

220 Iran MPs Support Missile Program

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday threw their weight behind the country's missile program, underlining the need for boosting deterrence power to guarantee national security. In a statement, a total of 220 lawmakers voiced their "full-fledged support" for Iran's armed forces, saying "the reinforcement of the defense capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with deterrence strategy" is an absolute necessity to ensure the country's security. Iran, "unlike other major world powers, has not defined its power based on weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including atomic, chemical and biological ones," they said.

Kayhan International

Trump Ban May Wreck Boeing's Iran Deal

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The fate of a landmark deal for Boeing to sell 80 passenger aircraft to Iran has been thrown into doubt following President Donald Trump's executive order barring travel by Iranians to the U.S. The deal has already run into opposition in the Republican-run Congress and Trump's travel ban further makes it impossible for pilots, cabin staff and maintenance crews to enter the U.S. for training. And given the kind of people who have gathered around Trump, the deal might be headed for his chopping block.

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Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran's Missile Program: A Deterrent for All Seasons

Russia Expresses Interest in Reviewing Documents of Golestan Palace



United World Wrestling Statement on Iran's Freestyle World Cup



UN 'Concerned' for Civilians' Safety in Yemen's Mokha



Birthday of the Heroine of Karbala

Today the 5th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal is celebrated in the Islamic Republic of Iran as the "Day of the Nurse", to honour the services to humanity of these paramedics, who strive day and night to ensure the recovery of patients suffering from various diseases. But what is the significance of this particular date for nurses. It is a good question, and the answer is obvious.

Today is that auspicious day in history when the virtuous lady that nursed Islam back to life was born. She was none other the Heroine of Karbala, Hazrat Zainab (SA), the granddaughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

It is beyond the power of ordinary mortals to pen the merits and virtues of Hazrat Zainab (SA), whose praise requires a tongue as eloquent as that of the Holy Qur'an or, as heart-soothing as that of the Prophet of Islam, as expressive as that of her father the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), as fluent as that of her brother the Martyr of Karbala, and as steeped in piety as that of her nephew, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS).

Her genealogy is impeccable. She was a blue blood scion of the monotheist House of Hashem, the noble leader of the Quraysh tribe who was descended from Prophet Abraham's firstborn son, Prophet Ishmael. If her father Imam Ali (AS) continues to transcend history and all historical developments as the divinely-designated vicegerent of her grandfather, the Almighty's Last and Greatest Prophet, her mother is the noblest-ever lady born on Planet Earth, the Prophet's Immaculate Daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). If Prophet as the "Mercy unto the whole creation" is maternal grandfather, her paternal grandfather was that protector of infant Islam, the Prophet's beloved uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb - the consanguineous brother of the Prophet's father Abdullah. If her maternal grandmother was the "Omm al-Momineen" (Mother of all True Believers), Hazrat Khadija al-Kubra (SA) - also known as Maleekat al-Arab for her fabulous wealth that she all spent for Islam - her paternal grandmother was Fatema bint Asad, the lady who had brought up the orphaned Prophet as her own son following the death of his grandfather Abdul-Mutallib and of his mother Amena bint Wabih.

The merits of Hazrat Zainab (SA), who gave her two youthful sons Aun and Mohammad as sacrifices for the cause of Islam at Karbala, do not end here, in view of the fact that her brothers were Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) - the Leaders of the Youth of Paradise. Moreover, she was married to her first cousin Abdullah the son of Ja'far at-Tayyar, the first migrant in Islam whose famous expounding of monotheism and the merits of Prophet Jesus and the Virgin Mary in the court of King Negus of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) when the polytheists of Mecca pursued him there, is recorded in golden letters.

Hazrat Zainab (SA) was too great to rest on family laurels. She explored a distinctive path of her own and that is the reason her virtues merited the title Sani-e Zahra or the lady who is second only to her impeccable mother, Hazrat Zahra (SA), the greatest lady of all times. Hazrat Zahra (SA), needed an immaculate deputy to demonstrate to the women of the world the greatness of Islam and the practical meaning of piety, virtue and feminine rights. This is why her elder daughter, Zainab al-Kubra (SA), rose to the occasion to carve out an immortal niche for herself in history. Although not infallible like the Prophets, the Imams and her own mother, the Heroine of Karbala set a lasting example of flawlessness that not even the infallible Adam could match because of his slight negligence in approaching the forbidden tree while in heaven.

Hazrat Zainab (SA) was the embodiment of practical knowledge. The Iranian scholar Shaikh Saddouq, who flourished over a thousand years ago, writes: "People used to refer to her in [jurisprudential] matters related to the sanctioned and forbidden until [her nephew, Imam] Zain al-Abidin (AS) recovered from his illness."

In view of this statement, it is knowledge that unravels all realities. In other words there is no aspect of human life that does not require knowledge and awareness. Her father Imam Ali (AS) in his famous advice to his disciple Kumail ibn Ziyad (as mentioned in the Nahj al-Balagha) has beautifully outlined the indispensable nature of knowledge as more worthy than wealth, saying: "Knowledge guards you while you have to guard wealth. Wealth decreases by spending while knowledge increases by spending."

In Islam, the pursuit of knowledge is not confined to men, but women are also urged to acquire it. Unlike other creeds and cultures, Islam restored woman to her natural status in society with emphasis on learning so that literate and knowledgeable mothers could properly groom their children, the future hope of the society. Thus Hazrat Zainab (SA) was immune from any ignorance and possessed God-given knowledge with certitude. No less a personality than her nephew Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) says about her: "You are by the grace of God a scholar untaught by anyone and a sage by conation."

The 4th Imam, in praise of her eloquent sermons in Kufa and Damascus when in the aftermath of the heartrending tragedy of Karbala the noble prisoners were brought before the Omayyud rulers, said the realities and finer points of God-given intelligence and knowledge that his aunt demonstrated is not easy to grasp by even the most erudite scholars. Her clarity of language and choice of words to expound the mission of her brother in the court of the tyrant Yazid is rather unique. History is incapable of doing full justice to her sermons that ensured eternity for the mission of Imam Husain (AS). Scholars, pointing to a single phrase from her memorable sermon in the court of Damascus, say that besides being an indicator of her firm faith, trust in God, sincerity of purpose and dauntlessness under the most adverse circumstances, it shattered to pieces the power and pride of Yazid. Her bold address to the seemingly proud caliph: "Ain al-Adl yabna at-tulaqa (Is it justice O' sons of freed slaves)" shook the very foundations of Omayyad rule and exposed its illegitimacy not only for those present at the court, including the Byzantine ambassador, but for all generations to come.

By her use of the word "tulaqa" (pl. or "taleeq" or freed slave), Hazrat Zainab (SA) was actually reminding the ruler how her grandfather Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), on the day of the peaceful surrender of Mecca to Muslims, had shown magnanimity to the arch infidel Abu Sufyan, his accursed wife Hind and his equally criminal son Mua'wiyah (the grandfather, grandmother and father of Yazid) despite the fact that Hind had so savagely carved out the liver of the Prophet's martyred uncle Hamza at the Battle of Ohod and tried to chew it. On the day of the liberation of Mecca, the Prophet had called Abu Sufyan, Mua'wiyah and their other idolatrous kinsmen tulaqa or freed slaves, and had spared their lives by accepting their lip service to Islam in order to teach humanity a lasting lesson that what evil such despised ingrates do when opportunity comes their way to strike at the humanitarian principles that they had always opposed.

Thus, it is said the immortal saga of Karbala would have remained incomplete if not for the endeavours of Hazrat Zainab (SA).

Leader Pays Tribute to Late Imam Khomeini



Ayatollah Khamenei visits the graves of Iranian firefighters who lost their lives recently while trying to put off a massive blaze at a high-rise in Tehran, Feb. 1, 2017.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday visited the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini south of Tehran to pay tribute to the late founder of the Islamic Republic.

The visit took place on the occa-

sion of Ten-Day Dawn celebrations and in the run-up to the 38th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which put an end to the US-backed Pahlavi monarchy.

The festivities started all over the nation at 9:33 a.m. local time (0603 GMT) on Tuesday, the time when

the late founder of the Islamic Republic arrived back home on February 1, 1979 from exile.

A special ceremony was held at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum south of Tehran, with a host of senior state and military officials as well as thousands of people in at-

tendance.

Simultaneously, special ceremonies were observed in more than 80 Iranian cultural centers in 60 countries to mark the first of the Ten Days of Dawn.

Imam Khomeini spent more than 14 years in exile, mostly in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. He also spent some time in Turkey and France, before his return to Iran.

The Ten-Day Dawn festivities culminate in nationwide rallies on February 10 this year, the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Also on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei paid respect to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, soldiers martyred during the Iran-Iraq war back in the 1980s as well as the military advisers killed in Syria.

The Leader also visited the tombs of the 16 heroic firefighters, who lost their lives battling a massive blaze that consumed a high-rise in downtown Tehran on January 19.

In a message issued on the eve of the burial procession earlier this week, Ayatollah Khamenei praised the sacrifices of the firefighters, saying they are "martyrs on the path of a difficult service and fulfilling a risky duty and, God willing, will never be forgotten."

Rouhani Calls Trump a Political Novice: Iran Showcases Space Achievements

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran on Wednesday put on display its latest achievements in the area of space technology during a ceremony attended by President Hassan Rouhani and other senior officials.

The Exhibition of Space Achievements was held here to mark the ninth National Day of Space Technology with the participation of Minister of Science, Research, and Technology Muhammad Farhadi and Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan.

During the ceremony, the domestically-designed Nahid (Venus) 1 telecommunications satellite, and student-manufactured Cube satellite were unveiled.

Nahid 1 has been manufactured at Iran's Space Research Center. Through its production, the country has sought to hone its capabilities in building geosynchronous satellites. The solar-powered satellite is designed to provide telecommunication and imaging services.

Among other achievements put on display were the surveillance-imaging Payam-e-Amirkabir satellite, designed and built by Iran's Amirkabir University of Technology and Saman 1 Orbital Maneuver System, which can be used to change satellite orbit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the

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Defense Minister Confirms Missile Test

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran confirmed Wednesday that it recently conducted a ballistic missile test launch, a move that drew criticism from U.S. and Zionist officials this week.

U.S. officials had said Monday that Iran carried out a missile launch, although they declined to specify when and where it took place, or what type of missile was involved.

The launch was the first Iran has conducted since President Donald Trump took office in January, providing an early test of how his administration will handle Washington's traditionally fraught rela-

tionship with Tehran.

Trump staked out an antagonistic stance toward Iran during the presidential campaign, and it was among seven Muslim-majority countries whose citizens he barred from the U.S. in an executive order Friday.

Iranian Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Hussein Dehqan confirmed the launch but asserted that it didn't contravene the landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers including the U.S.

"We had announced before that we will carry out those programs that we have planned in the field of the production of defense items

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Lavrov Calls for Syria's Return to Arab League

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called Wednesday for Syria's return to the Arab League, saying its membership would allow the organization to help find a political solution to the country's conflict.

"The League could play a more important, more effective role if the Syrian government was part of the organization," Lavrov, whose country is a key ally of the Damascus government and also a broker

in peace efforts, told a press conference in the Emirati capital.

He said Syria was a "legitimate" member of the United Nations and yet "cannot take part in discussions inside the Arab League."

"This does not help our joint (peace) efforts," said Lavrov.

But Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit, speaking at the same press conference, ruled out an early return of Syria to the Cairo-based organization.

Any decision was up to the League's 21 other members, he said, adding that the issue was not on the current agenda and would only be raised when "a political settlement" was in sight for Syria's almost six-year-old war.

The Arab League suspended Syria's membership at the end of 2011 following the breakout of a foreign-backed militancy supported by Persian Gulf monarchies.

Turning to new U.S. President

Donald Trump's proposal of establishing safe zones for refugees in Syria and Yemen, another war-torn Arab nation, Lavrov expressed skepticism.

"The Trump administration still has to work out a concrete approach. The idea of safe zones was studied at the onset of the Syrian crisis, something that would reproduce the sad experience of Libya," he said.

"Everyone understood this when

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