Islamic Republic maintains that its military power poses no threat to other countries and is merely attentive to its military doctrine of deterrence.

Heydari noted that the military parade will not be held in the provinces of Golestan, Khuzestan and Lorestan which are grappling with flash floods following days of heavy rains.

The intense rainfalls have caused rivers to burst their banks, and dams to overflow, triggering the worst flooding in decades in 25 of the country's 31 provinces.

Iran's Forensic Medicine Organization on Sunday put the death toll from the ongoing floods at 76 after five people lost their lives in Khuzestan province and another was killed in Ilam.