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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

PMF Indispensable for Iraq's Independence & Regional Security

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The ongoing operations in Iraq against remnants of the macabrely murderous Takfiri terrorist outfits by the Iraqi army and the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF or Hashd ash-Sha'bi) – sometimes jointly and sometimes separately – has once again made authorities in Baghdad realize how vital is the cooperation and coordination of these two main pillars of the Iraqi armed forces.

As a matter of fact, the PMF serve as a bulwark against all subversive activities and conspiracies against the elected government of Iraq and the Iraqi people, whose unity, independence, development, and healthy ties with the neighbours, is an eyesore for not just the sectarian terrorists or remnants of the repressive Ba'ath minority regime, but for the oil-rich Arab regimes of the Persian Gulf and their godfathers in both Washington and Tel Aviv.

In other words, but for the vigilance of the Hashd ash-Sha'bi which can mobilize tens of thousands of dedicated Iraqi forces at a moment's notice, the US would have long carried out a military coup through its agents in the army to overthrow the popularly elected government and replace it with some minority dictator in the mold of Saddam, supported by the Persian Gulf potentates.

That is the reason Uncle Sam has been pressuring Baghdad to disband or at least disarm the PMF, since it is also scared of the power of these people's forces to drive out the CENTCOM terrorists from Iraqi soil.

A few weeks ago, a PMF official made it clear that the US soldiers in Iraq must withdraw or else face repercussions.

Mu'in al-Kazimi pointed out that Iraq has reached stability and does not need any American armed forces inside the country. He made it clear: "The attempt to expand and stay in Iraq by the US is unacceptable, coupled with the fact that they are making Iraq a danger to neighbouring countries."

Issuing a stern warning to US President Donald Trump that his candidacy in the elections next year will be hurt the moment body-bags begin to fly home from Iraq, the PMF commander said: "On no account do the Iraqis tolerate the presence of militarized foreigners on their soil"

This is the general feeling among Iraqis of all strata of society, whether political blocs, religious groups, or ethnicities, all of whom vividly remember how the US has played with the fate of the people of the Land of the Two Rivers, first through Saddam and his wars against Iraq and Kuwait, secondly through direct occupation and massacres, thirdly through the Takfiri terrorists, and last but not the least through its Trojan Horses – such as the Saudis, who despite the bleak, black and bloody record of supporting Saddam's reign of terror and the bid to convert Iraq into Takfiristan, have begun to fund certain groups, some so-called industrial projects and a few sports complexes, in a bid to fool certain segments of the society.

In view of these facts, the Hashd ash-Sha'bi is indispensable and should be further strengthened on the pattern of Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, so as to guarantee the independence of Iraq, and to solidify the Resistance Front extending from Afghanistan to the Mediterranean Sea for the eventual liberation of Palestine and Islam's former qibla, Bayt al-Moqaddas.

This would end for good the presence of CENTCOM terrorists throughout West Asia and restore peace and stability to the whole region.

Here we should laud the insight of Iraq's senior most religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Sistani in forming the Hashd ash-Sha'bi and the prompt and wise decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Iraqi brethren with invaluable military training and quality weapons that are superior to the armaments of the US and the Zionist entity.

AEOI Speaker:

Iran's Enriched Uranium Stockpile Exceeds 360kg



Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi announced that the volume of the country's 4.5% enriched uranium stockpile is now close to 370kg.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Tuesday that the country's enriched uranium stockpile has reached 360 to 370 kilograms.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony to construct a national nuclear research center in Fordow, Kamalvandi pointed to the country's latest peaceful nuclear activities and said when the AEOI increased the level of uranium enrichment to a higher purity than 3.67%, it sought to meet the country's needs.

"We are currently producing (enriched uranium) at a good capacity, and our stockpile is at least 60 to 70 kilograms more than 300kg (limit set in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal), and this amount is

growing rapidly," he said.

The spokesman further pointed to heavy water production in Iran and said the country has no obligation to send more than 130 tons of heavy water to other countries as per the nuclear agreement.

Meanwhile, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said the Iranian government will ask the opinion of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on taking the third phase of reducing nuclear commitments in response to the Europeans' inaction to keep Iran economically satisfied.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) supervisory committee has convened, and the meeting will focus on consults among its members and the Su-

preme Leader's opinion," Salehi said.

Iran has already reduced some of its nuclear commitments in two phases that started on May 8, the anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the pact.

The official stressed his organization has already submitted several scenarios for a possible third phase in case the Europeans fail to live up to their obligations within the JCPOA.

He reiterated that he can't make any hypotheses or guesses about what will happen in next few months.

Iran has been asking Germany, France and the United Kingdom, also known as the E3, to stand up to the U.S. maximum pressure and buy its oil and ease trade relations.

Tehran Concerned About India's Restrictions on Muslims in Kashmir

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi on Tuesday called on India to make arrangements for the normalization of life in Kashmir, whose residents have been faced with strict security conditions.

In a statement, Mousavi expressed concern over reports of tight security conditions in different parts of Kashmir that have affected ordinary civilians and restrictions on Muslims who want to perform religious rites.

He also called on the Indian authorities to make arrangements for the immediate normalization of life for people of Kashmir, in a way that they could fully en-

joy their natural and recognized rights.

Last week, Mousavi called on India and Pakistan to adopt peaceful approaches to resolving the tensions in the disputed Kashmir region after New Delhi stripped India-administered Kashmir of special constitutional status.

In the lead-up to its move, India sent thousands of additional troops to the region, imposing a curfew on parts of it, shutting down telecommunications and arresting political leaders.

Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir in full, but rule it in part. The two neighbors have fought two of their three wars over the disputed territory.

Turkey, Iran Resume Train Service After Four Years

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Turkey and Iran have restarted a train service between Ankara and Tehran after a four-year hiatus, in a further blow to U.S. sanctions.

The Trans Asia Express, carrying passengers and freight, left Tehran railway station for the Turkish capital on Wednesday during a ceremony attended by senior officials.

Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IRIR) Saeed Rasouli flagged off the first train service which will run on a weekly basis every Wednesday.

According to Mehr news agency, the five-car train carrying 200 passengers took about 60 hours to arrive in Ankara on Saturday.

The decision to resume the

service came in May after meetings between Iranian and Turkish officials. Trains between the eastern Turkish city of Van near the Iranian border and Tehran resumed in late June.

The new service involves two train travel segments and a ferry journey. The IRIR train leaving Tehran will have a layover in the Iranian city of Tabriz before heading to Lake Van in eastern Turkey.

Passengers will then ride a ferry across the lake before taking a train operated by Turkey's state railway agency to Ankara.

The service marks yet another milestone in burgeoning trade ties between Iran and Turkey whose leaders have dismissed unilateral American sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Washington has been tightening the screws on Tehran's main source of income, aiming to cut Iran's oil sales to zero, after President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic in November.

According to data released by Tehran Chamber of Commerce Industries Mines and Agriculture on Monday, Turkey imported \$2.2 billion worth of goods and services from Iran in the first quarter of the Iranian year which began in March.

The figure marked a five-fold jump compared to the similar period in 2018, it said.

Tehran and Ankara have repeatedly reiterated their resolve to increase annual trade to a target of 30 billion dollar, around triple current levels.

The Holy Qur'an
 Do they not see that they are tried once or twice in every year, yet they do not turn (to Allah) nor do they mind.
 The Holy Qur'an (9:127)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:09
Evening (Maghreb)	20:15
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:49
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:22

Rouhani Calls for Enhanced Ties With Azerbaijan

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - President Hassan Rouhani has stressed the need for the promotion of bilateral relations between Iran and its northern neighbor Azerbaijan in all areas.

Rouhani made the remarks in a phone conversation with his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday.

During the conversation, the Iranian president extended congratulations to the Azeri government and nation on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice), which marks the culmination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

He described Azerbaijan as a "friendly and brotherly" country to Iran, voicing confidence that the amicable ties would further deepen.

The Iranian chief executive highlighted the importance of exchanging visits by officials of the two countries in efforts to expand mutual cooperation.

He also expressed hope for the speedy implementation of the agreements already signed between the two countries.

Aliyev, for his part, said Tehran-Baku ties were growing thanks to the efforts made by the two sides, expressing certitude that the trend would continue.

And also, Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, in a meeting in Turkmenistan's Awaza, on the sidelines of the First Caspian Economic Forum, voiced their countries' resolution to further develop bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Jahangiri and Borissov discussed the avenues for boosting the level of economic cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, Jahangiri expressed Iran's readiness to enhance ties with Sofia in a wide range of economic fields, especially in the transportation of goods and road transit.

Borissov, for his part, said the two countries share considerable capacities in expanding their all-out cooperation, highlighting that the already good relations between Tehran and Sofia will improve in the near future.