

Separ Inducted Into Iran Navy in Anzali

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A new domestically built missile-launching warship has formally joined Iran's naval fleet in the Caspian Sea, with the Iranian defense chief describing the vessel as the "symbol of peace at sea."

The *Separ* (Shield) warship was unveiled and delivered to the naval forces in Bandar Anzali Tuesday. The vessel is 47 meters long and 3.9 meters high, and has a cruising speed of 35 knots. It is equipped with different kinds of advanced weapons, including surface-to-surface missile systems, 76- and 40-millimeter artillery and a fire control radar capable of detecting warships and cruise missiles.

Kayhan International



Over 1,000 Iranian Convicts Granted Amnesty

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei pardoned or commuted prison terms of 1,007 Iranian convicts sentenced by various courts in the Islamic Republic.

The pardon was granted at the request of the country's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS), the sixth Imam of Shia Muslims.

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Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Will the Babri Mosque Issue Be Resolved?

'Run Rostam Run' Awarded at Polish Festival



Iran's Weightlifting Team Wins World Title in U.S.



Saudi Regime Intensifies Airstrikes Against Yemen



Birthday of the Epitome of Truthfulness

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"O you who have faith; be wary of Allah and be with the Truthful..." (Holy Qur'an 9:119)

The Almighty Creator commands the believers to be ever-cognizant of His Omnipresence in order not to veer off the straight and unwavering path that leads to paradise, for attaining whose eternal bliss we have to adhere to the divinely-designated Truthful.

The Arabic word used by the Holy Qur'an for those determined Truthful by the Lord Most High is "Sadeqin". It is a plural form of "Sadeq"

This means there is a lot of difference between those whom the All-Wise God has designated as "Truthful" and those whose hypocrisy misleads some of us to mistakenly call "Siddiq".

The true believers, however, are never deceived, because they firmly adhere to the instructions of the First and Foremost "Sadeq", that is, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), whose blessed birthday we celebrated yesterday on Rabi al-Awwal 17.

The Seal of Messengers did not leave the Ummah in doubt and darkness. He clearly stated, as per divine commandments that after him will be TWELVE Imams, of whom the first is his dear cousin, ward, and son-in-law, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), whom he publicly proclaimed as Vicegerent while addressing a huge 120,000 strong assembly of Hajj pilgrims on 18th Zilhijja 10 AH at the pond (ghadeer) of Khom, near Juhfa.

These TWELVE Infallible Imams are indeed the "Sadeqin" or the Most Truthful, to whose path we are commanded to adhere.

Since the Ahl al-Bayt and the Holy Qur'an never part with each other, as the Prophet informed us in the famous Hadith Thaqalayn (Two Weighty Things), there was indeed Divine Wisdom that the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) should be the day on which his 6th Infallible Heir was born in 83 AH.

Moreover, as the Prophet was the "Sadeq", the newborn who was named Ja'far by his father, Imam Mohammad Baqer (AS) -- descended from the Prophet on both sides; through his father Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) the son of Imam Husain (AS), and his mother Fatema (SA) the daughter of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) -- was destined to be universally acclaimed as "as-Sadeq" or the Most Truthful of his times.

No wonder, the 6th Imam was the Reviver of the "Sunnah" and "Seerah" (behaviour and practice) of his illustrious ancestor, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

Thus, "Sadeq" became the exclusively epithet of the 6th Imam, who flourished at a crucial period of history, when the Ummah was exposed to the influx of a variety of philosophical and pseudo-religious ideas from the various nations that were coming in the fold of Islam. In addition, the tyrannical regimes had forbidden the collection of authentic hadith and the proper interpretation of the ayahs of the holy Qur'an.

As a result the people were bewildered, and to stop the confusion, Imam Ja'far (AS) embarked upon rectifying beliefs and correcting the Islamic ideology.

The struggle for power between the tottering Omayyad regime and the insurgent Abbasids, provided the 6th Imam with the opportunity to take to towering heights the academy of Medina, whose foundation had been actually laid by his grandfather, Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS), and which had been developed by his father, Imam Muhammad Baqer (AS).

So thoroughly did Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS) revolutionized it that at one time 4000 scholars from various parts of the Islamic World -- Asia, Africa and Europe -- sat at the feet of the heir of the Prophet to learn various disciplines, including jurisprudence, theology, rhetoric, ethics, hadith, exegesis of the holy Qur'an, accounts of the past Prophets (history), and natural sciences such as physics, chemistry, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, botany, etc. Among its proud products was the Father of Chemistry, Jaber ibn Hayyan (known as Geber to medieval Europe).

The 6th Imam, during his 34-year imamate continued the enlightening task of the Prophet to revive in society the genuine teachings of Islam. This naturally brought him into a confrontation not only the pseudo-jurists of his time, who were for brief period his students (actually school dropouts whose names are not worth mentioning here) but also devious tendencies, such as the Sufis and Ghullats (the extremists).

As the most truthful person of his age, he deplored the double standards of the Sufis, since most of these self-styled ascetics either did not practice whatever they preached or twisted matters beyond proportion to lead naive down the self-destructive path of shunning the blessings and bounties of God.

The Imam recommended spiritual purification, paying attention to spirituality and enjoying the blessings of nature and its manifestations as permitted by the holy Qur'an and the practice of the Prophet. He used to debate with the leaders of Sufism, such as Sufyan Thawri, to convince them that their religious practice was not rational, and on no account God wants His creatures to avoid the blessings of food clothe and other lawful and permissible pleasures.

At the same time, the 6th Imam had to confront the Ghullat or the extremists who although claiming to be followers of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt had distorted their beliefs and were misleading people by attributing things and characteristics to the Infallible Imams that are exclusively for God Almighty. Imam Sadeq (AS) openly cursed such persons, saying: "We are servants of Allah, Who created us and made us superior to the others of His creation. Certainly we shall die and shall stand before Allah for reckoning. He who is a friend of the Ghalis is our enemy; and he who is their enemy is our friend. The Ghalis are infidels and polytheists; curse upon them."

Leader: Palestine Will Be Liberated



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei waves during a conference in Tehran promoting Islamic unity and marking the anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) on Dec. 6, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- U.S. plans to move its embassy in Occupied Palestine to occupied Jerusalem Al-Quds are a sign of desperation, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday.

"That they claim they want to announce Quds as the capital of Occupied Palestine is because of their incompetence and paralysis," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader made the remarks to a group of top Iranian officials,

regional officials and religious figures attending a conference in Tehran promoting Islamic unity and marking the anniversary of the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

Iran has long supported the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist occupation of their land.

"The issue of Palestine today is at the top of the political issues for Muslims and everyone is obligated to work and struggle for the freedom and salvation of the

people of Palestine," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"The Islamic world will undoubtedly stand against this plot and the Zionists will receive a big blow from this action and dear Palestine will be liberated," he added.

The Leader said the United States has not been able to reach its goals and seeks to destabilize the region.

"On the issue of Palestine, (U.S.) hands are tied and they

cannot advance their goals," Ayatollah Khamenei said, saying the Palestinian people would be victorious.

"American government officials have said themselves that we have to start a war in the region to protect the security of the Zionist regime."

The Leader described the arrogant front and their allies as the "modern-day pharaohs" represented by the U.S., the Zionist regime, and their accomplices in the region who seek to create wars in the region.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran's opposition to Israel and support for the Palestinian cause has been central to its foreign policy.

The issue has again come to the fore in recent weeks amid frequent reports that Saudi Arabia has sought to build ties with the Zionist regime.

Iran is dedicated to building unity among Islamic countries, Ayatollah Khamenei said, but "unfortunately there are rulers and elites in this region that dance to the tune of the U.S.: they do whatever the U.S. desires against Islam."

The Leader said, "We advise them: (Continued on Page 7)

Global Condemnation Mounts Over Trump's Move

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- Global concern mounted Wednesday ahead of an announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump to recognize Jerusalem Al-Quds as the capital of the occupying regime of Israel, with Pope Francis joining a list of leaders warning of a potential dangerous fallout.

The move by Trump, set to come in a speech later Wednesday, would upend decades of careful U.S. policy and ignore dire warnings of a historic misstep that could trigger a surge of tensions in the Middle East.

A senior administration official said Trump would make the announcement at 1800 GMT from the White House on the city whose status is a critical issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Plunging further into a decades-long dispute over a city considered holy by Jews, Muslims and Christians, Trump will also order planning to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem Al-Quds.

Such planning would take years to implement, the official said.

In a frantic series of calls, the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the European Union, France, Germany, Turkey and Iran all warned Trump against the move.

Anticipating protests, U.S. government officials and their families were ordered to avoid Old City of Al-Quds and the West Bank.

Hundreds of Palestinians burned U.S. and Zionist flags as (Continued on Page 7)

Saudi Arabia, UAE Trigger Demise of GCC

KUWAIT (Dispatches) -- The leaders of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have pulled out of a meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Kuwait, hours after the latter two agreed to form a separate military and political alliance.

The three countries instead sent lower-ranking officials to the GCC meeting Tuesday in Kuwait City, while Kuwait, Oman and Qatar will still send senior officials.

Most notably, Qatar's emir, Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, is set to attend, despite the diplomatic deadlock with the other GCC countries.

It was also announced that the summit would be cut short by a

day, with the meeting concluding on Tuesday.

Just hours before the meeting, UAE and Saudi Arabia announced they had agreed to form a joint military, economic and political partnership.

According to a UAE foreign ministry statement, the new "Joint Cooperation Committee" will see the two countries cooperating in "military, political, economic, trade and cultural fields". It will be chaired by the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Muhammad bin Zayed, and the UAE's deputy prime minister, Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

There was no immediate confirmation from Saudi authorities.

The two countries are already (Continued on Page 7)