

**U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Zimbabwe**

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on Zimbabwean Kudakwashe Tagwirei, an adviser to President Emmerson Mnangagwa, accusing them of helping support the government of Zimbabwe. The U.S. Treasury Department in a statement said it black-listed Tagwirei and Zimbabwe-based Sakunda Holdings, of which he is chief executive, accusing the businessman of using "opaque business dealings and his ongoing relationship with President Mnangagwa to grow his business empire dramatically and rake in millions of U.S. dollars."

**Oil Prices Hit Five-Month High**

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Oil prices rose to their highest since early March on Wednesday after a large decline in U.S. crude inventories and supported by a weak dollar, but mounting coronavirus infections had investors worried about the demand outlook. Brent crude was up \$1.51, or 3.4%, at \$45.94 a barrel by 11:13 a.m. ET. West Texas Intermediate oil rose \$1.52, or 3.7%, to \$43.22 a barrel. Both contracts gained over 4% earlier in the session. U.S. crude inventories fell by 7.4 million barrels in the week to July 31 to 518.6 million barrels, the Energy Information Administration said.

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**Viewpoint**

**2 Beirut Blast – Accident or Terrorist Plot?**

**The Universal Message of Ghadeer**

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

*“And amongst them We appointed Imams to guide (the people) by Our command, when they had been patient and had conviction in Our signs.” (Holy Qur’an 32:24)*  
 The Words of God Almighty leave no one in doubt that in Islam the true Leader is Divinely-designated. In other words, he is not elected, selected, or nominated by fallible humans. Heavenly Scriptures and historical facts are replete with events of the life of the prophets of the past; how God entrusted them the mission to guide human societies, and how He chose for them suitable Vicegerents. Thus, in view of these undeniable facts, the 18th of Zilhijja is that high water mark in history that drew the permanent line between faith and heresy by deciding once and for all the vital issue of leadership of mankind. It was as decisive as the Almighty’s commandment at the dawn of human creation to the angels to prostrate to Adam who was to become God’s Vicegerent on earth. The words of the holy Qur’an are crystal clear. The angels obeyed the Divine Command but Lucifer (Iblis) refused and was damned till eternity. Ever since, Satan the outcast has been a role model for all devilish elements among the children of Adam and Eve. The pagans, the heathens, the polytheists, the heretics, the atheists, and all disbelievers including modern day agnostics who deny their own heavenly-created progenitors on the satanic illusion that mankind evolved itself from apes or worms, have resorted to dissent and discord against the divine right of leadership. One such devilish design was the scandalous gathering at Saqifa Bani Sa’da in Medina, no sooner had the Almighty’s Last and Greatest Messengers, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), departed from the mortal world. The illogical assumption was that the Prophet’s political heir should be chosen by the people themselves. What an erroneous idea! It was an implicit denial of not just the position of the Prophet – who was an Emissary of God the Omnipresent and not someone elected, selected or nominated by the idolatrous Arabs – but also a denial of God’s authority, similar to Lucifer’s refusal to prostrate to Adam. Saqifa may have created the greatest discord in Islam by deceiving the naive and the simple-minded, but it was never able to negate from minds the significance of the historic event of Ghadeer. So clear and in broad daylight was that occurrence that all authoritative works of the different denominations of Islam irrespective of their sectarian or jurisprudential beliefs, have recorded it without the least dispute about the central figure of the Day of Ghadeer, although some have tried to misinterpret the meaning of the words. For the believers, however, Ghadeer is the firm foundation of faith. As the holy Qur’an says in the opening ayahs of Surah Najm, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) never speaks but it is revelation revealed. Thus whatever the Prophet did was in accordance with God’s commandment as is supported by revelation of ayah 67 of Surah al-Ma’edah which reads: *“O Messenger! Proclaim what has been revealed from your Lord, if you do not do it, then you have not discharged your mission, and Allah will protect you from the (evil of) people.”* Moreover, no previous Prophet ever took the liberty to name his heir without Divine commandment. This would have been blasphemy, since the Prophet is the Emissary of God, which means his successor, whether a Prophet or a Wasi, that is, a Testamentary Legatee, should be appointed by God. That is the reason Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) had earlier spelt out the *“Hadith Thaqaalayn”* saying in explicit words: *“I am leaving behind among you the two priceless things (thaqaalyan); the Book of Allah (the Holy Qur’an) and my progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt. Hold fast to them and you will never go astray.”* Hence on revelation of the ayah 67 of Surah al-Ma’edah, the Prophet ordered halt to the pilgrim caravan, and after all 120,000 odd pilgrims had assembled in the valley of Khom by the Spring or Ghadeer near Juhfa, he mounted the makeshift pulpit and after a sermon that made the whole gathering acknowledge that he was superior to all of them, he lifted his dear cousin and son-in-law, to declare those immortal words: *“Man Kunto Mowlahu fa haza Aliyun Mowlahu, which means: For whomever I am the authority, this Ali is his authority.”* The words of the Prophet are clear, and any dissent or dispute regarding their meaning or the position of Imam Ali (AS), is nothing but devilish tendencies. For the successor of the Prophet should also be as pure and pristine as the Prophet, since it is against the principle of Divine Justice to allow persons who had spent the greater part of their life in idol-worship and all other unprincipled ways to be leaders of mankind. Ghadeer is therefore the greatest ever Eid for the true believers, especially in view of ayah 3 of Surah al-Ma’edah that was revealed after the Prophet’s historic proclamation: *“Today I have perfected your faith for you, completed My favours upon you and chosen Islam as your religion.”*

**3 Titles Across Globe Join Iran’s Resistance Festival**



**6 Hadi Choopan Invited to 2020 Olympia**



**8 WFP: 13 Million in Yemen Need Food Aid**



## Aid Pours in After ‘Apocalypse’ in Beirut



This photo shows a general view of the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut on Aug. 5, 2020.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Emergency medical aid and pop-up field hospitals were dispatched to Lebanon Wednesday along with rescue experts and tracking dogs, as the world reached out to the victims of the explosion that devastated Beirut. The blast centered on the city’s port caused massive destruction and killed more than 100 people, heaping misery on a country already in crisis. Regional states were among the first to respond, with Qatar and Iran announcing they were sending mobile hospitals to ease pressure on Lebanon, already strained by the coronavirus pandemic. A Qatari air force plane with a cargo of hundreds of collapsible

beds, generators and burn sheets touched down in Beirut in the first of a convoy of flights to the Mediterranean country. Iran’s Red Crescent Society (IRCS) spokesman Muhammad Nasiri announced that 2,000 food packages, weighing nine tonnes, were sent along with medicine and medical equipment. The first consignment of Iranian aid supplies arrived in Beirut hours after the tragedy on Tuesday. Two more shipments were expected for delivery later on Wednesday. Nasiri said a 22-member medical team, including general practitioners, orthopedists, anesthesiologists, operating room specialists, pediatricians, neurologists, nurses

and field hospital experts, would be dispatched later Wednesday. The Iranian team will set up a mobile hospital in Beirut, he added. Medical supplies from Kuwait also arrived, as the Lebanese Red Cross said that more than 4,000 people were being treated for injuries after the explosion, which sent glass shards and debris flying. Lebanon’s Prime Minister Hassan Diab has called on “friendly countries” to support a nation already reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades as well as the impact of the coronavirus. Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani said in a message to his Lebanese counterpart that Tehran was “ready to offer medical and medicinal aid

and help treat the injured”. Rouhani also expressed hope the cause of the deadly blast would be uncovered and calm restored to Beirut as soon as possible. The Lebanese Red Cross said Wednesday that the blast killed over 100 people and injured more than 4,000, according to the latest toll. Close allies and traditional adversaries of Lebanon alike sent their condolences, with Iran and Saudi Arabia both sending messages of support. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the great and resilient people of Lebanon,” Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif tweeted. Saudi Arabia said it was following the situation with “great concern”. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres expressed his “deepest condolences... following the horrific explosions in Beirut,” which he said had also injured some UN personnel. President Donald Trump said “it looks like a terrible attack” and that U.S. generals had told him that the powerful explosions appeared to have been caused by a “bomb of some kind,” without offering evidence. However, the explosion appeared to have been sparked by a fire igniting 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate left unsecured in a warehouse. Lebanon’s powerful Hezbollah resistance movement said all of the country’s political powers must overcome the “painful catastrophe” unite after the massive explosion. (Continued on Page 7)

## Modi Founds Temple on Site of Razed Mosque

AYODHYA, India (Dispatches) -- Hindus rejoiced Wednesday as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke ground on a controversial temple at the site of a demolished 16th century mosque. The temple is expected to take 3 1/2 years to complete. Wednesday marked a year since the Indian Parliament revoked the semi-autonomous status of its only Muslim-majority state, Jammu and Kashmir. The symbolism was impossible to miss since Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party had long pledged in its manifesto to strip Kashmir’s autonomy and to build a temple where the Mughal-era mosque once stood. Modi said in a speech that the ceremony was a “historic occasion” for which Hindus waited

for centuries. He said the proposed temple will become a symbol of “modern India.” The main roads of Ayodhya were barricaded and about 3,000 paramilitary soldiers guarded the city, where all shops and businesses were closed. Last week, a priest and 15 police officers at the temple site tested positive for the coronavirus, which has infected 1.9 million people in India and killed more than 39,000. Only 175 religious representatives were invited to the ceremony. But many, including senior leaders of Hindu nationalist organizations, weren’t wearing masks, or were wearing them improperly. The groundbreaking follows a ruling by India’s Supreme Court last November favoring the (Continued on Page 7)

## Japan Marks A-Bombing as Trump Plans Nuke Test

TOKYO (Dispatches) -- Thursday marks 75 years since the United States unleashed the world’s first atomic bomb attack on the city of Hiroshima, followed three days later by the second and last on Nagasaki, vaporizing lives, buildings and Japan’s capacity for war. The U.S. became – and remains – the only country in the world to detonate a nuclear weapon against a country. At 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6 (2315 GMT, Aug. 5) 1945, U.S. B-29 warplane Enola Gay dropped a bomb nicknamed “Little Boy” and obliterated the southwestern city of Hiroshima, killing 140,000 of an estimated population of 350,000, with thousands more dying later of injuries and radiation-related illness. On Aug. 9, the United States dropped another bomb, dubbed

“Fat Man”, about 420 kilometers (261 miles) to the south over Nagasaki, instantly killing more than 75,000 people beneath a mushroom cloud which grew as high as 9,000 meters (30,000 feet). Three-quarters of a century later, the Trump administration has suspended compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a Reagan administration-era initiative that slashed the number of midrange missiles held by the U.S. and Russia. Trump has abandoned the Open Skies Treaty – negotiated by President George H.W. Bush after the collapse of the Soviet Union and designed to be a check on nuclear weapons by allowing surveillance flights over signatories’ territories. Trump has also signaled he may not renew New START, the last (Continued on Page 7)