

Condolences on the Martyrdom Anniversary of Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS)

Zarif to Visit New York in Mid-Sept.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif will travel to New York to take part in the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in mid-September, his deputy announced on Wednesday. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht Ravanchi said according to schedule, the foreign minister will pay a trip to New York in coming days to participate in the UN General Assembly and hold talks with his counterparts from other countries. As for President Hassan Rouhani's possible trip to New York to attend the annual event, Takht Ravanchi said it has not been determined yet and will be decided on later.

Kayhan International

Iran's Oil Exports to Asia Up 61%

TOKYO (Dispatches) -- Imports of Iranian oil by four major buyers in Asia in July jumped 61.1% from a year earlier, marking the biggest percentage gain since April 2014, reflecting Tehran's aggressive moves to re-coup market share, lost under sanctions. The four countries, South Korea, Japan, China and India, imported 1.64 million barrels per day (bpd) in July, government and ship-tracking data showed. Japan's trade ministry on Wednesday released official data showing its imports jumped 61.8 percent from a year earlier to 256,651 bpd last month. Imports by South Korea jumped more than fourfold last month, while India's imports more than doubled from a year ago.

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Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

War on Yemen: 10,000 and Counting


Iran Holds Royan Int'l Scientific Festival



Iran's Bank Sarmayeh Wins Asian Championship



20 Killed as Saudi Jets Launch New Airstrikes in Yemen



Martyred in the Prime of Youth

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Delay in repentance is self-deceit, long procrastination is confusion, and it is self-destruction to resort to excuses before Allah while insisting on sins by feeling safe from divine punishment of Allah (*“Do the people of the towns feel secure from Our punishment overtaking them at midday while they are playing around?”* – Holy Qur’an 7:99)

The above words are food for thought. These are not the utterances of any ordinary person. As a matter of fact, these bezels of wisdom were bequeathed to us for our guidance by an Infallible Heir of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), whose tragic martyrdom we commemorate every year on the last day of the month of Zi'l-Qa'dah.

He was martyred through a fatal dose of poisoning in the prime of his youth at the young age of 25 years, by a self-styled caliph who thought that the death of the 9th Imam of the Ahl al-Bayt, would ensure longevity to the rule of the usurper Abbasid regime.

Mu'tasim was utterly wrong and the misdeed he committed in Baghdad in 220 AH, against the person of Imam Muhammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), ensured him a lasting place in the infernal flames of hell, while his rich legacy of his victim is alive and invigorating to this day.

The unpardonable crime of Mu'tasim was committed on the threshold of the annual Hajj pilgrimage to holy Mecca, where every year the 9th Imam was present in the garb of the “Exemplary Pilgrim” to teach the tenets of Islam to visitors from far and near.

Many still vividly remembered the question that a grey-bearded ideologue of the Mu'tazalite sect had posed to Imam Jawad (AS), who was still a beardless boy, having succeeded his father Imam Reza (AS) to divinely-decreed imamate of the Ummah at the age of 8 years – in the manner of the Prophets, John the Baptist (Yahya) and Jesus, regarding whom God says in Surah Mariyam that the former was given the Book and Wisdom when a mere boy, while the latter proclaimed his mission as an infant in the cradle.

Yahya ibn Aktham, on the instructions of the then caliph, Mamoun, had asked: “What is the atonement for a person who hunts a game while he is dressed in the pilgrimage garb (Ehram).”

This question appears quite simple, especially during the Hajj season when every potential pilgrim tries to acquaint himself with the rules before setting off to Mecca circumambulate the Holy Ka'ba, the symbolic House of the Unseen but Omnipresent Lord.

But the questioner had ulterior motives. He intended to ensnare in the intricacies of legal issues what appeared to him a mere boy. However, to the astonishment of the scholar and the whole court, the lad, with composure and wisdom beyond his tender years said:

“Your question is utterly vague and lacks definition. You should first clarify whether the game killed was outside the sanctified area or inside it; whether the hunter was aware of his sin or did so in ignorance; did he kill the game purposely or by mistake; was the hunter a slave or a free man; was he adult or minor, did he commit the sin for the first time or had he done so before; was the hunted game a bird or something else; was it a small animal or a big one; is the sinner sorry for the misdeed or does he insist on it; did he kill it secretly at night or openly during daylight; was he putting on the pilgrimage garb for Hajj or for the Umrah? Unless you clarify and define these aspects, how can you have a definite answer?”

Yahya bin Aktham stuttered and couldn't find any answer to the counter question posed by the boy-Imam. His claim to knowledge shattered before the whole court, he changed his tone and humbly addressed the boy with the words: O' son of the Prophet, you know better.

The admission of inability by the learned doctor of law embarrassed Mamoun and evaporated his dreams of humiliating 9th infallible Heir of the Prophet.

The Imam obliged by saying:

“If he had killed the animal outside the sacred ground and it was winged and large, an atonement of sheep would have been necessary for him. If he had struck it down in the sanctuary, the penalty required of him would be doubled. If he killed a young bird outside the sacred ground, then the atonement of a lamb which had been weaned off milk would have been required of him. If he had killed it in the sanctuary, then he would have been required to sacrifice a lamb and the value of the young bird. As for wild animals, if it was a wild ass, he would have been required to sacrifice a cow. If it was an ostrich, the sacrifice of a camel would be necessary. If it had been a deer, then a sheep would have been necessary. If he had killed any of those in the sanctuary, the penalty would have been doubled.” (Kitab al-Irshad by Mufid)

Imam Jawad (AS) continued to describe the various penalties for the pilgrim in Ehram to the astonishment of the audience.

Mu'tasim remembered this vivid debate held over a dozen years ago, yet he was so blind to the truth that he forced Imam Jawad (AS) to leave Medina on the threshold of the Hajj and come to his capital Baghdad, so as to be under the watchful eyes of the regime.

Once a thief was brought before Mu'tasim, and the jurists in his court gave conflicting verdicts, with some saying that the culprit's hand be severed from the writs, some that it should be cut off from the elbow, while others wanting that the whole arm to be chopped off.

When Mu'tasim turned to the 9th Imam and insisted on his opinion in this regard, the Prophet's rightful successor said that the mode of Islamic punishment for a habitual thief, according to the genuine laws of the shari'a is that only the four fingers (and that too after due warnings) should be severed, leaving the thumb and the palm intact, since the culprit is after all a human being in need of the mercy of the All-Forgiving God and should not be deprived of the correct way to pray, which requires the touching of 7 organs to the ground including the palms.

After this wise and rational judgement, the malice of the caliph and the court-mullahs increased, and they plotted the murder of Imam Jawad (AS) through poisoning, ignorant of the fact that long after the Abbasids have passed into oblivion, the 9th Imam who reposes in eternal peace beside his grandfather Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS) in the magnificent gold-plated twin-domed mausoleum will continue to rule the hearts and minds of believers all over the world from his sanctuary in Baghdad.

Leader: No Limit to Boosting Defense Power



Ayatollah Khamenei observes latest defense achievements showcased at an exhibition held by Defense Ministry in Tehran, Aug. 31, 2016.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday said Iran considers development of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), including nuclear and chemical weapons, as redline for its defense program.**

The Leader made the remarks addressing a group of top officials and specialists of Iran's Ministry of Defense after touring an exhibition of the achievements of Iran's defense industries.

“Under conditions when bully-

ing world powers have spread their umbrella of power and no mercy is seen in them and openly attack marriage ceremonies and hospitals on the pretext of fighting against terrorism, killing hundreds of innocent people without being accountable to any organization or institution, Iran's defensive capability and power must be increased so that bullying powers would feel threatened,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader added that Iran considers limitations for developing

its defense industries and considers building nuclear and chemical weapons prohibited on the basis of its ideological beliefs.

“Apart from these limitations, there is no limitation in other fields for increasing our defense and military capability and progress in these fields is a duty,” the Leader said, adding that to preserve the country's security and future of the nation, “in addition to defensive capability, offensive capability should be also bolstered.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the

Leader of the Islamic Revolution said the U.S. government is not morally qualified to pass judgment on the Islamic Republic, noting that this includes both the ruling Democrat Party and its rival, the Republican Party.

The Leader said “creation of dangerous terrorist networks” was the “biggest sin” committed by the party that supports the incumbent U.S. administration, adding, “The existing government of America apparently attacks one terrorist group, but excludes another terrorist group, which means that politics is governing ethics.”

Saying that the former U.S. administration was also responsible for crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, Ayatollah Khamenei concluded that “none of the two dominant parties in America is preferable over the other in terms of moral competence.”

Ayatollah Khamenei continued by saying, “We are faced with such government in America and it would be a mistake to think that we can reach understanding and common grounds with them through negotiations.”

“This is why I insist on the necessity of not negotiating with America and experience has proven that instead of understanding, Americans are trying to impose their demands through negotiations, a prominent example of which was the recent developments regarding Iran's nuclear deal.”

Saudi Arabia Facing Financial Time Bomb

LONDON (Dispatches) -- **Saudi Arabia's drastic measures to alleviate its cash crunch through loosening lending rules and direct money injections are reportedly doing little to solve the country's worst financial crisis in years.**

Lower oil prices and the kingdom's war on Yemen have been hitting Saudi Arabia's economy hard, with the country running large budget deficits of 20% of the GDP.

The government has been drawing on its currency reserves, with the International Monetary Fund estimating that the Saudis will run out of those reserves in less than five years and then go deeply into debt.

Last year, Saudi Arabia's foreign reserves fell to \$640 billion from \$737 billion in 2014. This year, Riyadh's huge budget deficit is expected to reach \$87 billion.

The predicament is reflected in the new rulers' adventurist policies, prioritizing “guns over butter” as the military has got the largest allocation in the new budget at

\$56.7 billion, accounting for 25% of the total.

Oil sales account for almost 88% of the country's revenues. The crude price crisis has forced Saudi rulers to cut spending and arrange their first sale of international bonds.

In 2015, the kingdom opened its stocks to direct foreign investment in order to lure funds from overseas but foreign investors now own just one percent of outstanding shares in the \$400 billion Tadawul Stock Exchange.

The failure has prompted Saudi rulers to resort to more drastic measures, planning to sell shares in the world's richest company, Aramco.

While the authorities are struggling to find an effective way to boost liquidity, experts say money injection is just being pulled back out by the monthly government bond issues.

The country raised \$26 billion from bond sales to domestic institutions last year. That figure is

(Continued on Page 7)

Germans Say U.S. Blocking Trade With Iran

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) -- German companies hoped the opening of Iran's economy following the lifting of sanctions in January would let them rekindle longstanding commercial ties and quickly strike gold.

Despite a jump in exports, the results have left Germans disappointed, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

Soon after world powers last summer signed a deal to lift economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, German business delegations started visiting Iran. Even before sanctions were officially lifted in January, Germans sought local distributors and prepared to resume trade.

Other European delegations followed but expectations were particularly high that German-Iranian business ties would flourish. Some German firms never fully retreated from Iran, even when sanctions were toughest.

German multinationals including

engineering conglomerate Siemens AG have announced plans for large industrial projects in Iran.

In the first six months of this year, German exports to Iran climbed 15%, to €1.13 billion (\$1.26 billion), according to the German Federal Statistical Office. Germany's worldwide exports during the period totaled €603.2 billion.

But many German business and government leaders had predicted the lifting of sanctions on Iran would trigger a bonanza for their industrial firms, which want to sell Iran equipment to help rebuild its aging infrastructure.

Disappointed Germans are now blaming the shortfall primarily on remaining U.S. prohibitions on some transactions with Iran.

“The development lags behind our expectations by far, because of the (U.S.) sanctions still in place,” said Gregor Wolf, director of European and international affairs at the Federation of German Wholesale Foreign Trade and Services.

(Continued on Page 7)