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Iran's Army in Possession of World's Top Missile, Radar Systems

TEHRAN - Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard said on Tuesday that the country's Army is in possession of the world's top radar and missile systems, turning into a thorn in the eyes of the enemies.

"The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been increasing their deterrence power against the enemies," Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard said.

He said that Iranian scientists and technicians have succeeded in manufacturing various defensive and military equipment.

The Armed Forces are proceeding with such a rapid move in the development of their might and deterrent power, he added.

Based on religious teachings, it is necessary to improve the country's military might in order to be used in urgent occasions, Sabahi-Fard said.

The commander added that the enemies have always cast a covetous eye on Iran given its special geographical, political and strategic position.

Iranian military experts and

technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

Iran maintains that its military power poses no threat to the regional countries, saying that the Islamic Republic's defense doctrine is entirely based on deterrence.

Back in April, the Islamic Republic of Iran Army units -- the Ground Force, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Air Defense -- unveiled a broad range of advanced gear such as homegrown missiles, tanks, armored vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radar systems and air defense missile systems in a military parade marking the National Army Day.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to boost its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, saying the Islamic Republic's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

UNHCR: Afghan Students in Iran Receive Same Education as Iranian Peers

KERMAN, IRNA – An official from office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran says that all Afghan refugee students in the country have access to same educational facilities as their Iranian peers.

Inna Gladkova made the remarks on Tuesday during a visit along with Swiss, French and Austrian ambassadors to Kerman province, in south-eastern Iran.

Gladkova said that about 10% of the population of students in Kerman province is made up of Afghan refugees, adding that the refugees even outnumber Iranian students at many schools of the province.

Thanks to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, all

Afghan children enjoy the opportunity to have access to educational facilities equal to what Iranian students receive, she added.

The UNHCR appreciated the Islamic Republic for services provided to refugees.

She also considered her presence in Kerman as a good opportunity to witness the projects carried out for the refugees as well as the challenges they face, adding that the UNHCR is well aware of the great efforts made by the Iranian government to serve a large population of refugees residing in Kerman.

For us at the international level, Iran's strategy of integrating services for a large refugee population into its national programs is of great importance, she underlined.

Iran's Top General:

No Place for Outsiders in Regional Security Efforts



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Hussein Baqeri delivered an address at the Academy for Strategic and Defense Studies of Oman during a visit to Muscat, May 9, 2023.

TEHRAN – The Chairman of Iran's Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Muhammad Hussain Baqeri said on Tuesday that signs of the decline of the U.S. clout are obvious more than ever before and "we are confident that the new world order will no longer be unipolar."

Addressing at the Academy for Strategic and Defense Studies of Oman during a visit to Muscat, Major General Baqeri highlighted the formation of a new world order and the failure of the U.S. to establish a unipolar system after dissolution of the Soviet Union, and added the signs of waning power of the U.S. have become obvious.

"We are confident that the new (world) order won't be based on

unipolar hegemony. One of the other features of the new order is that it will be a regional order," Major General Baqeri stated.

Reaffirming Iran's principled policy to support the formation of regional security arrangements without interference from extra-regional powers, the commander said the hegemonic powers have resorted to Iranophobia to obstruct such regional cooperation.

Turning the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman into the waters of friendship, progress and welfare for the regional people is achievable, the general said.

He also stressed the need for Muslim unity and fraternity to thwart foreign plots.

"We consider the main pillar of

assuring security to be the indigenous nature of regional security which involves the participation of all regional countries and whose mechanism excludes any foreign power's interference," he stated.

In April 2020, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei highlighted the key role that Iran plays in maintaining security in the Persian Gulf, saying the presence of foreigners jeopardizes any initiative that could benefit regional people.

Iranian officials maintain that the security of the Persian Gulf region comes within the purview of the regional countries alone, dismissing the US claim of seeking security in the region.

Chemical Weapons a Threat to World Peace, Envoy Warns

TEHRAN - Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeed Irvani says the Islamic Republic, as the main victim of chemical weapons, denounces the use of such weapons altogether as it is a serious violation of international law and a crime against humanity.

Irvani, Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeed Irvani, made the remarks while addressing a UN Security Council meeting in New York.

He added that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Pointing to the systematic use of chemical weapons against the Iranian people by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the imposed war against Iran, he said Iranian people will never forget the role of certain Western countries in helping Saddam's regime to such weapons against the Iranian people.

"Because of their West harmful actions and double standards, the UN Security Council was unable to carry out its based charter duties to take effective action to hold perpetrators accountable for such atrocious crimes," Irvani said.

It is disturbing that the West continues to use double standards and detrimental practices, as evidenced by the politicization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organi-

zation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for short-sighted political gain, he said.

The Iranian diplomat added, "Such an approach not only risks creating divisions among member states but also undermines the credibility and legitimacy of the disarmament machinery."

Elsewhere in his speech, Irvani reaffirmed Syria's commitment to its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and continuation of the Arab country's constructive cooperation with OPCW.

He noted that Syria has outlined its activities related to the destruction of chemical weapons and their production facilities in its 112th and 113th monthly reports submitted to the OPCW director-general.

Irvani said that Syria has repeatedly expressed its concern about the "grave threat" of the use of chemical weapons by terrorist organizations, emphasizing, "Such a threat should not be ignored or undervalued and requires condemnation as well as an immediate action to prevent these weapons out of the terrorists' hands."

He added that Iran supports constructive dialogue between Syria and the OPCW at the highest level within a specific time frame in an attempt to resolve outstanding issues and finally close the file.

"However, any investigation must be impartial, professional, credible, and objective, and must fully comply with the Convention's requirements and procedures," he pointed out.

He urged the OPCW to remain a neutral and objective international body, guided solely by scientific and technical considerations, in its efforts to prevent the use of chemical weapons and promote the goals of the Convention.

The Iranian envoy called on all member states to uphold the principles of the Convention and work together to ensure the "impartiality, professionalism, and integrity" of the OPCW.

He warned of convening unconstructive monthly meetings on the Syrian chemical file, despite no new developments, saying, "The political approach and using double standards in this file can only jeopardize the process of addressing unresolved issues and will only serve to detract from the technical nature of the discussions at hand."

On April 14, 2018, the U.S., Britain, and France carried out a string of airstrikes against Syria over a suspected chemical weapons attack on the city of Douma, located about 10 kilometers northeast of the capital Damascus. Washington and its allies blamed Damascus for the Douma attack, a charge the Syrian government has rejected.

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The Holy Qur'an

Postponing is only an addition in unbelief, wherewith those who disbelieve are led astray, violating it one year and keeping it sacred another; that they may agree in the number that Allah has made sacred, and thus violate what Allah has made sacred; the evil of their doings is made fairseeming to them; and Allah does not guide the unbelieving people.

The Holy Qur'an (9.37)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:01
Evening (Maghreb)	19:18
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:04
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:27

Official: Chance to Save Nuclear Deal Won't Last Forever

TEHRAN - Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani says the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal is possible if the U.S. and the European signatories to the agreement have the will to reach that aim, warning that the opportunity will not last forever.

Bagheri Kani, also deputy foreign minister for political affairs, made the remarks in tweets on Tuesday, marking the fifth anniversary of the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in defiance of international criticisms.

"A critical reminder: 5 years ago, the U.S. rendered a fatal blow to 'rule of law at the international level' by unlawfully withdrawing from JCPOA. Ever since, the U.S. has failed to reverse its wrongful act. Iran's legitimate remedial measures will continue," he wrote.

"The full implementation of JCPOA (with effective sanctions lifting at its core) could be resumed, should the reneging party (and EU/E3) demonstrate credible political will to that effect. No opportunity is forever!"

Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the JCPOA with six world powers. However, Washington's exit in May 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell also says the Iran nuclear deal, JCPOA, is important to Europe, and urged all parties to the deal to return to their commitments under the agreement.

In a phone conversation with

(Continued on Page 7)