

Iran's Missile Industry First in Mideast: Hajizadeh

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran holds the very first ranking in the field of missile industry among the Middle Eastern countries and stands superior at a global level, a commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Sunday. "Today, we rank first in the missile industry at a regional level, and are placed among the few global superpowers," Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Aerospace Division of IRGC, said. The senior Iranian military official said the same ranking applies to the country's status in the field of unmanned aerial vehicles.

Kayhan International

No Letup in South China Sea Patrols: U.S.

MANILA, Philippines (Dispatches) -- The United States military will keep patrolling the disputed South China Sea to deter China from having strategic control of the region, said the U.S. Air Force chief.

"I'll just tell you that there's no let up in our willingness or our ability to fly or sail where we need to and when we need to, and there will be no let up in the future. That's our commitment to the region," General David Goldfein, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, said.

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Viewpoint

Time for Afghan Muslims to Defeat Daesh's Devilish Designs

Imam Ali (AS), the Divinely-Designated Leader of Mankind

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"And when his Lord tested Abraham with certain words, and he fulfilled them, He said, 'I am making you the Imam of mankind.' Said he, 'And from among my descendants?' He said, 'My pledge does not extend to the unjust.'" (Holy Qur'an 2:124)
The Words of God are crystal clear. Abraham, already one of the Five Greatest Prophets, who was moreover regarded as "Khalil" or Intimate Friend by Allah, is now being made the Imam or Leader of mankind. And when he asks, whether this lofty status will be granted to his descendants, prompt comes the reply that the unjust will never be granted this divinely-decreed position.

It means, Imamate, is not the prerogative of anyone who had been unjust even for a moment, and this term includes deviation for even a fraction of a second from belief in monotheism, committing sin, oppressing others and own self, worshipping idols, or indulging in polytheism, atheism, impolite behaviour, and etc.

This means, the overwhelming majority of the descendants of Abraham, whether the Ishmaelite Arabs (offspring of his firstborn son, Ishmael), or the Israelites (progeny of his other son Isaac), are excluded from the prime position of Imamate, even if some of them happened to be chiefs of tribes, rulers of realms, kings, emperors, caliphs, presidents, and prime ministers -- however democratically elected, selected, nominated and designated by people's vote.

We also do not find any reference in any heavenly scripture of the appointment as Imams of such Great, Pious, Just and Infallible Prophets, as Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, etc. The only exception is the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), whom the Lord Most High called "Habib" (Beloved) and made "Mercy to the entire creation" (Holy Qur'an 21:107), thereby decreeing him the "Imam al-awwalin wa'l-akhirin" (Leader of all humanity from the beginning till the end).

We have no precise information on which date of the year Allah the Unseen but Omnipresent spoke with His obedient servant Prophet Abraham and granted him Imamate or Leadership of mankind.

Was it in his youthful days in his homeland Mesopotamia, where he underwent the test of fire? Was it in Palestine, where in old age after decades of the test of childlessness, he became father of Ishmael through Hajar and then of Isaac through the aged Sarah?

Was it in Mecca, where Allah having tested his sincere offer of sacrificing Ishmael, deferred the sacrifice till some future date in the full timelight of history, then commanded him to rebuild the holy Ka'ba and call mankind for Hajj?

However, one date is sure. According to Islamic texts, it was on the 18th of Zi'l-Hijjah that the huge fire the tyrant Nimrod had ignited and flung the cool and calm Abraham into it, miraculously turned into a pleasant garden for the future builder of the Ka'ba, the Reviver of the Hajj, and First Imam of mankind.

Interestingly, on the 18th of Zi'l-Hijjah some great miracles have occurred in the remote past. It was on this day that Prophet Moses on divine commandment, declared Prophet Joshua his successor, and in the following centuries Prophet Solomon appointed Asef Ibn Barkhiya as deputy, and Prophet Jesus (AS) named Simeon as vicegerent.

Praise be to Allah Almighty, Who never leaves humanity stumbling in the dark. The Source of all creation, Who had entrusted Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) with the universal mission of Islam, with the clear message that no heavenly scripture is to be sent down after the Most Complete Book, the Holy Qur'an, ensured that the seekers of truth will not be left without a guide in the period after the passing away of the Seal of Messengers and the end of life on Planet Earth.

Since Islam is the creed decreed by God for all humanity, no Tom, Dick or Harry of Arabia, could assume the leadership of mankind, after having spent the greater part of life in idolatry, adultery, and injustice and all sorts of immoralities.

Thus, on the 18th of Zi'l-Hijjah in 10 AH, shortly after the Prophet while returning from his Farewell Hajj pilgrimage had parted ways with the caravans of pilgrims coming from Yemen and other parts, Gabriel descended with the express commandment:

"O Prophet! Convey that which has been sent down to you from your Lord, and if you do not, you will not have communicated His message; and Allah shall protect you from the people. Indeed Allah does not guide the faithless lot."

The Prophet halted at the Ghadeer (pond, watering place) of Khom, and summoned all those who had parted ways at Juhfa. Then before a huge assembly of 120,000 Hajj pilgrims, he delivered a historic sermon, as memorable as he had delivered nine days earlier on 9th Zi'l-Hijja from Mount Mercy (Jabal ar-Rahma) in Arafaat, where he had informed Muslims of his imminent departure from the mortal world, saying:

"I am leaving behind among you the Thaqalayn (Two Precious or Weighty Things); the Book of God (Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt. Hold fast to them if you do not want to go astray, for the two never part with each other, even till they return to me at the Fountain (of Kowthar on Resurrection Day)."

Here at Ghadeer, the Prophet asked the Muslims whether he was superior to them than their own selves. Yes O Prophet of God, came the unanimous reply. Then he lifted his Immaculate Cousin and Son-in-Law, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) and proclaimed those immortal words ensuring continuation of divinely-decreed leadership after him:

"Man kunto Mowla fa hadha Aliyun Mowla" (For whomsoever I am Master, this Ali is his Master).

Thus, Imamate or Leadership of mankind, became the specific position of the only person to be born in Abraham's edifice of monotheism, the holy Ka'ba. With the formal proclamation as vicegerent of the person whom the Prophet had already specified: "If you want to see knowledge of Adam, the piety of Noah, the devotion of Abraham, the awe of Moses and the service and abstinence of Jesus, look at the bright face of Ali," Gabriel descended with a fresh message from the Lord Most High:

"Today I have perfected your religion for you, and I have completed My blessing upon you, and I have approved Islam as your religion." (Holy Qur'an 5:3)

We felicitate all the true followers of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) on this blessed occasion, and pray to God to hasten the reappearance of the 12th Infallible Imam, the Promised Mahdi (AS), who will establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice, as the direct descendant of Imam Ali (AS) -- and not the descendant of those who had hijacked the caliphate and masqueraded as caliphs, to confound the beliefs of Muslims.

"O Commander of the Faithful, I affirm that those who have doubts about you[r] Imamate] do not have faith in the Trusted Prophet and that those who put others on a par with you deviate from the upright religion which has been approved for us by the Lord of all the worlds, who perfected it with your wilayah on the Day of Ghadeer."

Iranian Electricity Exports Hit Record High: Minister



Iranian Greco-Roman Wrestlers Win Four Medals at World Junior



Palestinian Resistance Groups Warn Zionist Regime After Gaza Strikes



More Than 60 People Killed in Kabul

Daesh Terrorists Turn Wedding Into Funeral



A relative wails near the coffins of victims of the Dubai City wedding hall bombing during a mass funeral in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug.18, 2019.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The terrorist with an explosive vest stood in the middle of the dancing, clapping crowd as hundreds of Afghan children and adults celebrated a wedding in a joyous release from Kabul's strain of war. Then, in a flash, he detonated his explosives-filled vest, killing dozens — and Afghanistan grieved again.

The local Daesh affiliate claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack in the capital this year, with 63 killed and 182 wounded, while outraged Afghans questioned just how safe they will be under an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban to end America's longest war.

Stunned families buried the dead, some digging with their bare hands. One wounded survivor, Muhammad Aslim, still wore his bloodied clothes the day after the blast late Saturday. He and his friends had already buried 16 bodies, among them several close relatives, including a 7-year-old boy.

Aslim looked exhausted, and said he was waiting to bury more. Nearby, a man named Amanullah, who lost his 14-year-old son, said in anguish that the explosion had mangled the boy's face so badly he could no longer recognize it.

"I wish I could find the pieces of my son's body and put them as one piece into the grave," he cried.

The emergence of the Daesh affiliate in recent years might be the greatest threat to Afghan civilians. The Taliban condemned Saturday's attack as "forbidden and unjustifiable."

The blast took place in a western Kabul neighborhood that is home to many in the country's minority Shia Hazara community. Daesh, which declared war on Afghanistan's Shias nearly two years ago and has claimed responsibility for many attacks targeting them in the past, said in a statement that a Pakistani Daesh member targeted a large Shia gathering.

The wedding, at which more than 1,200 people had been invited, was

in fact a mixed crowd of Shias and Sunnis, said the event hall's owner, Hussain Ali.

Ali's workers were still finding body parts, including hands, in the shattered wedding hall, its floor strewn with broken glass, pieces of furniture and victims' shoes.

"We have informed the police to come and collect them," he said.

The bomber detonated his explosives near the stage where musicians were playing and "all the youths, children and all the people who were there were killed," said Gul Mohammad, another witness.

Survivors described a panicked scene in the suddenly darkened hall as people screamed and scrambled to find loved ones.

"I was with the groom in the other room when we heard the blast and then I couldn't find anyone," said Ahmad Omid, who said the groom was his father's cousin. "Everyone was lying all around the hall."

The blast at the wedding hall, known as Dubai City, shattered a period of relative calm in Kabul.

On Aug. 7, a Taliban car bomber aimed at Afghan security forces detonated his explosives on the same road, a short drive from the hall, killing 14 people and wounding 145 — most of them women, children and other civilians.

Kabul's huge, brightly lit wedding halls are centers of community life in a city weary of decades of war, with thousands of dollars often spent on a single evening.

Messages of shock poured in on Sunday. A deliberate attack on

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Rejecting U.S. Pressure: Gibraltar Says Adrian Darya Free to Go

GIBRALTAR (Dispatches) -- The government of Gibraltar on Sunday rejected a U.S. request to continue holding an Iranian-operated supertanker detained more than a month ago on the American order by British marines.

The Grace 1 was free to go and could be sailing unfettered by Monday, authorities said. The Gibraltar government, in a statement, cited differences between the sanctions authorized by the U.S. and those of the European Union.

"The European sanctions regime against Iran, which is applicable in Gibraltar, is much narrower than that applicable in the U.S.," the statement said.

The ship, containing more than 2 million gallons of Iranian light crude oil, was seized July 4 in a British Royal Navy operation off the coast of Gibraltar.

The seizure aggravated fears of a conflict in the Persian Gulf, where Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway for oil shipments. Iran has seized Western tankers in the region on multiple occasions in the last few months.

A court in Gibraltar ordered the tanker released Thursday, setting off a flurry of efforts by Washington to keep the ship from leaving. On Friday, the U.S. Justice Department issued a warrant to seize the tanker for forfeiture, claiming the Iranians illegally used the U.S. banking system to finance the shipment of oil to Syria.

Richard De la Rosa, managing director of Astralship, the vessel's shipping agent, told the Associated Press the ship could sail as soon as Monday.

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Over 600 Prisoners on Hunger Strike in Bahrain

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- More than 600 Bahraini political prisoners are now on hunger strike to protest ill-treatment at Bahrain's notorious Jaw prison.

Over 400 inmates started an open-ended hunger strike on Sunday morning, joining 196 others who had begun refusing food a short while earlier on Friday.

They are also voicing solidarity with 15 political prisoners who are being held incommunicado at Jaw prison and who initiated the hunger strike campaign on Thursday.

Bahraini detainees complain about harassment during family visits, saying that they are prohibited from practicing their religious rituals in jail while being subjected to beatings, psychological pressure, and the confiscation of their belongings.

In a letter delivered to the Bahraini media, Hasan al-Ghsara, one

of the 15 political inmates said that the group had decided to refuse food after spending two years in "systematic isolation" at Jaw prison.

He said that the prisoners were held under "harsh conditions," and particularly faced "the denial of basic rights guaranteed in accordance with international and local laws."

Bahraini authorities, he said, subject the prisoners to "psychological torture" and put them under a "monitoring process" in violation of their privacy.

"We have been placed under strict security restrictions in private rooms without being giving rational reasons for that; we suffer from clear discrimination," read the letter. "We are not treated like the rest of the prisoners. We have been placed in rooms where we are

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