

## Iran to Launch Home-Made Submarine, Destroyer

TEHRAN (Fars News Agency)- Iranian army's naval commander said that the country is due to launch a home-made destroyer and a submarine on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in a press conference here on Saturday, Admiral Habib Sayyari further pointed to the production of missile-launching PT boats by the navy, and added, "A home-made destroyer called 'Jamaran' and a (home-made) submarine of 'Ghadir' class will launch operation on November 28."

He further stressed that his troops are closely monitoring military moves of trans-regional powers in the region, and said, "No move in the Sea of Oman, the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormoz could remain hidden from our eyes. The naval force is in full control over the region and monitors all the military moves of the enemies in the region."

Asked if Iran would block the Strait of Hormoz in case of foreign invasion, the navy commander, said, "We are prepared to defend the interests of the Islamic Republic against any kind of threat, but we have not made any such claim about closing the Strait of Hormoz. Yet, we are ready to take action to preserve our interests."

He described self-belief and self-reliance as the most important achievements of the Iranian naval forces, and said that his troops have made great achievements in training tactics and equipment manufacturing.

The commander further voiced opposition to the expansion of military capabilities in the Caspian Sea, saying, "We view the Caspian as a sea of peace and friendship and we believe upgrading and expanding military equipment in this sea is incorrect. Yet, we are always prepared to defend the country's interests."

He said Iranian navy enjoys a powerful missile capability, adding that navy units are equipped with various types of surface and subsurface missiles and torpedoes.

The Admiral underlined that Iran's military capabilities serve as a deterrent and pursue defensive purposes, but meantime warned, "If the enemy makes a mistake, he will receive such a powerful second strike that it won't be able to stand up."

He said a powerful and mighty Iran would bring peace and security to the region, adding, "We are willing to promote our interactions with regional states at all levels."

To end his remarks, the navy commander mentioned that his troops are scheduled to stage massive military exercises codenamed 'Unity 86' in the Sea of Oman in February, adding that new tactics and military tools and equipment would be tested during the maneuvers.