

Congratulations on the Blessed Birthday of Hazrat Abu'l-Fazl al-Abbas (AS)

Arrests Made in Attack on Border Guards

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Vice-chairman of parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said on Sunday Iran's security forces have identified some of those behind a recent deadly terrorist attack near the Pakistani border that killed nine Iranian border guards.

MP Abolfazl Hassanbeigi said the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry, Law Enforcement Force and security forces are working on different aspects of the incident. A probe has been launched into the terror attack and some of the terrorist elements behind it have been identified, he said.



First New ATR Plane to Arrive in Two Weeks

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's national flag carrier Iran Air says it expects to receive the first of a series of planes purchased from ATR in two weeks.

Iran Air Managing Director Farhad Parvaresh told the domestic media that this would be part of the first batch of four turboprops which would be gradually delivered to Iran over the next few months. Parvaresh added that pilots had been sent to France to receive the required trainings from ATR for flying the planes. Iran Air signed an agreement with the French-Italian aircraft manufacturer to purchase a total of 20 medium-range turboprops.

VOL NO: LV 10309 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Monday, May 1, 2017, Ordibehesht 11, 1396, Sha'ban 4, 1438, Price 10000 Rials

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Buffer Zone in Syria? Keep Dreaming

P. 2

Iran, India Keen to Expand Media Ties

P. 3

Iran Crowned Asian Weightlifting Champion

P. 6

Mass Hunger Strike by Palestinian Prisoners Enters 2nd Week

P. 8

Salutations to the Thirsty “Saqqa”

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Those who die for God live forever; those who fight against God perish forever.”

These words spoken by a God-fearing warrior in the heat of battle when a mortal enemy tried to tempt him with offers of wealth and posts if he switched sides and joined the service of the unjust regime, continue to ring in the ears of the believers, despite the passing of over a millennium and three-and-a-half centuries.

He was not an ordinary person, or else we would not have been celebrating his birth anniversary today on the 4th of Sha’ban.

He was a multisided genius, excelling in various spheres of life. For instance, his remarkable horsemanship had earned him the title of **“Seyyed al-Forsaan”** (Chief of Horsemen).

His administrative qualities in mobilizing courageous people had won him the epithet **“Raees ash-Shuja’aan”** (Leader of the Valiant).

His utmost care in ensuring that potable water, the elixir of life, ought to be available all the times, especially for children, and his personal efforts in procuring it on several occasions, even at the cost of life, brought him the appellation of **“As-Saqqa”** (Quencher of Thirst).

His chivalrous command of troops by leading them from the front, with himself carrying the banner has immortalized him as **“Hamel ar-Raya”** (Standard-Bearer – **“Alamdar”** in Persian, Turkish and Urdu)

His tall stature and exceptionally handsome features has eternalized him as **“Qamar Bani Hashem”** (Moon of the Hashemite Clan).

The identity of the radiant baby born this day should now be clear to the readers of this column.

It was the year 26 AH (647 AD), while Prophet Muhammad’s (SAWA) First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Taleb (AS), was praying in the Prophet’s Mosque in Medina that his loyal servant, Qanbar, hurriedly approached him, beaming with joy, to inform him of the birth of a son to his wife, Fatema bint Hezam al-Kelabiya, whom the Commander of the Faithful had married over a dozen years after the passing away of the Noblest Lady of All Times, the Prophet’s Immaculate Daughter, Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (SA).

The Commander of the Faithful, whose mother Fatema bint Asad had called him **“Haider”** or Valorous Lion and one of whose epithets was **“Asad-Allah”** or the Lion of God, named the son Abbas, which also means a Valiant Lion.

He hastened to his house and was doubly rejoiced on seeing the Prophet’s younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS), holding his newborn brother in his arms and reciting the **“Azaan”** in the right ear and the **“Eqamah”** in the left ear.

Tears flowed from the father’s eyes on beholding the two brothers, separated by an age-gap of 22 years but smiling at each other as the newborn opened his eyes and the first thing he saw was the radiant visage of Imam Husain (AS).

Imam Ali (AS), not just recalled his own first sight in the world of seeing the glowing eyes of his 30-year old cousin Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) on emerging from the holy Ka’ba in his mother’s arms, but his God-given vision pierced the veils of the future to see the heartrending sight 35 years later besides the River Euphrates in Karbala where Abbas lay on the ground, soaked in blood, his head smashed, an arrow in one of his eyes, and both of his arms severed from the body, having a last look at Imam Husain (AS), with the words “Farewell O Master”.

Salutations to Hazrat Abbas (AS) on his auspicious birthday that incidentally falls a day after the blessed 3rd of Sha’ban when Imam Husain (AS) was born 22 years earlier.

His birth had a purpose behind, since his father whom the Prophet had foretold of the tragic martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) in order to salvage Islam and all humanitarian values, had longed for another son who would play the role of the loyal lieutenant, as he himself had served the Seal of Messengers.

Therefore, Hazrat Abbas (AS) was groomed from childhood for the lofty task ahead. Out of respect for Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), he used to address Imam Hasan (AS) as **“Ya Seyyedi”** or O my Lord, and address Imam Husain (AS) as **“Ya Mowlai”** or O my Master, since he was fully aware of their divinely-decreed positions as **“Leaders of the Youths of Paradise”**.

He grew into a brave youth. On entering teenage he displayed his future greatness in one of the battle of the War of Siffen by routing a body of Omayyad warriors, winning accolades from the Commander of the Faithful.

After his father’s martyrdom and the seizure of the caliphate through deceit by the rebellious governor of Syria, Mu’awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, he stood steadfast beside Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) as the righteous leader of the Islamic Ummah. He was in charge of public welfare projects.

Ten years later, when the Prophet’s elder grandson was treacherously martyred through poisoning by Mu’awiyah, he loyally followed the path of Imam Husain (AS).

Throughout the next decade he accompanied Imam Husain (AS) like a shadow to ensure no harm will befall the Prophet’s Infallible Heir.

To be brief, in Karbala, he readied himself for immortal martyrdom, and would say: **“Death under swords is glorifying when Paradise is the fruit.”**

When Jareer bin Abdullah, who was distant cousin of the mother of Hazrat Abbas (AS) sent a letter to him to desert Imam Husain (AS) with promises of favours from the Omayyad regime, he with utter disdain he rejected the offer, and told the offer. His words to the despicable Shimr Zijlowshan are recorded in books of history. He said: **“If I die in defending my Master, Husain, I shall consider myself most fortunate. O coward, remember that valiant die but once. Nobody is born to live eternally. By betraying my master, you have betrayed the Prophet, whose religion you profess to follow. On the Day of Judgement you will be doomed to eternal perdition.”**

Today, the shrine of Hazrat Abbas (AS) stands like a sentinel to the shrine of Imam Husain (AS) in Karbala, as testimony of his faith and loyalty, although the **“Saqqa”** couldn’t fetch water to the thirsty camp of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt.

Ayatollah Khamenei: Iranian People Eliminated ‘Shadow of War’



Iranian workers meet with Ayatollah Khamenei on the occasion of Workers’ Day in Tehran, April 30, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday said Iranian people have removed the specter of war, dismissing claims that it was the achievement of a certain administration.

“Sometimes we hear and have heard in the past that certain individuals say, ‘when we came along and assumed responsibility, we managed to take away the shadow of war over the country,’” the Leader told a group of workers here.

“No. These statements are not right. It is the presence of the people that has removed the shadow of war, and not the authorities,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

“When you see that the impertinent and bull-necked enemies are refraining from taking any harsh

action against the Islamic Republic, it is because of the presence of the people. They fear the people. They are literally afraid,” the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei’s remarks came ahead of the presidential election in Iran on May 19 which is expected to be a close race.

The Leader said, “The beloved Iranian people should know that their presence in various arenas is determining. It is determining for national security; if the people come to the scene, the country will remain secure.”

“When the people are present at the scene, the enemy which seeks to confront the establishment has to beat a retreat and forgo an encroachment,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

“When a gap is created between the nation and the establishment and the nation is not present at the scene, they (the enemies) can do whatever they want,” the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei further

Economy Becomes Hot Subject in Iran Polls

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The six candidates in the 12th Iranian presidential election have outlined their programs, with President Hassan Rouhani pledging to put his focus on creating jobs, “not in words but in practice.”

“As we have shown in the past four years, our path is economic prosperity, employment and growth,” he told people in the central city of Yazd, describing creation of jobs as a duty.

Rouhani also said that during the 2013 presidential election which he won, his administration had pledged to strive for freedom, security, peace as well as social advancement and stand up against violence and extremism.

“Today, security and peace are felt more than ever before in the country,” he added.

In a TV program broadcast live, the Iranian president said he had declared four years ago that the country could tackle its problems if it remained on the “path of moderation.”

He further hailed the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the 5+1 group of world countries, saying it provided suitable grounds to resume economic activities after a period of intensified sanctions.

Speaking at an election campaign rally in Tehran, Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi criticized Rouhani’s economic management and

advised candidates in the upcoming presidential election to consider lofty objectives in their campaigns.

“You should lend divine character to your intentions. They should not be for the power; they should be for the service (of the people). Enter the battleground to serve the people, especially the weak classes.”

“Everyone should know that we cannot make this country prosper unless we invest in Jihadi and revolutionary endeavors,” the Leader added.

Some 55 million people are eligible to vote in the presidential election which is contested by six candidates, including incumbent Hassan Rouhani.

In his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the Iranians to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

“I never say whom you should elect. But I call on you to turn out at the ballot boxes and vote. Everybody who loves this country and its security, should show up at the ballot boxes.”

(Continued on Page 7)

New Refinery Gives Iran Petrol Self-Sufficiency

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said on Sunday it was now self-sufficient in petroleum production as President Hassan Rouhani opened a refinery in the southern city of Bandar Abbas.

The Persian Gulf Star refinery has the capacity to produce 12 million liters of Euro IV petrol. Once fully operational, the refinery will produce 36 million liters of petrol.

“By the opening of the first phase of this refinery an old dream came true ... We are self-sufficient in petrol production and in near future we will be able to export,” Rouhani was quoted as saying by the oil ministry’s news agency Shana.

Khatam ol-Anbia Construction Headquarters (KAA), the engineering arm of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), was one of the main contractors of

the project.

Rouhani emphasized that self-reliance in production of gasoline had a strategic importance for the country and described it as a “necessary move”.

Other products of the project after completion would include gas oil (14 mt/d), liquefied petroleum gas (4 mt/d), jet fuel (3 mt/d) and sulphur (130 tonnes per day).

The feedstock for the Persian Gulf Condensate Refinery – 360,000 barrels per day of condensate – would be provided through a pipeline directly from Iran’s natural gas zone of South Pars.

The construction of the refinery – which is Iran’s first of its kind – started in 2006 but its completion was delayed in what officials say has been a result of sanctions against Iran.

stressed that the country needed a “major change” in its executive management.

“Today, 30% of our young people are jobless and unemployment is over 12%. Does this situation have to continue?” he asked.

Raeisi made the remarks during his first major campaign rally ahead of the May 19 presidential election, saying state officials should not look to outside help to resolve the country’s problems.

“We are facing an unacceptable situation because of weak management,” he said. “Does this situation have to continue? Do we have to wait for foreigners to fix our problems?”

Raeisi, a veteran judge, and Tehran Mayor Muhammad Bagher Qalibaf are the two main candidates challenging President Rouhani and First Vice-President Es’haq Jahangiri.

Raeisi said, “We can’t fix our country’s problems with words, rather through firm and revolutionary management.”

The mayor of Tehran, who spent much of his time skewering Rouhani over his economic performance and other policies during their first live debate on state television Friday night, promised to triple monthly cash handouts to Iranian families if he became president.

(Continued on Page 7)