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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

INSTC All Set to Bust US Economic Terrorism

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which connects Eastern Europe to Southern Asia via Iran, has become the focus of attention of the world's trade and commercial centres.

Stretching for 7,200-km-long the multi-mode transport project is all set to move freight from the European parts of Russia to the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent by passing through Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the vital link to the international waters for most landlocked countries.

Iran is thus poised to play a vital role in trade and transit routes that would proceed across the Persian Gulf to the Arab states and thence to Africa.

The US is clearly frustrated at these developments that nullify its economic-political terrorism against Iran and Russia, by opening up safe and secure corridors for imports and exports, away from its sanctions.

As a matter of fact, the INSTC in which Russia, Iran, and India, are investing extensively will also benefit Pakistan and Southeast Asian countries, saving precious time and money for the goods they require.

For instance, the present trade route linking Russia to India goes through the Baltic and North Seas to the Atlantic Ocean and passes through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea (via the Suez Canal) to reach its destination.

The time required for the imports/exports exchanges is at least 40 days with huge costs in American dollars that are indeed a burden on the buyers.

Once INSTC becomes fully operational, the exchange of goods between India and Russia, via Iran, will take only a week of ten days, and greatly reduce the costs as the US dollars or Euros are rarely required.

So important is this speedily developing trade transit route that President Vladimir Putin of Russia in his recent State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow, has emphasized on what is also known as the North-South Transport Corridor.

In a slap on the face of the US and West European regimes, he also said: "We will develop the ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. He added that it will open up new routes for business cooperation with India, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan as well as West Asian countries.

The Islamic Republic for its part is rapidly developing its ports on the Caspian Sea in the north as well as on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in the south.

Chabahar Port in Sistan-Baluchestan Province is being developed at a quick pace and India has shown interest in its completion because of the benefits it brings to the people of the Subcontinent.

Once fully operational the INSTC will be an economic bonanza for the Islamic Republic of Iran in view of its vital geographical location.

Security in Focus as Iranian FM Visits Baghdad



Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian (L) and his Iraqi counterpart, Fuad Hussein, hold a joint press conference in Baghdad on February 22, 2023.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iran's top diplomat Hussein Amir-Abdollahian held talks with neighboring ally Iraq Wednesday to discuss stalled talks with Saudi Arabia to ease regional tensions, as well as on border security.

Amir-Abdollahian, speaking to reporters in Baghdad alongside his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein, said the Iraqi government is adamant that the country is not used as a launchpad for attacks on its neighbors.

The two ministers discussed security on their border, after Iran last year bombed terrorist groups sheltering in northern Iraq.

Iraq-based terrorist groups have been involved in carrying out at-

tacks in Iran, and encouraging riots that erupted after the September 16 death in custody of 22-year-old woman Mahsa Amini.

Iraq later redeployed border guards to limit tensions.

"The Iraqi government has taken a series of measures to protect the frontier, and we agree that certain groups should not be allowed to cross this border," Hussein said.

He also hailed the efforts "to strengthen talks and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iran".

Iraq has taken a key role as a mediator between Iran and Saudi Arabia since 2021, after Riyadh broke off diplomatic relations in 2016, but efforts have been deadlocked for several months.

Since April 2021, Iraq has hosted a series of meetings between the two sides, but no talks have been publicly announced since April 2022.

"As part of the strengthening of cooperation with... the countries of the region, we welcome a resumption of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia," he said.

Amir-Abdollahian also spoke to similar mediation efforts carried out between Iran and Egypt.

He also mentioned slow progress in talks in Vienna aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear accord. The United States unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions, prompting Iran

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Iranian FM: IAEA Officials to Visit Tehran Soon

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials will visit Tehran in the coming days, Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said on Wednesday.

"In the framework of concluding negotiations, IAEA officials will travel to Tehran in the coming days," the minister said during a press briefing with his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad.

"We hope that IAEA Director Grossi will reach an agreement

with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran from a non-political and technical standpoint," Amir-Abdollahian added.

Iran's Tasnim news agency had earlier reported head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Muhammad Eslami as saying that IAEA inspectors had been in Tehran since Tuesday and had started negotiations, visits and checks to resolve "ambiguities created by an inspector".

Last week, the UN nuclear agen-

cy said it was discussing the results of recent verification activities with Iran after Bloomberg News claimed that the agency had detected uranium enriched to 84% purity.

A spokesperson for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran denied the report on Monday and said Tehran's uranium enrichment did not exceed 60% purity.

"Through interactions and coordination, we are preventing the rise of new ambiguities and disruptions

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'Europe Not in a Position to Preach Others'

TEHRAN -- Iran says certain European states are not in a position to advise others on observing the principles of international law, reacting to the Council of the European Union's sanctioning of dozens of Iranian individuals and entities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks after the EU council imposed the restrictive measures on 32 Iranian individuals and two entities over what the bloc called Tehran's crackdown on recent riots.

The European states, which have been issuing such pieces of

advice, Kanaani said, them-

selves, do not abide by the norms of international law and take steps towards violation of international commitments and human rights.

The countries in question have arbitrarily detained a considerable number of Iranian citizens, sentenced them to long-term incarceration, or extradited them for "vain reasons and unfounded accusations" based on "self-made and illegal criteria," the spokesperson noted.

"These states have replaced the international laws and conventions with their own courts' political and non-legal rulings," he

noted.

"The Islamic Republic is aware of and committed to its international obligations and takes its actions in line with its domestic laws and regulations and its international commitments," he added.

The European Union has been imposing sanctions against Iran over what it calls the country's approach to the foreign-backed riots that erupted in September following the tragic death of a young Iranian woman, called Mahsa Amini. She fainted at a police

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UK Convicts Fake Doctor Claiming Torture in Iran

LONDON (Dispatches) -- A fake Iran-born doctor falsely claiming to have been "tortured" by Iranian authorities has been convicted in the UK of a "deliberate and wicked deception" for forging a medical degree certificate and practicing as a psychiatrist without prerequisite qualifications.

Zholia Alemi, around 60 years of age, worked in hospitals across England, Wales and Scotland and

received large income and benefits throughout her career, the Manchester crown court heard on Wednesday, according to reports in the British media.

Alemi was found guilty of 13 counts of fraud, three counts of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception, two counts of forgery and two counts of using a false instrument.

Judge Hilary Manley remanded

Alemi into custody and informed that Alemi would face a prison term "of some substantial length" when she is sentenced at the same court on 28 February.

She said the deception carried out against health authorities enabled the fake Iran-born doctor to work with "potentially very vulnerable people over a long period of time". Alemi had earned up to £1.3 million

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The Holy Qur'an

And others have confessed their faults, they have mingled a good deed and an evil one; may be Allah will turn to them (mercifully); surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

The Holy Qur'an (9.101)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:18
Evening (Maghreb)	18:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:42
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:19

Quds Force Chief: Iran Thwarted U.S. Plans in Region

TEHRAN -- The commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said here Wednesday Iran has managed to thwart the United States' attempts to establish a foothold in West Asia and bring nations under its control.

"Although former U.S. president [Donald Trump] openly admitted to Washington having spent 7 trillion dollars and lost at least 7,000 forces in Afghanistan, what brought such an ambitious project to an abject failure was Iran's Islamic establishment and the Islamic Revolution's culture," Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani said in an address to the Assembly of Experts.

He noted that Iran, irrespective of the vicious plots hatched by the enemies, above all the U.S. and the Zionist regime, continues to tread the path of progress, has become a source of influence in the region and the world, and has notched notable achievements under the Islamic establishment.

The IRGC commander said American statesmen changed their strategies in West Asia in cooperation with a number of regional countries and created the Daesh terrorist group.

"The deviant Daesh outfit, which was a fake copy of the resistance front, had the capacity to transform the status quo of the region in favor of Americans. It was, however, because of the endeavors and sacrifices made by Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani that the fiendish conspiracy fell short," Qa'ani said.

The chief commander of the IRGC Quds Force also described the assassination of General Soleimani as the beginning of a new stage of hostile U.S. activities against the Islamic Revolution, which includes an extensive economic and media hybrid war that is still going on.

The culture of resistance, which has its roots in the original concepts and teachings of Islam, has now become a global phenomenon and has frustrated hegemonic powers, Qa'ani said.

The United States assassinated General Soleimani, then-commander of the IRGC Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi Al Muhandis, deputy commander of Iraq's popular mobilization units, in a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

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