

Rouhani: We Will Surely Win

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday Iran was ready for the worst in an uphill struggle but that he was sure Tehran would eventually prevail. "We have a hard battle ahead, but we shall surely win," Rouhani said. "We are not acting on the assumption we will get results through talks and accords," Rouhani said. "Instead we are planning based on the assumption that we will not achieve results. Our budget for this year and next, our ministries are also acting on this basis ... We are acting and going step-by-step with long-term prudence."

Kayhan International

U.S. Imposes New Sanctions on Russia

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW (Reuters) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed another round of sanctions on Russia over the poisoning of a former spy in Britain, the White House said on Friday, a move Moscow said would hurt already strained U.S.-Russia ties. The move came hours before a landmark Cold War-era arms control treaty expired, after Washington withdrew, accusing Moscow of violating it, which Russia denies.

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Special Mention Goes to 'Meeting' at Serbia Ethnicity Festival



Iran Defeat Kyrgyzstan at CAFA U-16 Championship



U.S., EU Urged to Withdraw Forces From Syria



The Most Blessed Marriage & Family Day

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"And of His signs is that He created for you spouses from amongst yourselves that you may take comfort in them, and He ordained affection and mercy between you. There are indeed signs in that for a people who reflect." (Holy Qur'an 30:21)

The above ayah is among the Divine instructions to the believers of the both the genders to establish conjugal relations in a virtuous and lawful manner. As is evident by the wordings of this ayah, God has decreed marriage as the formal bond of affection and love between a man and a woman to help build a virtuous family unit, which in turn would result in laying the foundations of a sound and healthy society. It is the most revered institution in Islam, and in the words of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA): "No foundation has been built in Islam more loved by Allah than marriage."

The Prophet himself set the perfect precedent in this regard, years before the formal declaration of his mission, when he accepted the offer of marriage with the most virtuous lady of his times, the monotheist Khadija bin Khuwailed, known as Tahera or the Pure, for refusing to marry any person until she came across her distant cousin, the poor but honest and ethically-upright orphaned son of Abdullah and Amena bint Wahb.

The fruit of this marriage was Hazrat Fatema Zahra (peace upon her), who was destined to be the Most Noble Lady of all times. An impeccable lady needs an impeccable gentleman for the blessed union of marriage in order to avoid a disaster. This was this reason, Mary (SA), the mother of Prophet Jesus (AS), stayed a virgin throughout her life.

Thus, when Hazrat Fatema (SA) came of age, the Prophet of Islam eagerly awaited Divine Commandment for her marriage, and in the meantime, turned away all suitors, including some of his senior companions, who accustomed to the customs of Jahiliyya in which they had spent the greater part of their idolatrous life, had sent proposals for marriage to him.

Soon the Word from the heavens came. Archangel Gabriel descended, saying: "O Prophet of Allah, the Almighty has chosen you and made you the most respected and superior among His creatures, and has selected Ali as your brother. He the Almighty, decreed the Nikah of your daughter, Fatema, His most obedient servant, with His other most obedient servant Ali, on the 4th Heaven, where He ordered all His angels to gather, dressed in the ornaments of heaven. He then filled the 4th heaven with celestial light and ordered Adam, the Father of mankind, to recite sermon to begin the Nikah ceremony. After the sermon, Allah ordered the Angel Raheel, who has been bestowed with the most eloquent voice, to recite Hamd. He then informed me that He has performed the Nikah of His servant Fatema (peace upon her) with His other chosen servant Imam Ali, and that I should spread this news among the angels. I acted accordingly and made all the angels testify the event. Allah then ordered me to write this event in the silken cloth of paradise and present it to you."

Thus, when a shy Imam Ali (AS), approached the Prophet and politely asked for the hand of Hazrat Fatema (SA), the Seal of Messengers replied in the affirmative, saying:

"Here is (Archangel) Gabriel informing me that Allah gave Fatema to you in marriage, and made forty thousand angels testify to her marriage. He also revealed to the Tree of Tooba to sprinkle them with gems, rubies, jewelry and embellishments. When it had done this, the Houris rushed to collect these gems, rubies, jewelry, and embellishments to exchange them for gifts until the Day of Resurrection."

Today, the 1st of the sacred month of Dhi'l-Hijjah is the anniversary of the blessed wedding of these two Immaculate Figures. It was in the year 2 AH, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) solemnized the nuptials of his Immaculate Daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) with his dear cousin, the Impeccable Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

This blessed day is thus marked in the Islamic Republic of Iran every year as the Day of Marriage and Family.

The union of this Infalible Couple laid the foundations of the Fabulous Family, whose fruits were four immortal children – two peerless sons and two equally virtuous daughters – all of whom carved out immortal niches in the history of mankind through their faith, patience, prudence, piety, valour, wisdom, forbearance and sacrifices, the peak of which is the heartrending tragedy of Karbala.

If their elder son, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) had relinquished the rule of a vast realm for the sake of preservation of the values of Islam, their younger son, Imam Husain (AS) gave his lifeblood in defence of all humanitarian values.

Their daughters too excelled in the social arena, as is evident by the epoch-making sermons of Hazrat Zainab (SA) in Kufa and Damascus and the role this dynamic lady played in the aftermath of the tragedy of Karbala to immortalize and universalize the message of her martyred brother. Their younger daughter, Hazrat Omm Kolsoum (SA) also played a unique role during the journey of the caravan of captives from Karbala, to Kufa, to Damascus and to Medina.

They were "made-for-each-other-pair", as is evident by Hazrat Fatema's (SA) devotion to Imam Ali (AS) throughout her life to the extent that following the sudden turn of events after the passing away of the Prophet, when his instructions were ignored and the laws of God violated concerning the leadership of the Ummah, and her own patrimony of the orchard of Fadak, Hazrat Fatema (SA) went to the Prophet's Mosque and addressed the gathering of his rebellious companions regarding the right of leadership of her husband. Her famous sermons are still preserved in books of history and hadith, and are indeed lasting lessons for preservation of faith and protection of the rights of both men and women.

As a matter of fact, Hazrat Fatema (SA) gave her life and attained immortal martyrdom in defence of Imam Ali's (AS) Divinely-Designated Right of "Wilaya" (Imamate), as a result of the forced falling of the burning door of her blessed house upon her.

Imam Ali (AS) used to remark: "By Allah, I never angered Fatema or forced her to do something, nor did she ever anger or disobey me. In fact, whenever I looked at her, all gloom would be removed from my heart."

U.S. Allies Refuse to Join Anti-Iran 'Mission'



U.S. Navy photo of the USS Enterprise and USS Cape St. George transitioning through the Strait of Hormuz on May 11, 2013.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The U.S. request to build a "coalition" against Iran in the Persian Gulf has been met with either silence or rejection, including a blunt "no" from Germany, the New York Times has reported.

The United States and Britain have been shopping for support from Asian and European allies to corner Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passage way for global oil supplies.

The Trump administration has pledged to bring Iran's vital oil exports down to zero, but the shipments have continued to reach major customers, especially in Asia.

Tensions in the Persian Gulf flared up after a series of suspicious attacks on oil tankers, following the U.S. deployment of a new naval group and B-52 bombers to the region amid claims of unspecified Iranian threats.

The UK waded into the standoff

by seizing an Iranian oil supertanker off Gibraltar at the U.S. request, according to local officials. Iran responded by detaining a UK-flagged oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

Many other European leaders, however, have worked to keep their distance from President Donald Trump and his policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran to avoid being seen as aiding that policy, the New York Times reported.

The U.S. is trying to project its

campaign as a bid to secure the Persian Gulf, but "the Europeans argue that Washington created the problem in the first place by trying to kill off Iran's oil exports", the paper said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last week called on Japan, Britain, France, Germany, South Korea, Australia and other nations to join a maritime force to patrol the Strait of Hormuz.

On Wednesday, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that his country would not be joining the Americans. Spanish El Confidencial newspaper, citing an informed diplomatic source, also said Madrid had "no intention of participating in a mission led by the U.S. in Hormuz".

Neither have France, Italy nor Sweden responded favorably to Britain's suggestion of a European escort force, separate from the Americans, even after Iran seized the British-flagged tanker.

"Germany will not take part in the naval mission proposed and planned by the United States," Maas said.

"We are in close coordination with our French partners. We consider the 'maximum pressure' strategy to be wrong. We do not want a further military escalation; we will continue to focus on diplomacy."

On Friday, Japan's Mainichi (Continued on Page 7)

Yemen Unveils New Long-Range Missile

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemeni armed forces unveiled a new generation of domestically-built Borkan (Volcano) long-range missiles, their spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree told a news conference here on Friday.

The Borkan-3 missile was launched from an undisclosed location in Yemen on Thursday and struck a designated military site in Dammam in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province.

Saree said the radar-evading missile has undergone successful experimental tests, and can hit targets deep inside the countries of aggression.

On Thursday, Yemeni armed forces launched missile and drone attacks on a camp of Saudi-sponsored militiamen loyal to the country's ex-government

in the port city of Aden, killing dozens of them, including a commander.

They hit the Jala'a camp west of the city while the mercenaries were holding a military parade, Yemen's Al-Masirah TV reported.

A Qasef K2 (Striker K2) drone and a medium-range ballistic missile were used in the joint operation with the aim of destroying the enemy forces.

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya al-Hadath channel put the number of those killed at 40.

A military source confirmed the death of the commander loyal to Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the former Yemeni president.

A witness told Reuters that "a group of soldiers were crying (Continued on Page 7)

Trump Threatens to Unleash 2,500 Takfiri Terrorists

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened Europe that if the 28-member bloc fails to repatriate European Daesh members captured in Syria and Iraq, he may release the terrorists to return to the place where they came from.

Speaking to reporters at the White House lawn on Thursday, RT quoted Trump as saying, "You'll always gonna have somebody around, but right now we've captured over 10,000 -- we have 2,500 ISIS fighters that we want Europe to take, because they were going back into Europe, into France, into Germany, into various places."

The European Commission an-

nounced recently that more than 2500 persons, who had once left various European countries to join the Daesh terrorist group in Iraq or Syria, are currently unaccounted for.

According to Julian King, the European Commissioner for security, at least 5,500 foreign terrorist fighters left the continent to travel to Iraq and Syria.

Trump further slammed Europe's unwillingness to repatriate and prosecute its nationals and said, "So we have thousands of ISIS fighters that we want Europe to take and let's see if (they) take them. And if they don't take them, (Continued on Page 7)

Pro-Zionist 'Hasbara' Group Goes Bankrupt

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- An American group focused on pro-Israel campaigning has had to shut down its offices in Occupied Palestine and could close down altogether, reportedly blaming an American political landscape that has seen support for its work fall away.

The Israel Project used campaigns on social media and tried to influence media coverage to, as it describes, "create an echo chamber" for pro-Israeli narratives by working directly with

media outlets and reporters.

It was a proponent of the occupying regime of Israel's "hasbara", the Hebrew term for the dissemination of positive publicity.

On Thursday, the group's vice president, Lior Weintraub, said on Facebook: "After almost 15 years, yesterday was the last day of the Israeli office of The Israel Project."

Haaretz reported that the Israel Project closed its offices on Wednesday because it was strugg-

ling for funding.

Weintraub blamed polarization in American politics, which he said had led to the group losing supporters from both the Republican and Democratic parties. "TIP became the first casualty of the polarization in the pro-Israel community in America - and in some ways that's alright. Certain causes are worth paying a price for," Weintraub, a former diplomat, wrote. (Continued on Page 7)