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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iranian Navy Comes Of Age

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The round-the-world voyage by an Iranian flotilla is not just a feather in the cap of the Islamic Republic but is the first instance of circumnavigating the globe by any Muslim fleet.

The Arabs who in the heyday of the Islamic civilization had sailed as far as the coasts of China and Japan in the east, and may have also landed on the eastern coast of the hitherto undiscovered Americas never made a round-the-world trip, as attested by historical documents.

The next major Muslim sea power, the Ottomans, for whom the Mediterranean Sea was a Turkish lake and whose ships used to raid the coasts of the English Channel in the north, and in the east had fought sea battles with the Portuguese off the coast of India with the sultans of Gujarat, also have no record of sailing around the world.

The undeniable facts makes the 8-month cruise the Dena destroyer and the Makran forward base ship through the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans, and berthing on the way at the ports of the three continents of Asia, America, and Africa, while skirting past Australia, more significant than what appears on the paper.

More important, the 65,000 km trip was achieved in the face of the illegal US sanctions and that too by ships built exclusively by Iran and equipped with the latest marine technology, without the least reliance on any foreign power.

Thus, what Major-General Mohammad Baqeri, the senior most Iranian military commander, says, while welcoming home the adventurous seafarers at the port of Bandar Abbas is not any exaggeration!

His words which make all pious and patriotic Iranian proud of achievements on the high seas of the Iranian naval personnel are indeed further encouragement for more significant trips around the world.

"The 86th flotilla of the Navy fulfilled a historic mission. Even major countries in the world do not have the courage to undertake such a [formidable] task.

It is obvious the enemies of the Islamic Republic are not just bewildered but at the end of their wits, as is clear from what the Americans and the Israelis grumble.

They cannot do anything more and should be ready for more surprises, in view of the latest announcement by the Iranian navy of another record-breaking voyage to Antarctica and the South Pole.

These are all peaceful missions, since Iran has no military ambitions and is definitely not a threat to any country.

At the same time, the Islamic Republic is determined to safeguard not just its sovereignty and territorial integrity, but its interests in the region and the world against the threats posed by the buccaneering Americans or Europeans who have no right to base their militaries in our part of the world.

Minister Says Terrorist Network Dismantled Iran Warns Iraqi Kurdistan to Confront Terrorists



A member of Komala terrorist group stands in the remains of what used to be their headquarters a few hours prior after Iranian missiles and drones struck them in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq on Sept. 28, 2022.

TEHRAN – Iran's security forces have dismantled a terrorist team affiliated with Israel's Mossad spy agency in the western parts of the country, Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said on Sunday.

Khatib said at a ceremony here that the terrorists had sneaked across the border into western Iran from Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

"Given the cooperation of the new Iraqi administration and assurances offered, we wish to see our western borders secure and clear of any security incident," he said.

"We remind the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of its responsibilities in this regard," he added.

Khatib made it clear that Iranian military and security forces will not hesitate to deliver a power-

ful and crushing response to any destabilizing act against the country's border regions.

IRGC Ground Force chief Brigadier General Muhammad Pakpour said on Saturday Iraq has undertaken a commitment to disarm and expel anti-Iran terrorists operating in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

"We are waiting for the government of Iraq to honor its commitments, and have offered them an opportunity (to flush out the terrorists). Otherwise, and if no action is taken, the IRGC's strikes will persist," he said.

Asked by if the Baghdad government has a deadline of months or days, the general said the Iraqi government itself knows the given time.

Last November, positions of anti-Iran separatist and terrorist groups

in northern Iraq came under combined attacks using missiles and kamikaze drones. The strikes targeted the positions of the notorious PDKI and Komala groups.

Local Kurdish sources said the attacks killed as many as 26 members of the terrorist groups.

Earlier this week, IRGC intelligence forces disbanded a terror network affiliated with Daesh Khurasan (Daesh-K) in Iran's southern province of Fars.

The IRGC Intelligence Department, in cooperation with Fajr Intelligence Organization of Fars province, spotted and dismantled the operational and media network of the Daesh-K, an offshoot of the Daesh terrorist group in Afghanistan and captured its main element in the province.

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Border Guards Martyred as Terrorist Infiltration Foiled

TEHRAN -- Six Iranian border guards were martyred Sunday during clashes with a terrorist group in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the judiciary's Mizan Online website quoted local prosecutor Mehdi Shamsabadi as saying.

The guards were martyred in Saravan, near Iran's border with Pakistan. The attack was carried out by "a terrorist group that was seeking to infiltrate the country" but "fled across the border after the clash," Fars news agency reported.

On March 11, two policemen were martyred during clashes with "criminals" in the same region, the

state news agency IRNA reported at the time.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Sunday said Pakistan, from which the terrorists had tried to illegally enter Iran, is expected to fulfill mutual agreements on countering terrorist groups.

Kanaani urged Pakistani authorities to do more to ensure security along the joint border with Iran.

Farah Azeem Shah, the spokeswoman of the local government in Pakistan's Balochistan, condemned the attack as she offered condolences to the Iranian government and nation.

Describing the attack as a satanic plot to damage brotherly relations between Tehran and Islamabad, she said the time has come for the governments and nations of Iran and Pakistan to send a strong message to terrorist elements.

"Such unscrupulous behavior cannot harm the friendly relations between the two neighboring countries," the official said.

She the joint trade and development projects of Iran and Pakistan will not be affected by such acts of terrorism and the relations between the two countries will further grow in the future.

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Military Delegation Meets Afghan Authorities in Kabul

KABUL (Dispatches) – The Taliban rulers of Afghanistan have told a visiting Iranian delegation that they are committed to cooperation with Tehran after a festering dispute between the two countries over Iran's rights from the Hirmand River escalated in recent days.

The military delegation, headed by deputy chief of staff of the armed forces Brigadier General Bahram Hussein Motlagh, met his Afghan counterpart Mali Khan Sadiq who pointed to good cooperation between the two neighbors.

Sadiq said the Afghan government has always sought good relations with the Islamic Republic and is committed to further co-

operation in various fields.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed border issues and stressed enhancing joint cooperation and resolving problems through dialogue and relevant authorities, an official Afghan statement said.

On Thursday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi warned Afghan rulers not to violate the water rights of the Iranian people and "swiftly" supply the country with its share of water from the Hirmand.

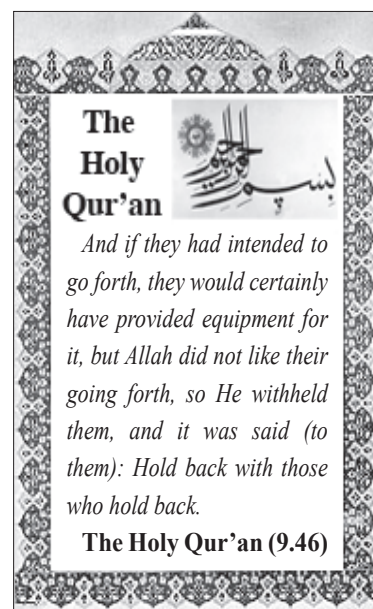
Iran's Parliament speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday called for the "full and precise" implementation of the 1973 treaty on distribution of the Helmand water, saying that there will be "no compromise" on Iran's

share.

"The inviolable water treaty is part of the long neighborhood history of the two countries and nations of Iran and Afghanistan. The deal's full and precise implementation benefits both nations and guarantees mutual interests... This is a vital issue and there will be no compromise on it," he told parliament.

Ghalibaf urged the Afghan authorities "to deliver a constructive response to Iran's positive will in this regard and prevent a serious problem in bilateral ties given sufficient water reserves on Afghan soil."

Since the Taliban took over in 2021, authorities in Kabul have emphasized adherence to the Hel-



PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:01
Evening (Maghreb)	19:28
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:55
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:14

Swiss Ambassador Summoned Over 'Unconventional' Move

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign ministry on Sunday summoned the Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Nadine Olivieri Lozano over her country's interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic.

The ministry said Ambassador Lozano had been summoned over Switzerland's "unconventional and unprofessional" use of its embassy in Tehran to republish a picture with a fake flag.

In a Twitter post on Friday, the Swiss embassy condemned the recent execution of three men in Iran who had been convicted of launching a deadly terrorist attack against security forces in Isfahan during the foreign-backed riots of 2022.

It had also published a photo of a gathering of anti-Islamic Revolution groups with a fake flag of Iran.

The Iranian foreign ministry conveyed to the Swiss diplomat the Islamic Republic's protest over the unconventional conduct that was not in accordance with the cordial relations between Iran and Switzerland. The ambassador said she will convey Iran's protest to Switzerland.

mand treaty, but in practice, Iran has not received its due share of water from the river.

The 1973 treaty requires that Afghanistan provide Iran with 22 cubic meters per second or 820 million cubic meters of water a year.

The Helmand stretches for 1,150 km from the Hindu Kush mountains into Hamoun wetlands which once supported great plant and animal diversity in Iran's Sistan Basin.

The construction of numerous dams and canals in Helmand as well as Nimruz and Kandahar has constantly depleted the flowing water level, as a result of which the Hamoun lakes have nearly disappeared with their exotic flora and fauna.