

Iran Arrests Two Swedes for Drug Trafficking

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has arrested two Swedish nationals in crackdown on an international drugs trafficking network, the Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday, adding that a large amount of synthetic narcotics have been seized by the police. "As part of Iran's fight against drugs trafficking, the members of an international narcotics trafficking network have been arrested and two Swedish nationals are among them," Tasnim said without giving further information. "A huge amount of seized drugs from this network were dangerous synthetic narcotics."

Qalibaf Urges Int'l Action Against Zionist Plan

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Parliament speaker Muhammad Baqer Qalibaf called on his foreign counterparts Wednesday to take concerted action against the occupying regime of Israel's threats to annex parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. In a message to his foreign counterparts, Qalibaf said, "Parliaments are expected to play an active role against the annexation of the West Bank, because today the Palestinian nation needs support from the world's freedom-seekers more than ever to counter the expansionist policies of the Al-Quds occupying regime."

VOL NO: LV 11192 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Thursday, July 2, 2020, Tir 12, 1399, Zil-Qa'dah 10, 1441, Price 40,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Not USA but ISA – the Isolated States of America

Imam of the Hearts and Minds

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“As for the heart, it is one of Allah’s marvelous signs in human body, since it pumps the blood to all parts of the body and the blood conveys food and oxygen in order to distribute them throughout the body, and then it arranges for the discharge of waste products from the body of them. The heart pumps the blood to the lungs so that they may take adequate supply of oxygen from the air which a person breathes. In the lungs, the blood gets rid of some waste products which it gathers from the parts of the blood and which take form of a gas called carbon dioxide. The heart also pumps the blood to the kidneys.

“As for the regulation of the beats of the heart, it is one of the secrets of creation; the average of the beats of the heart is seventy times per minute, which amounts to one hundred thousand times a day, forty million times a year, and over two thousand millions in middle age. Therefore, we must think of this great glorification which never ceases nor flags by night and day.”

The above passages which are a brilliant description of the heart and its functions are not by any cardiologist, neither by any scientist, nor by anyone specializing in medicine and human anatomy. .

These are the words of a person who was one of the repositories of Divine knowledge, whom God Almighty collectively calls “Rasekhouna fi ilm” in the holy Qur’an, and on whose authority the famous treatise: “ar-Risala adh-Dhahabiya fi’r-Tibb” was compiled over a millennium and two centuries ago.

It is companion to the book “Tibb ar-Reza”. If modern researchers were to diligently delve into the depths of these works, which contain prescriptions and valuable guidelines including cure for different ailments as well as proper dietary and hygienic habits, they can definitely find a cure for the Coronavirus pandemic plaguing the world.

He was none other than Imam Ali ar-Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Heir of the Almighty’s Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA). He lived in a crucial era of history when the sciences of neighbouring cultures were pouring in unfiltered into the Islamic heartland, confusing scholars and laymen alike.

As the Divinely-designated leader of mankind, he felt it his duty to enlighten people’s minds. At every opportunity, he imparted to the people of his age the bezels of God-given wisdom. Those who properly used the power of the intellect and the light of faith in their hearts, benefited from him, while retarded brains and darkened hearts failed to comprehend his words.

This is the reason, these days hearts of the faithful are turned towards Mashhad in Khorasan, northeastern Iran, where he reposes in peace in the sprawling golden-domed mausoleum. The 11th of Zi’l-Qa’dah is his birth anniversary and the city thus wears a festive look. It has been bedecked with flowers and colourful fluorescent lights.

Mashhad is thus the holiest spot in Iran, and thousands of devotees from all over Iran have assembled there today, defying the Coronavirus pandemic by maintaining social distancing and with full confidence in God Almighty that He will deliver His creatures from this seemingly uncontrollable plague.

The knowledge of Imam Reza (AS), was not confined to the field of medicine, or to the sphere of astronomy, or for that matter to the precepts of Islamic law; rather it covered all kinds of God-given wisdom beyond the ken of fallible mortals.

He needs no introduction. Born in Medina in the year 148 AH (765 AD), within a fortnight of the martyrdom of his illustrious grandfather Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS) – the Reviver of the Prophet’s Jurisprudence – for 18 years, following the martyrdom of his father Imam Musa al-Kazem in 183 AH by the tyrant Haroun Rashid in the dungeon of Baghdad, he had been Helmsman of the Ark of Salvation (Safinat an-Nejat – as the Prophet had called his Ahl al-Bayt. As a matter of fact, for all strata of society Imam Reza (AS) was the Beacon of Guidance (Misbah al-Huda to quote the Prophet again regarding the Ahl al-Bayt), until his forced coming in 201 to Marv (presently in the republic of Turkmenistan).

The crafty caliph Mamoun of the usurper Abbasid dynasty thought that by removing Imam Reza (AS) from the holy city of Medina, the centre of gravity of the Muslim World, and by keeping him under the watchful eyes of the court in faraway Marv, with the deceitfully honourific title of ‘Heir-Apparent’, he could kill two birds with one stone. On one hand, he hoped to isolate the Imam from the Ummah – albeit in a diplomatic way. On the other hand, he surmised that the luxury of court life would taint Imam Reza (AS), thereby tarnishing once and for all the unsullied image of the Imamate among the followers of the Prophet’s Household.

This intricate plot, however, badly backfired on the hypocritical enemies, and though they martyred the 8th Imam through poison in 203 AH, they signed their own death warrant, as they could not stop the transformation for good the land of Iran, where over 70 years earlier the Abbasids had misused the people’s natural tendencies for the Ahl al-Bayt to hijack the caliphate.

At every turn, Imam Reza (AS) through his discourses to the masses or through his lively debates with scholars and scientists had expounded various branches of knowledge, thereby enlightening every sincere heart that came into contact with him.

As the pilgrims, with fervent prayers on their lips are beseeching God to help devoted Iranian medics and scientists find the antidote for curing the afflicted victims of the pandemic and eradicating Covid-19, let us focus on the description by Imam Reza (AS) about the position of Imamate in Islam, which is a Divine trust in contrast to the scandalous institution of the caliphate, since the holy Qur’an informs us in Ayah 124 of Surah al-Baqarah of the Divine appointment of Prophet Abraham as “Imam of mankind”, with the explicit pledge that this lofty status will never be given to the unjust.

“The Imamate is the rank of the Prophets and the heritage of the Heirs of the Prophet. The Imamate is the representation of God the Majestic and His Messenger (Prophet Muhammad – SAWA); the position of the Commander of the Faithful (Imam Ali – AS); and the vicegerency of (the Imams) Hasan and Husain (peace upon them).

“The Imam is the head of the religious affairs, the system of the Muslims, the virtue of the world, the bastion of believers... The Imam legalizes whatever God decrees legal, forbids whatever God decrees illegal... The Imam is like the shining sun whose light covers the whole world while it stands erect in the horizon and neither sights nor hands can catch it... The Imam is the Trustee of God on His Earth and (for His) creatures, the argument of God towards the creation, the vicegerent of God in His Earth, the inviter to God, and the protector of the sanctities of God... The Imam is immune from sins, free of defects, endowed with exclusive knowledge, characterized with forbearance... The Imam is unique in his time. No one can catch up with him and no scholar can amount to him. There is no substitute for him...”

Kayhan International



Award-Winning Animation Wins Big in U.S.

Iran Launches Bid to Host 2027 Asian Cup



NGOs Urges Bahrain to Halt Execution of Men After Forced Confessions



U.S. Bid to Extend UN Arms Embargo on Iran Fails

‘Outlaw Bully’ Isolated



The UN Security Council holds a video conference to examine the implementation of the UN Resolution 2231 on Iran’s nuclear deal on June 30, 2020.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- **Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday sought to reassert America’s waning influence on the world stage, challenging the UN Security Council to extend a UN arms embargo that is due to expire in October. Instead, America’s top diplomat received a scolding from friends and foes alike in the 15-nation council, which roundly criticized Washington for withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal two years ago.**

On a day when the European Union pointedly excluded the United States from a “safe list” of countries permitted to travel to

the 27-member bloc, the council’s chilly reception of Pompeo added to a portrait of an increasingly isolated United States and underscored how little deference other countries pay the Trump administration as it faces a grim reelection contest.

The pointedly critical tone of the debate saw Germany accusing Washington of violating international law by withdrawing from the nuclear pact, while Berlin aligned itself with China’s claim that the United States has no right to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran. Russia’s UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia,

compared U.S. sanctions on Iran to the killing of George Floyd, saying they were akin to “putting a knee to one’s neck.”

The dispute centered on the fate of the nearly moribund 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which the United States abandoned in May 2018. European parties to the deal, like Iran, want to keep it alive; the Trump administration wants to kill it before the election, lest any future Democratic administration bring it back to life.

The latest battleground is one provision of that deal, the planned expiry in October of a UN arms

embargo on Iran—one of the sweeteners of the nuclear deal. U.S. allies, including the Security Council’s five European states, worry that extending the UN arms embargo, in clear violation of the pact signed in 2015, would drive Tehran to kick out nuclear inspectors and set the stage for an even quicker development of its nuclear energy program.

Since President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal, Iran has increased its stockpiles of nuclear fuel and resumed its enrichment of uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At the opening of Tuesday’s virtual session, Rosemary DiCarlo, a former U.S. State Department official who serves as UN undersecretary-general for political affairs, praised the nuclear pact as a “significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy and dialogue” and expressed “regret” over the U.S. decision to withdraw, noting that Iran was in compliance with the pact before Trump’s abrupt decision to pull the plug.

DiCarlo, however, accused Iran of a role in missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, as well as arms shipments to Yemen.

Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif dismissed claims that Iranian-made weapons were being transferred to Yemen and elsewhere in violation of UN sanctions.

“The international community in

(Continued on Page 7)

Iran Urges Immediate End to U.S. Presence Putin, Rouhani, Erdogan Support Syrian Unity

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **The illegitimate presence of U.S. forces in Syria should end immediately, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in a video conference broadcast on Iranian state TV on Wednesday.**

Iran would continue its support for Syria’s legal government, Rouhani said.

Iran, Russia and Turkey, which support opposing sides in the war, held talks to harmonize efforts to bring peace to the country, whose conflict has entered its 10th year.

Rouhani said there was “no military solution” for Syria. Putin denounced newly imposed U.S. sanctions that he said were aimed at “suffocating” Syria, while Erdogan called for peace and security to be restored in his country’s southern neighbor.

The talks were the first since September in the so-called Astana format, three-way talks between the key foreign powers in the Syrian conflict.

Iran and Russia have been staunch supporters of President Bashar al-Assad, while Turkey has called for the ouster of the Syrian government and backed militants seeking to topple him.

Rouhani told the conference that “the Islamic Republic believes the only solution to the Syrian crisis is political and not a military solution”.

“We continue to support the inter-Syrian dialogue and underline our determination to fight the terrorism of Daesh, Al-Qaeda and other related groups,” he said.

“I emphasize that the fight against terrorism will continue until it is completely eradicated

(Continued on Page 7)

Zionists Halt Annexation Plan Amid Hamas Warning

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- A confidant of PM Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that the Zionist leader’s plan to annex parts of the occupied West Bank would not start on Wednesday, the original target date.

The developments cast further uncertainty over whether Israel will ultimately follow through on the explosive annexation initiative, which has drawn fierce international condemnations from some of the occupying regime’s closest allies.

Speaking on Israel’s Army Radio station, cabinet minister Ofir Akunis confirmed that the annexation process would not begin on Wednesday, saying that officials were still working out the final details with their American counterparts. He said he expected the annexation to take place later in July.

“Coordination with the American administration is not something

that can be dismissed,” he said.

The decision, however, came as Hamas fires volley of rockets into sea in warning against the annexation. A Hamas spokesperson said last week that it views Israel’s intentions over parts of the West Bank as a declaration of war.

On Tuesday, Palestinian factions in Gaza declared Wednesday a “Day of Rage” against the annexation plans.

Netanyahu had aimed to start the process by Wednesday, saying he wanted to begin annexing West Bank territory in line with President Donald Trump’s Mideast plan. The plan, unveiled in January, envisions bringing some 30% of the territory under permanent Israeli control, while giving the Palestinians limited autonomy in carved-up pockets of the remaining land.

But the plan has come under stiff

(Continued on Page 7)