**Top Security Official on Countering Western Unilateralism** MOSCOW (IRNA) -- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian on Wednesday presented a series of proposals to alleviate the impact of Western unilateralism on information security. Speaking at a security forum in Saint Petersburg, Ahmadian assessed the current state of information security worldwide and introduced Iran's recommendations for its improvement. He emphasized the need for regional organization such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS to broaden their cooperation and establish new tools, institutions, and structures to counter the threats posed by Western unilateralism in the realm of information security.



#### Iran Rejects Argentina's 'Unfounded' Claims Over AMIA

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kan'ani on Wednesday called on Argentine authorities to refrain from making unfounded accusations against citizens of other countries in the case of AMIA.

Kan'ani strongly condemned the repeated illegal and false-based appeals made by some Argentine judges regarding the involvement of Iranian nationals in the bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires in 1994. He said charges presented in the AMIA case against Iranian citizens lack any credibility, and requests for their extradition have no legal status or credibility.

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### Viewpoint

President Raisi's Fruitful Visits Speak of Iran's Power & Prestige









# Islam's Decisive Triumph Over Arab-Israelite Plot

#### By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

The current dalliance of reactionary Arab regimes with the illegal Zionist entity and the avowed goals of these two against Islam and Muslims may have surprised some simple-minded persons, but to those well versed in history this is not something new.

In fact, ever since the advent of Islam that revolutionized the Arabian Peninsula and consequently the world by enlightening the hearts of the seekers of truth – whether Arabs, Africans, Persians, Turks, Europeans, Indians, Chinese and others, including Jews and Christians awaiting the Great Messenger promised by both Prophet Moses and Prophet Jesus (peace upon them) – those amongst the Arabs and the Israelites opposed to humanitarian values have never ceased to plot against Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), his Infallible Ahl al-Bayt, and his dynamic "Sunnah wa Seerah" (practice and behaviour).

Although they have not succeeded despite the devilish nature of their plots, these two seditious groups have never missed an opportunity to gang up together in a bid to undermine genuine Muhammadan Islam. Those still unable to properly figure out the unholy alliance between the Zionist entity and the unrepresentative Arab regimes under the tutelage of the Great Satan (the US), against the Islamic Republic of Iran, against the Palestinian people, and against the goal of the Ummah for liberation of Islam's former qibla, the al-Aqsa Mosque, are advised to study the life and times of the Seal of Messengers.

Every year, the  $17^{th}$  of Shawwal reminds us of one of the gravest plots against Muslims by the Arabs and the Israelites, who had mustered a joint force of 10,000 to besiege Medina and wipe out Islam by killing Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

The day, however, made their joint plan go awry, and could be called the anniversary of a decisive victory of truth over falsehood, virtue over vice, right over wrong, and above all faith over hypocrisy.

To be more precise, the  $17^{th}$  of Shawwal is the day on which in the year 5 AH (627 AD) Islam resoundingly triumphed over the unholy alliance of the Arabs and Israelites, shattering forever the dreams of the confederates who were in league with the Fifth Column (the hypocrites) amongst the Muslims of Medina.

Surah al-Ahzaab (The Confederates) of the holy Qur'an refers to this crucial encounter that is also called "Battle of the Ditch" (Khandaq – corruption of the Persian word 'kandak' which means 'to dig'), because the Prophet on the suggestion of his newly arrived Iranian companion, Salman Farsi, had dug a moat on the side of Medina that did not contain any dense palm groves and was exposed to attack.

Several Ayahs of this Surah refer to the state of the hypocrites and of those weak of faith amongst the Muslims. It is obvious by the wordings of these Ayahs that this was a Divine tribulation, yet those who feared battle and were reluctant to risk their life in exchange for the eternal bliss of Paradise in defence of Islam, miserably failed. They not just entertained doubts in the mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), but some amongst them even conspired to hand him over to the joint Arab-Israelite force. Infant Islam was thus facing its most grueling test. Archenemy Abu Sufyan was confident that with the Israelites firmly on the side of the pagan Arabs, the Jewish tribes of Medina in secret contact with their co-religionists for breaking the pact with the Prophet, and the hypocrites amongst the Muslims serving as the Fifth Column, it would only be a matter of time for a complete victory over Islam. Perhaps, modern analysts might draw similarities to the current situation of the Muslim World, where certain Arab regimes which fund terrorists and hypocrites, have openly ganged up with the illegal Zionist entity under protection of the US, to try to wipe out the Islamic *Resistance and those with firm faith in Muhammadan Islam – in Gaza,* in the West Bank and throughout Occupied Palestine, in Syria, in Iraq, in Bahrain, in Yemen, in Egypt, in Afghanistan, in Pakistan, in Iran, etc. *Surah al-Ahzab is undeniable proof of the universality and immortality* of Islam, and how gloriously it triumphed in Medina in 5 AH in the decisive encounter with the Arab-Israelite hordes, and how it has continued to thrive and enlighten the world throughout the past millennium, four centuries and forty-five years despite the gravity of the plots of its satanic enemies in every age and place. This means that for true Muslims, firmly adhering to the path of the Prophet, the present phase of Islamophobia by enemies of all hue and colour – the US, the Zionists, the Europeans, the Takfiris, the *hypocrites, the atheists, the polytheists, etc. – is just another Divine test* from which Islam, after due sacrifices, will emerge more stronger, while this current lot of devilish hordes will vanish forever.

# Leader: Iran is Strong, Has Bright Future

Sri Lanka Inaugurates Project Carried Out by Iran



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, second right, and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in a grey suit, inaugurate the Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project in Uma Oya, about 180km east of Colombo, April 24, 2024.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said his country has proven the West doesn't have a monopoly on technology while inaugurating a hydropower and irrigation project in Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Raisi was the first Iranian president to visit Sri Lanka since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited the country in 2008.

"The Western countries tried to convince all others that knowledge and technology is exclusive to those countries," Raisi said, addressing Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe and other top officials. He added that the "idea" was rooted in "colonialism and arrogance" and

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here Wednesday underlined the key role of the labor community in improving Iran's economic situation, calling for additional efforts to turn Western sanctions into an opportunity. "It is impossible to talk about economic issues without paying attenthat Iran was now able to share its knowledge with others, currently having projects in 20 countries.

The Uma Oya project, in the central Badulla district, was constructed with Iranian technical assistance. Valued at \$514 million, it was started in 2010 by Iran's FARAB engineering group and Iran initially provided \$50 million. But in 2013, funding could not be continued because of international sanctions against Iran. The Sri Lankan government then decided to complete the project with its own funds using the same Iranian contractor.

The project was scheduled for completion in 2015 but was delayed by international sanctions against Iran,

tion to the sanctions that the United States and Europeans say are unprecedented," he told a group of workers on the occasion of Labor Week.

on the occasion of Labor Week. "The Westerners falsely cite issues such as nuclear weapons, human technical issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, the government said in a statement ahead of Raisi's visit.

The project will add 290 GWh of electricity annually to the national grid and irrigate 4,500 hectares (11,100 acres) of new land and 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres) of existing agricultural land.

"Our enemies did not want Iran to develop and progress ... so the will and determination of the Iranian people were realized and our enemies were disappointed," Raisi said.

Raisi and Wickremesinghe witnessed the signing of five memoranda of understanding and were scheduled to issue a joint statement. (Continued on Page 7)

but false excuses.

"According to them, the people under the bombardment in Gaza are terrorists, but the malicious, fake and ruthless Zionist government, which has massacred nearly 40,000 people, including several thousand children in six months, is not a terrorist," he added. goal of Iran's ill-wishers in imposing sanctions is to put the Islamic Republic under constraint and force it to toe the line of colonial and arrogant powers and surrender to their bullying.

"Some - God willing out of benevolence - constantly recommend that 'you accept one of America's demands in order to solve the problem'. However, there is no end to the expectations of the Americans."

The Leader touched on his speech a few years ago on the nuclear issue and his request that the Americans specify the limit which a possible Iranian retreat would satisfy them.

"They said they would never specify a limit because they wanted to move forward step by step and eventually dismantle the country's nuclear equipment just as they did with that North African country and shut down Iran's nuclear industry," he said, apparently referring to Libya under former dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

"This is while different parts of the country such as health, medicine and other fields depend on the outcomes of nuclear activities," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader reiterated that the main goal of the Americans in imposing sanctions is to force the people of Iran and the Islamic Republic into complete obedience and submission in political and economic fields.

"They want the wealth, reputation and policies of Iran to be in the hands of America like some countries. But, the Islamic establishment, the Islamic zeal and the great and deep-rooted nation of Iran is impossible to submit to their bullying."

The Leader said, "It should be known to the people of Iran, and it is also known, that the reason for the enmity of bullies is not the lies they tell, but the fact that an independent Iran will not submit to their bullying and is not willing to follow their failed and backward policies that are against divine values and human nature – the policies that some Western analysts admit are destroying the 200-year reputation of America."

"The Iranian nation is upright and firm, and of course we must show our resolution in our action, work, research and national unity," he added. "If we do this, and avoid laziness and indolence, more opportunities and (Continued on Page 7)

Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), on learning of the Arab-Israelite plot (Continued on Page 7) rights and support for terrorism as the purpose of imposing sanctions against Iran," the Leader said, explaining that the claims are nothing

Ayatollah Khamenei said the real

## **Pro-Palestine Protests Engulf American Universities**

NEW YORK (Dispatches) — Columbia University said early Wednesday that it was making "important progress" with pro-Palestinian student protesters who set up a tent encampment and was extending a deadline to clear out, yet standoffs remained tense on campus.

Student protesters "have committed to dismantling and removing a significant number of tents," the Ivy League university said in a statement. However, an encampment remained on the upper Manhattan campus Wednesday morning.

Across the country, protesters at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, some 300 miles (480 kilometers) north of San Francisco, started using furniture, tents, chains and zip ties to block a building's entrances Monday evening.

Both campuses are part of intensifying demonstrations over Israel's war on Gaza by university students demanding that schools cut financial ties to the regime and divest from companies enabling its monthslong genocide. Dozens have been arrested on charges of trespassing or disorderly conduct.

Columbia President Minouche Shafik had set a midnight Tuesday deadline to reach an agreement to clear the encampment. By about 3 a.m., the university said there was "constructive dialogue" and it would continue conversations for 48 hours.

The statement said student protesters "will ensure that those not affiliated with Columbia will leave. Only Columbia University students will be participating in the protest."

The university's statement was released hours before U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson's trip to Columbia to visit with Jewish students and address what he and other pro-Israeli politicians label as antisemitism on college campuses.

At the University of Minnesota, Democratic U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar attended a protest late Tuesday, hours after nine protesters were arrested on the campus when police took down an encampment in front of the library. Hundreds had rallied in the afternoon to demand their release.

"I am incredibly moved by your courage and bravery as a student body in putting your bodies on the line to stand in solidarity to end the genocide taking place in Gaza," Omar told those gathered, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported.

Omar's daughter was among more than 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators at Columbia who were arrested Thursday in a move that inspired protesters nationwide to start encampments.

Also Tuesday night, police arrested more than 200 protesters blocking traffic during a non-college demonstration demanding a permanent ceasefire in Gaza at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, near the home of Sen. Chuck Schumer. The protest was organized by Jewish Voice for Peace on the second night of Passover, and protesters lay down a large circular banner depicting the food on a Seder plate.

At Cal Poly Humboldt, protesters chanted, "We are not afraid of you!" before officers in riot gear pushed into them at the building's entrance, video shows. Student Peyton McKinzie said she was walking on campus Monday when she saw police grabbing one woman by the hair, and another student having their head bandaged for an injury.

"I think a lot of students are in shock about it," she said.

Three students have been arrested, according to a statement from the school, which shut down the campus

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