

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Battle Fallujah: ISIL's Days Are Numbered

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

These are difficult times for the terrorist group of ISIL and its financial backers. In fact, the days of the terrorist goons are numbered.

This is because Iraqi army and volunteer Shia-Sunni forces loyal to the government in Baghdad have begun a long-awaited operation to retake the ISIL-held city of Fallujah. ISIL has held onto the capital city of Anbar province for the past 18 months and it is now clear that liberation is right around the corner.

As always, in the lead now are Iranian-trained and -equipped Shia-Sunni volunteer forces. According to the Iraqi Defense Ministry, the volunteer troops have surrounded the city of 500,000 and are beginning operations to capture it – a task that in 2004 took US Marines two separate assaults six months apart and, in total, three months of hard fighting.

The ongoing assault, which began after six weeks of preliminary bombardment, as always has been greeted with heavy resistance from the terrorists, including suicide car bombs and a number of gunfights on various axes around the city – in addition to using the civilians as shield.

Western media outlets would like to give the impression that Fallujah has from the beginning of the American occupation been the heart of the Sunni insurgency, first against the American occupation and then against the Baghdad-based Shia-led government that Sunnis have long accused of mistreating them and ignoring their needs.

This is far from the truth. Iraq has a Sunni-Shia government. Moreover, ISIL has been committing crimes against humanity in the city since its capture 18 months ago. Its Sunni population have no sympathy for the medieval butchers. Many fled the city when the terrorist goons marched in and they are now part of the Sunni-Shia alliance carrying out the ongoing offense. Indeed, Sunni tribes of Anbar province were the first major group to join the anti-ISIL alliance in Baghdad.

So there is a reason why the Iraqi government says soon they will liberate the strategic town: They have the much-needed support of the Sunni population. Besides, Iraqi officials have been candid that the brunt of the fighting about to engulf the city will be borne by an umbrella group of Shia volunteer forces.

As it stands, the offensive is expected to last weeks, if not months. The Iraqi military and volunteer allies have shown great ability to fight effectively in urban areas without taking huge casualties; the assault on Tikrit, another Sunni city that had been in ISIL hands for months, claimed few volunteer lives.

In closing, American military advisers claim sectarian groups – overtly hostile to both Americans and Sunni Muslims – will break the already deeply frayed relationship between the Shia government in Baghdad and the Sunni tribes that dominate the large swaths of Iraq currently under ISIL control.

Needless to say this is far from the truth likewise. The American strategy of divide and rule or sectarianism doesn't work anymore. At least not in Iraq.

The people of Iraq have finally realized that what foreign powers are doing is not necessarily in the best interest of their war-torn country. They have come to the conclusion that only they themselves can defeat the terrorist goons and liberate their country – and not the US-led air war of deceit and domination.

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

28th day

“اللَّهُمَّ وَفِّرْ حِطْيَ فِيهِ مِنَ الْيُؤَافِلِ، وَ أَكْرِمْنِي فِيهِ بِاحْضَارِ الْمَسَائِلِ، وَقَرِّبْ فِيهِ وَسِيلَتِي إِلَيْكَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْوَسَائِلِ، يَا مَنْ لَا يَسْغِيهِ الْحَاحُ الْمِلْحِيْنِ.”

“O Allah, in (this month) show Your mercy upon me. Bestow on me Your Blessings and keep me away from sins. Cleanse my heart of all impurities. O One Who is Merciful on His believing servants.”

Iran, ‘Most Important’ Emerging Market



TEHRAN (Press TV) -- International entrepreneurs are eyeing Iran as the most important market opening up to major equity investors.

“An economy bigger than Thai-

land's and oil reserves rivaling those of Canada” is how investment bank Renaissance Capital sees the country.

Officials from Iran and P5+1

sealed a historic accord on Tuesday, which will see all sanctions by the US, UN and Europe on the country lifted.

Renaissance sees the Islamic Republic's stock market opening to investors in early 2016, with inflows totaling \$1 billion in the first year.

“We are confident that Iran opening up will be one of the most interesting and positive developments for the emerging and frontier market asset class in many years,” Renaissance's Charles Robertson and Daniel Salter wrote.

“Iran is the largest and most important economy in our view that is still closed to institutional investors.”

MoU Signed With European Postal Firms

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Islamic Republic of Iran Post Company has signed an MoU for cooperation with Germany's logistics firm DHL and Dutch package delivery firm TNT Express, its chief executive has said.

Hussein Mehri said the state-run Iranian company had made the decision “in order to provide better services to customers and compete with foreign rivals”.

“DHL, with a fleet of more than 250 aircraft, has the largest and most unique air and ground transportation network. Why should we not tap this potential for better services to the people?” he said.

Under the agreement, Iran Post Company will collect local parcels on behalf of the foreign companies and deliver them to those firms in order to reduce the forwarding time, Mehri added.

DHL is owned by German mail and logistics group Deutsche Post,

providing express courier delivery, freight forwarding and supply chain services.

It has been operating in Iran for years through a representative but its cooperation with the state-run Iranian post company is the first in its kind.

TNT Express is a Dutch express delivery company which collects, transports and delivers documents, parcels and freight across the world.

Iran Post Company is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Communications of Information Technology which transports more than 3 million parcels a day. It connects some 29,000 destinations and employs more than 16,000 people.

Postal service in Iran has an ancient history, dating back to the Achaemenid era in the fifth century BC when couriers called “chapars” who rode horses were stationed end-to-end within certain distances to forward royal decrees.

President's Office Has to Delete Premature Tweet

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian president's office has been forced to delete a premature tweet in his name that appeared to welcome a nuclear agreement which had yet to materialize.

The about-face underlined the perils of Twitter statesmanship as well as the volatility of the negotiations in Vienna, where rising anticipation of a much-postponed announcement deal came to nothing once more on Monday. The talks were facing their fourth extension in two weeks.

The deleted tweet on the English-language account under president Hassan Rouhani's name declared: “#IranDeal is the victory of diplomacy & mutual respect over the outdated paradigm of exclusion & coercion. And this is a good beginning.”

Soon after, a new tweet was posted in its place, adding the word “if” at the beginning.

Rouhani was not alone in being wrong-footed by the turn of events in Vienna. European diplomats had confidently predicted a conclusion on Monday evening after 17 straight days of negotiations. U.S. diplomats briefed journalists on the choreography of events to follow the announcement of a deal, but expectations soured over the course of Sunday night and Monday morning.

Diplomats said it had emerged that some key differences over a new UN Security Council resolution incorporating the expected agreement, which were thought to have been resolved, were still obstacles to a final agreement. Under that expected settlement, Iran would be subject to restrictions on its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

A commentary on the state of play on Iranian state TV highlighted the stakes saying “even one misplaced comma can change everything”.

The Holy Qur'an

And of the dwellers of the desert are those who take what they spend to be a fine, and they wait (the befalling of) calamities to you; on them (will be) the evil calamity; and Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

The Holy Qur'an (9.98)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:41
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	04:17
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	05:59

Iran's stock market has been one of the best performing in the Middle East even under crippling US-led sanctions. Over 450 companies listed on the Tehran exchanges have a combined capitalization of more than 3,644 trillion rials (\$110.5 billion). In 2014, Tehran Stock Exchange's All-Share Price Index TEPIX rose a record 130%.

According to Emirates NBD PISC, Dubai's biggest bank, Iran's growth is set to accelerate from 2016, with gross domestic product expanding 7.9%.

The accord will have “significant implications for both the Iranian economy and global energy markets”, economists Khatija Haque and Jean Paul Pigat wrote.

“The impact on domestic consumption, investment and trade in Iran would be enormous.”

Iran has a diversified economy. Unlike many emerging market frontier countries, it is not saddled with a massive public debt.

The country has an educated population of around 80 million and a GDP of \$419 billion, with a market capitalization size of \$170 billion.

Press Digest

Last Push

IRAN: Nuclear deal was inevitable. If the US, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China are ready to recognize Iran's rights and implement their undertakings - remove sanctions, take measures simultaneously with Iran's actions, and stop making endless demands – the deal could work too. The problem is that the US insists on long-term restrictions, unconventional inspections, questioning Iranian figures, and the inspection of military sites (Iran's red lines), which are not in line with the International Atomic Energy Agency and international regulations.

New Developments

AFTAB: From the policy of what was once focused on “containment” and ultimately “regime change” in Iran, there are now suggestions that ask Washington to “accommodate” the emerging regional power by responding to its demand to be treated as an equal partner on the regional stage, in particular when it comes to re-establishing peace and security. Iran's decision to negotiate and collaborate fully with the P5+1 is to be understood within this context.

Major Differences

JAVAN: No doubt, there are deep-seated disagreements and divisions between Washington and Tehran that will not go away even after a final deal. The goal of being at the negotiating table is to strike a deal. That's where the Iranians are now. Apparently, the same cannot be said about the Western negotiators. If anything, the American and European teams cannot be trusted even after a deal is struck.

Illegal Measures

VATAN EMROUZ: Despite Amano's already discredited allegations, it is now pretty much evident that the sanction resolutions were and still are short of scientific, technical, legal or justified virtues, and only endorsed by the UN member states under immense pressure from the White House. To substantiate, former Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation and International Security at the US State Department, Stephen Rademaker, said, “India's votes against Iran at the IAEA were coerced.” So it was dirty politics of coercion and not the alleged “PMD” that created all this mess in the first place.