

Military Advisor Martyred in Ramadi

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- An Iranian officer has been martyred near the Iraqi city of Ramadi while advising Iraqi forces on how to recapture it from the ISIL group. Jassem Nouri, who had also served as a military adviser in Syria, was martyred on Thursday. Iran's official IRNA news agency reported. "A seasoned Iran-Iraq war commander, Jassem Nouri was there as a military adviser to share his experience with the resistance fighters in Iraq," Ahvaz Friday prayer leader Qassem Khaziravi told mourners ahead of his burial Monday.

Kayhan International

Pirate Attacks on Oil Cargo Soar

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Pirate attacks targeting commercial shipping, including oil cargo, have sharply increased, Managing Director of National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) Ali Akbar Shafa'ie has said. "Between 2007 and 2008 when maritime piracy began in the Gulf of Aden, our NITC fleet came under more than 70 attacks but they escalated very much in 2014 and the beginning of 2015," he told the Labor News Agency ILNA. However, none of the attacks on the Iranian cargo was successful, Shafa'ie said.

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Hasten O Promised Saviour

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"O Allah, for the sake of this night and for the sake of him who was born on it, Your testament and the Promised Saviour (by virtue of whose birth) You have added to its merit, thus fulfilling Your word, truly and justly: there is none who can change Your words or repeal Your signs. He is Your brilliant light, Your shining radiance, the banner of light in the pitch dark night, who is concealed and in occultation. Exalted is his birthday and honoured is his lineage."

Tonight, the blessed eve of mid Sha'ban, the faithful throughout the world recite this supplication in the Divine Court with fervent entreaties to the Lord Most High to hasten the reappearance of the Promised Saviour who was born on the 15th of this month. As is evident by the wording of this passage, he is in the state of occultation (*ghaybah*) and awaiting God's commandment to make his advent.

The identity of the Saviour is crystal clear. He is the Awaited One, whose tidings were given by Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), who said in unambiguous words that the Mahdi will be from his progeny, the offspring of his Immaculate Daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), and in the lineal descent of his younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS) – the Martyr of Karbala.

The words of the Seal of Messengers (found in the authentic hadith books of the Sunnis and Shi'as alike) are a firm refutation of the claims of those who deny the coming of the Mahdi and of those who allege that he has not yet been born and would be born in the end times.

For instance, in the book "*Fara'ed as-Samtayn*", a famous hadith through Sunni sources reads:

The Prophet said: "My Caliphs are my legatees and the proofs of Allah upon the creatures, after me they are Twelve. The first of them is my brother and the last of them is my (grand)son."

He was asked: "O Prophet of Allah, which brother of yours?"
He replied: "Ali Ibn Abi Talib"

Again he was asked: "And which (grand)son?"
He said: "Al-Mahdi is the one who will fill the earth with justice and equity just like it had been filled with injustice and tyranny. I swear by the one who has sent me as the giver of good tidings, even if a single day remains for the world (to end), Allah shall prolong that day till he sends (to it) my son Mahdi. Then Ruhullah Jesus son of Mary will descend and perform prayers behind him. The earth shall be illuminated by his radiance and his authority shall stretch from the east to the west."

Every year, the 15th of Sha'ban makes the seekers of truth become better aware of the identity of the eagerly awaited Saviour of mankind, the Promised Mahdi. He was born in Samarra in the year 255 AH to Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) – the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir – and his mother was Narjis, a noble Byzantine Lady who from her mother's side was a direct descendent of Simeon, the loyal disciple of Prophet Jesus (AS).

Now we understand why God will make Prophet Jesus (AS) reappear along with Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) 12th and Last Heir to disown all those who had made him a Godson.

Today, when cannibalistic terrorists of all hue and colour are masquerading as Jihadis on the orders of their Zionist, American, and Wahhabi masters, by indulging in the most heinous crimes against humanity on the pretext of setting up what they call a caliphate, it is only belief in Imam Mahdi (AS) and his global government of peace, prosperity, and justice that keeps alive the hopes of Muslims in these tyrannical times.

The triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran was indeed a sign of the coming of the Promised Saviour, and so are the tragic events in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, and elsewhere, definite indications that it is only Imam Mahdi who will shatter these plots by cleansing Hijaz of the filth of Salafi heretics, and peacefully inviting all humanity towards the straight and unwavering path of God with love and affection.

Let us raise our hands and beseech God tonight to hasten his reappearance by reciting the following supplication:

"O my Lord! The calamity has aggravated; the absence prolonged; The curtain of modesty has been lifted; hope has been curtailed; The earth has become narrow; and sky has been straitened. And You are the One from whom help is sought and complaints are made And in You we trust in the times of difficulty."

"O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad (SAWA) and the progeny of Muhammad (SAWA), the possessors of authority whose obedience you have enjoined upon us and by that made us aware of their position. Then make open for us, by their truth, an immediate opening, immediate as a wink or sooner."

"O Muhammad! O 'Ali! O 'Ali! O Muhammad! Suffice me both of you as both of you are sufficient. Help me—both of you—for you are my helpers."

"O our Master, O Master of the Time! Help! Help! Help! Rescue me! Rescue me! Rescue me! This moment! This moment! This moment! Hasten! Hasten! Hasten! O Most Merciful of the Merciful, for the sake of Muhammad (SAWA) and his holy progeny."

Velayati Rules Out Military Inspections: Some IAEA Inspectors Are CIA Agents



IAEA nuclear inspectors at Iran's nuclear facility at Natanz in 2014.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior official reaffirmed on Monday Iran will not allow any inspection of its military sites, saying some inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are agents of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"It has been repeatedly seen that the (UN nuclear) agency's inspectors have been a plaything in the hands of the CIA, but the Islamic Republic of Iran ... will never allow its military sites to be inspected," Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said in a televised program.

"Records show that some of the agency's inspectors are the agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and this fact is documented and openly known," Velayati said.

Iran never allows its might to be put undermined under the pretext of the inspection of its military sites, he added.

He emphasized that the Iranian nuclear negotiating team seeks to safeguard the nation's rights in talks with the P5+1 group of countries and said, "We have no trust in the American statesmen's conduct and remarks."

Velayati added that the United States, as a member of the P5+1 countries, has repeatedly violated the agreements reached between (Continued on Page 7)

West Agrees on Sanctions 'Snapback': FM Zarif: Iran to Discuss 'Other Solutions'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran will discuss "other solutions" to Western demands that it allow UN inspectors access to its military sites and to interview its nuclear scientists, Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has been quoted as saying.

The issue has become one of the main sticking points between Tehran and six world powers as they try to overcome obstacles to a final nuclear agreement one month before of a deadline.

"We have decided to discuss other solutions to resolve this issue," Zarif was quoted as saying by the

Mehr news agency, after holding six hours of meetings on with his U.S. counterpart John Kerry.

The United States and France have threatened to block any deal that does not allow access but Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has explicitly ruled out any inspections or interviews.

Zarif did not give further details about how Iranian negotiators planned to resolve the issue and said there were still several points of difference between Iran and the United States, implying there had been no

major breakthrough in his bilateral talks with Kerry.

"We have decided to work full time for the next three or four weeks to see whether or not it will be possible to reach an agreement," he said.

On Monday, Reuters quoting what it described as unnamed Western officials said the P5+1 had agreed on a way to restore sanctions on Iran if the country was deemed as having broken the terms of a future nuclear deal.

The new understanding on a UN sanctions "snapback" among the six

powers - the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China - brings them closer to a possible deal with Iran, though other hurdles remain, it claimed.

The P5+1 and Iran reached a mutual understanding on April 2 ahead of a possible final deal. But the timing of sanctions relief, access and verification of compliance and a mechanism for restoring sanctions were among the most difficult topics left for further negotiations, the news agency said.

U.S. and European negotiators (Continued on Page 7)

Russia: EU Complaints Over Travel Ban 'Absurd'

MOSCOW (AFP) -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday dismissed the "absurdity" of EU complaints over a travel ban imposed by Moscow on 89 Europeans over the Ukraine crisis.

"It is even quite embarrassing to explain the absurdity and awkwardness of such logic as it's an attempt to substitute international law with one's own political biases," Lavrov told reporters in Moscow amid a new spike in tensions with Brussels.

Moscow last week released a list of 89 European nationals who had been banned from travelling to Russia.

The European Union on Saturday called the blacklist "totally arbitrary and unjustified" and pointed to a lack of transparency over those targeted.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman for his part told reporters that "we are having a hard time understanding this reaction."

The list includes past and serving parliamentarians and ministers who have openly criticized Putin and the war in Ukraine.

Military figures and secret service chiefs are also thought to be on the list.

Lavrov said those on the list "actively supported a state coup" in Ukraine, referring to a popular uprising in Kiev in 2014 which ousted Moscow-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich. (Continued on Page 7)

The uprising led Russia to seize the peninsula of Crimea in March 2014 and then buttress Russian-speaking separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Lavrov insisted that Russia's response was measured and merely followed Western sanctions.

EU officials said Moscow had asked for the list not to be made public. Lavrov said on Monday that Moscow had hoped to avoid a scandal. (Continued on Page 7)