

'Hudaydah Will Be Quagmire for Aggressors'

SANAA (Dispatches) – The spokesman for the Yemeni army said Wednesday the western port city of al-Hudaydah, which has come under massive attacks by the Saudi-led coalition and its mercenaries, will become a quagmire for the aggressors. Speaking to the Russian Sputnik news agency, Brigadier General Sharaf Luqman said it has been two years since the Saudi-led coalition announced it plans to attack Hudaydah. Given that Hudaydah is a city with a population of three million, the aggressors will be stuck in a quagmire in the city, he added.

Kayhan International

Iran, Turkey, Russia to Meet on Syria

GENEVA (Reuters) -- Senior officials from Iran, Russia and Turkey will meet in Geneva on June 18-19 for consultations with the United Nations about setting up a constitutional committee for Syria, UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said in a statement Wednesday. He will invite other countries for relevant discussions in due course, the statement said. De Mistura is tasked with picking membership of the committee, which is expected to rewrite the Syrian constitution, paving the way for new elections as part of a post-war political reform.

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Viewpoint

Kudos to the Emerging Coalition Government in Iraq

Iran to Win Bigger Share in World Film Market



Carlos Queiroz Slams Nike, Wants Apology Over World Cup Boots Snub



PA Rejects Any U.S. 'Peace Plan' Excluding al-Quds, Palestinian Refugees



Eid Mobarak

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

Happy Eid al-Fitr to all our readers! Hope you partook of the Divine Banquet that was spread out during Ramadhan for the believers.

The Day of Eid is certainly an auspicious day. It is the day of renewing of the covenant with God Almighty for His endless favours, especially after the month-long fasting of Ramadhan that purifies the believers, strengthens their faith, instills in them the hope in divine mercy, inculcates the feeling for self-reform and encourages them to do good to others in society. The Divine Banquet that was spread out for one full month may be over but Divine Blessings will never cease for the seekers of Truth.

For a Muslim, the Eid is not just any other ordinary day. It is a day on which a special prayer is performed before anything else in the early morning hours. The Eid Prayer is thus one of the finest displays of Islamic solidarity. As is evident, rows upon rows of the faithful stand solemnly in the presence of God Almighty, as a form of thanksgiving, bowing in unison and prostrating in unison to present a marvelous sight. Eid ul-Fitr is actually the icing to the Ramadhan cake. It is a day of great rejoicing. In view of this fact, a true Muslim ought to reflect on the legacy of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and his blessed Ahl al-Bait that we have received in the form of prayers, supplications, and the dynamic laws of the shari'a, according to which we are required to mould our daily behaviour, so that our transient life becomes meaningful and an atmosphere of peace and prosperity prevails.

Here is a passage from the special Eid al-Fitr Sermon of the Commander of the True Believers, the Leader of the Pious, and the Epitome of Justice, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS):

"O Servants of Allah! Indeed the minimum reward for those men and women who fasted (during Ramadhan), is an angel, who calls out to them on the last day of the month of Ramadhan (saying): O Servants of Allah! Rejoice at the glad tidings that all your previous sins have been forgiven."

How true! These words not just indicates the status of Imam Ali (AS) as the Divinely-Designated Successor of the Almighty's Last Messenger to mankind, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), but remove all despondency from believers, by giving them hope in God's Infinite Mercy and the incentive to do more good.

No wonder, the Prophet had said: **"Ali ma'al Haq wa Haq ma' Ali"** (Ali is with truth and truth is with Ali), and it is not a surprise that the Commander of all True Believers rightly remarked: **"The day on which you commit no sin is a day of Eid for you."**

Since it is Eid time and Muslims all over the world are celebrating these auspicious days, here we is one of those wonderful pieces of advice from an affectionate father to an obedient son. Imam Ali (AS) once said to his son Imam Hasan (AS):

"My son, learn four things from me and through them you will learn four more. If you keep them in mind your actions will not bring any harm to you. The greatest wealth is wisdom; the greatest poverty is stupidity; the worst unsocial trait is vanity and self-glorification; and nobility of descent exhibits itself in politeness and in refinement of manner."

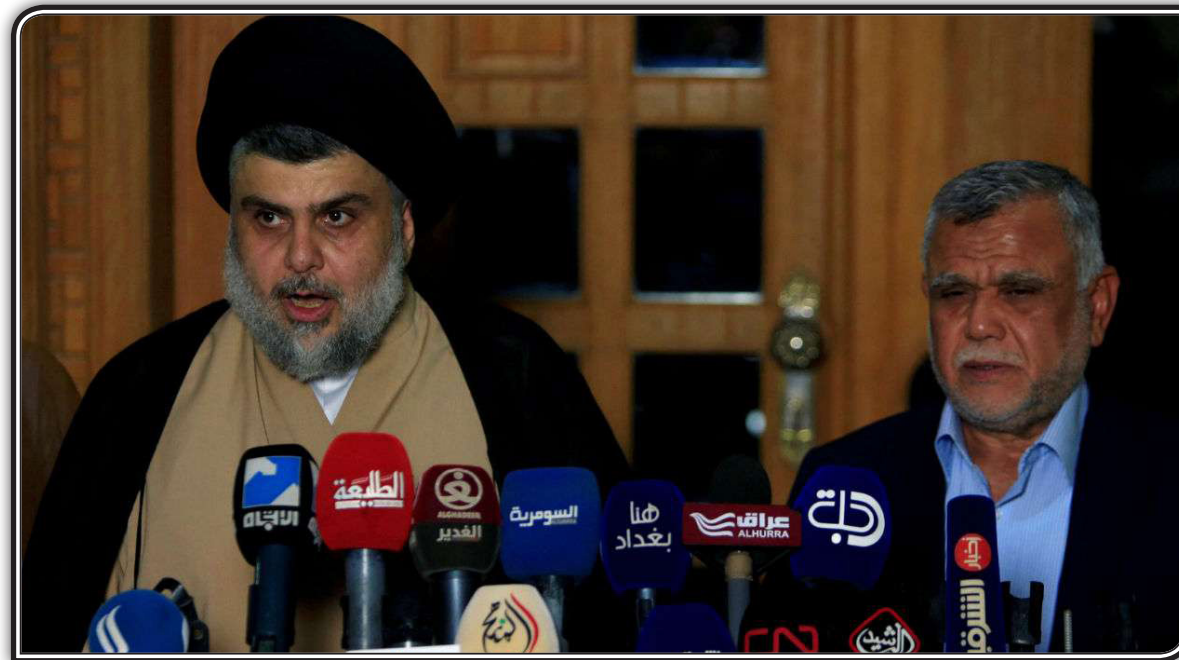
"The next four things, my son, are: Do not make friendship with a fool because when he tries to do you good he will harm you; Do not make a miser your friend because he will run away from you at the time of need; Do not be friendly with a vicious and wicked person because he will sell you and your friendship at the cheapest price; Do not make friend of a liar because like a mirage he will make you visualize very near the things which are at a great distance and will make you see at the great distance the things which are near to you."

Here is a passage from the special Eid al-Fitr supplication to God Almighty by the Prophet's 4th infallible Successor, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), the grandson of Imam Ali (AS):

"Thy door is open to the beseechers; Thy munificence free to the askers; Thy help near to the help-seekers; The expectant are not disappointed by Thee; those who present themselves are despaired not of Thy bestowal; Thy provision is spread among (even) those who disobey Thee; Thy clemency present itself to (even) those hostile toward Thee..."

In these crucial times, when Muslims are passing through crises all over the world and killing each other on the orders of their avowed enemies, such as in Yemen, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria, as well as in Palestine where the treacherous Wahhabis have openly allied themselves with Zionists, let us pray for the advent of the Promised Saviour of mankind, Imam Mahdi (AS) whom all religions have predicted, and who will revive the legacy of Imam Ali (AS) to fill the earth with peace, justice and fairness through his global government, and will cleanse the earth of all traces of tyranny and corruption. Amen.

Anti-U.S. Iraqi Leaders Announce Political Alliance



Muqtada al-Sadr, left, speaks during a news conference with leader of the Conquest coalition and Badr Organization Hadi al-Amiri in Najaf, June 12, 2018.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Muqtada al-Sadr has announced an unexpected political alliance with a commander of Iraq's liberators, Hadi al-Amiri, in a bid to lead Iraq over the next four years.

The two blocs won first and second place in the country's May 12 parliamentary election. By forming a coalition with Amiri on June 12, Sadr moves a step closer to forming a coalition with enough seats to hold a majority in the 329-seat parliament.

The two Shia figures said they would keep the door open for other winning blocs to join them in forming a new government.

The move by Sadr was a surprise

as he had previously suggested he would not work with Amiri who led an alliance of volunteer forces, including Hashd al-Sha'bai, rout Daesh terrorists in Iraq.

Sadr, a former militia leader who led two uprisings against U.S. occupying forces which left Iraq in 2011, has called for his country to be independent.

Amiri, leader of the Fatih alliance and a fluent Farsi speaker, has spent two years in exile in Iran during the era of Saddam Hussein.

At a joint press conference with Amiri in the holy city of Najaf, Sadr said they would form "a true alliance to accelerate the formation of a national government away

from any dogmatism."

"Our meeting was a very positive one. We met to end the suffering of this nation and of the people. Our new alliance is a nationalist one," Sadr said.

"This is a call to all those who care about national interests... We will set up committees to discuss with all ways to accelerate the drafting of a government program," said Amiri.

Many of Iraq's longtime political figures were pushed out of their seats by new faces in the elections.

"Fatih and Saeroon announce forming the nucleus of the largest bloc and call on all winning blocs to participate in this alliance un-

der a government program agreed upon by all that is suitable to face the challenges, crises, and problems facing Iraq," a Fatih spokesman said in a statement.

The alliance, which together has 101 seats, is 64 short of the majority needed to form a government. It formed hours after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, whose own bloc came third, urged politicians to keep negotiating over government formation despite an impending nationwide manual recount of votes.

Parliament mandated a recount after Abadi said a government report showed there were serious violations.

A few days later, a storage site housing half of Baghdad's ballot boxes caught fire, raising tensions and prompting some to call for the election to be repeated.

Abadi said on Tuesday he opposed a repeat, echoing the stances of Sadr and Amiri, and warned that anyone who tried to sabotage the political process would be punished.

He may yet secure a second term as a compromise candidate if he joins Sadr and Amiri and manages to win their backing.

"The matter is exclusively in the hands of the judiciary, not politicians. The government and parliament don't have the power to cancel the election," Abadi said of a ballot repeat.

The government report had recommended a recount of five per cent of votes but the outgoing

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Port City Under Massive Airstrikes Yemenis Confront UAE, Saudi Mercs Outside Hudaydah

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Saudi and Emirati-backed forces began an offensive on the Yemeni port city of Hudaydah early on Wednesday, despite warnings from Western governments and international aid groups about the catastrophic effect the battle could have on humanitarian conditions in the country.

Warplanes and battleships belonging to Saudi Arabia and the UAE backing those loyal to former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Haid battered the fortifications of Houthi fighters and their allies in the Yemeni army in the key port city.

According to reports, an Emirati warship was hit by the defending Houthi forces, with another battleship pulling out of the fray as a result.

Field commanders announced

the beginning of the ground assault, after reinforcements swelled the ranks of mercenaries and Hadi loyalists around Hudaydah.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Hadi loyalists had reportedly advanced to around five kilometers of al-Hudaydah's airport and clashes were ongoing between the two sides.

The Houthis and their allies have sent fighters and vehicles from various parts of Yemen to reinforce their forces and are prepared to confront any attempts by the mercenaries as they advance towards the city, Houthi leader and political analyst Muhammad al-Dailami told Middle East Eye.

"Hudaydah is a main front and it is the only port to Yemenis, so there is no way that (the fighters)

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Enrichment to Begin at Fordow Once Iran Quits JCPOA

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran will begin uranium enrichment at its Fordow plant and will install new nuclear equipment at its Natanz facility if it withdraws from a nuclear deal with major powers, said the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

The fate of the 2015 nuclear deal is unclear after the United States withdrew from it. The other signatory nations - Russia, China, Germany, Britain and France - are trying to salvage the accord, which imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear program in return for a lifting of some economic sanctions.

Iran has two vast enrichment sites, at Natanz and Fordow. Much of Natanz is deep underground and Fordow is buried inside a mountain, which is widely believed to protect them from aerial bombardment.

AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said in an interview published on Wednesday that new work would begin on the nuclear program on the orders of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"Currently the Supreme Leader has ordered that the programs be carried out within the parameters of the nuclear deal," Kamalvandi told the Young Journalists' Club (YJC) in an interview.

"And when he gives the order we will announce the programs for operating outside of the nuclear deal for reviving Fordow," he added.

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the AEOI, announced last week that Iran had begun work on a facility to construct advanced centrifuges at Natanz.

Kamalvandi accused the United States of trying to sabotage the deal. (Continued on Page 7)