

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran’s consulate general in Erbil, the capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, on Sunday condemned a recent act of aggression against the premises and said the incident was politically motivated. “On Friday evening, when the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran was closed, some individuals who had political motives made an act of aggression against the Iranian mission in Erbil,” it said in a statement. “Undoubtedly, such moves have nothing to do with the honorable people of Erbil, who remember the brave battle of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces against the Daesh terrorist group,” it added.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A number of Iranian jurists and lawyers called on the United Nations secretary general to push for an end to the ongoing military crackdown and ethnic violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, 70 Iranian jurists asked him to take practical action to address the plight of Myanmar Muslims and do something beyond an expression of concern. Citing Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Iranian lawyers urged Guterres to show “practical and genuine” support for the persecuted Muslim people.

Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Alarming Rise in US Meddling in Southeast Asia

The Lasting Legacy of Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS)

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Indeed Allah chose Adam and Noah, and the progeny of Abraham and the progeny of Imran above all the nations.” (Holy Qur’an 3:33) The words of God Almighty are proof of divine guidance for mankind to avoid the pitfalls of disbelief and satanic temptations, by proceeding on the straight and unwavering path of those who have been chosen by the All-Wise Creator to lead the faithful to perfection of belief in life and the bliss of paradise in afterlife.

If Adam is the Father of the human race, the majority of the children of Adam trace their lineage to Noah in whose era three-fourth of all mankind was wiped out by the Great Deluge because of the grave sins of those who had deviated from the path of the Chosen of God. Prophet Abraham was a towering monotheist and the All-Merciful after testing him through various tribulations from which he emerged with flying colours every time (whether the huge blaze lit by Nimrod, whether the sacrifice of his firstborn son Ishmael, whether the rebuilding of the holy Ka’ba), granted him imamate or leadership of mankind, with clear emphasis that this divine trust will not be the prerogative of the unjust. It is obvious that of the hundreds of Prophets that emerged from the offspring of Abraham, the pride of place goes to Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) as the Last and Greatest Messenger with the universal message of Islam.

At the end of his 23-year mission the Seal of Messengers, on the express commandments of God, proclaimed his dear cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali (AS) as vicegerent.

Here an important point worth noting is that the real name of Imam Ali’s (AS) father, who is famous through his agnomen (*kunya*) of Abu Taleb, was Imran, which was also the name of the father of the Virgin Mary (SA).

Now we understand the emphasis of the above-mentioned ayah on the “progeny of Imran”.

If Prophet Jesus (AS) as the Israelite Imran’s only grandson did not marry nor leave any offspring, the Ishmaelite Imran (Abu Taleb), who was also a direct descendant of Prophet Abraham, was granted by God Almighty Twelve Divinely-Designated Imams.

Since today, the 3rd of Safar, according to a narration, is the birth anniversary of Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS), the 5th of the Twelve Infallible Successors of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), here we present a famous hadith from this great personality, whose birthday we do not celebrate, as a mark of respect for the tragic martyrdom Imam Husain (AS) in Karbala on the Day of Ashura (10th Muharram 61 AH).

Imam Baqer (AS) who says: **“My grandfather was killed while I was four years of age. Indeed, I remember his martyrdom and what befell us during that time,”** has explicitly informed the faithful through the Prophet’s companion Jaber ibn Abdullah al-Ansari of an important narration.

The narration says that when Imam Husain (AS) was born and Jaber went to the Prophet’s daughter to offer felicitations, he saw a scroll in the hands of Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), the Noblest Lady of all times. When he asked her about the scroll he was told, “In it are the names of the leaders and Imams from among my offspring.”

In another version of this hadith, she is quoted as saying: “This is a tablet that the Almighty and Glorious Allah gave to His Messenger, and there are in it the names of my father, my husband, two sons, and the names of the successors from among my offspring. My father gave it to me to make me delighted.”

Jaber says when he was allowed to have a glance he found the exact names of all Twelve Infallible Imams, beginning with Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) and ending with the Awaited Saviour of humanity, Imam Mahdi (AS), along with the names of their mothers.

Now we better understand the position of Imam Baqer (AS) and his 19-year mission, during which he bequeathed to the faithful the keys of faith.

As part of the lasting legacy of the 5th Imam, who was born in 57 AH and was descended on both sides from the Prophet, is the famous Ziyarat Ashura, which the faithful punctually recite and in which he expresses the following phrases.

“O Allah, this day (Muharram 10) was celebrated as an auspicious occasion by the Omayyads and the son of her (Hind) who ate the livers of the martyrs, the accursed son of the one cursed by You and Your Prophet (SAWA)... O Allah, curse Abu Sufyan, Mu’awiyah, and Yazid son of Mu’awiyah; may Your curse be on them forever and ever.”

Iranian Photographer Wins UNIC Tokyo Photo Contest



Iran Water Polo Team Into FINA Tournament Final



‘U.S. Wiped Syria’s Raqqa off Face of Earth’



Tillerson on Mission Impossible in Mideast



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson steps off his plane as he arrives at King Salman Air Base in Riyadh, October 21, 2017.

RIYADH (Dispatches) -- Top U.S. diplomat Rex Tillerson pursued efforts to curb what Western media described as Iran’s influence in talks with Persian Gulf allies Sunday, but there was scant hope of a breakthrough in attempts to reconcile Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

As well as talks with senior Saudi officials in Riyadh including King Salman, Tillerson attended a landmark meeting between Saudi Arabia and Iraq “aimed at upgrading strategic ties between the Arab neighbors.”

The meeting appears aimed at boosting Saudi Arabia’s clout in

Iraq, part of a wider regional battle for influence that extends from Syria to Yemen, AFP said.

Tillerson’s visit comes just weeks after President Donald Trump refused to certify the Iran nuclear deal, leaving its fate to the U.S. Congress, and laid out an aggressive new strategy against Tehran in a bellicose speech.

“This event highlights the strength and breadth as well as the great potential of the relations between your countries,” Tillerson said at the first meeting of the joint Saudi-Iraqi coordination council in Riyadh.

Following years of tensions with

Riyadh, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi hailed the meeting as an “important step toward enhancing relations,” while King Salman warned of the dangers of “extremism, terrorism, as well as attempts to destabilize our countries.”

However, history, religion and lots of politics stand in the way. Iraq has frequently complained of Saudi Arabia’s support for terrorist groups which have wreaked havoc in the country for years.

Iran has also been at the heart of the diplomatic conflict between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with Tillerson headed to Doha later Sunday for

talks on defusing the crisis between two key U.S. allies.

Shortly before leaving Riyadh for Doha, Tillerson told reporters that Iraq had to distance itself from Iran.

“We believe this will in some ways counter some of the unproductive influences of Iran inside of Iraq,” he said at a news conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir after participating in the inaugural meeting of the Saudi Arabia-Iraq Coordination Council with Salman and Abadi.

Iraqi leaders have repeatedly said if Iran had not rushed weapons and military advisors to the Arab country when the U.S. and its allies refused to help, Baghdad would have fallen to Daesh.

Referring to volunteer militia groups in Iraq, Tillerson said: “Those fighters need to go home. Any foreign fighters need to go home.”

He was apparently referring to Hashd al-Sha’abi fighters who are Iraqi and have been key to Iraq’s capture of many villages, towns and cities from Daesh.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut ties with Qatar and imposed an embargo in June, accusing it of supporting terrorism and cozying up to Iran.

Doha denies the charges and has rejected their terms for a settlement.

Tillerson made an unsuccessful attempt to resolve the dispute during a trip to the region in July.

Trump, after initially appearing to support the effort to isolate Qatar, has called for mediation and recently

(Continued on Page 7)

Russia: Iran Not Obligated to Allow Military Inspections

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- A senior Russian diplomat on Sunday dismissed calls for an extension of UN inspections into Iran’s military sites, saying the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no authority to carry out such a task.

“I would like to say absolutely clear and directly that acquiring some false topicality on the theme of the IAEA work on Section T of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action over the Iran nuclear program has no topicality for us although it is a talking point now,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

Section T of the JCPOA bans any development activity by Iran on nuclear weapons technology and restricts dual-use items that could be used to research warhead design. Iran has repeatedly said that it does not possess or seek nuclear arms.

The high-ranking Russian diplomat said IAEA could not be tasked with carrying out inspections of Iran’s military sites, “because Sec-

tion T highlights the issues of the agency’s competence.”

However, he added that some P5+1 parties prefer to “call black white and vice versa...We cannot get them to understand this evident logic and obvious truth.”

“Since they are insisting, we say if you cannot do without discussions on the theme, it should be raised at the Joint Commission when the next session is convened,” Ryabkov noted.

The Russian deputy foreign minister expressed his country’s readiness to discuss the issue with other signatories to the JCPOA and announce Moscow’s stance.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China – plus Germany signed the nuclear agreement on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016.

Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear

(Continued on Page 7)

U.S.-Led Militants Seize Syrian Oil Fields

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – U.S.-backed Kurdish militants said they captured a major oil field in Dayr al-Zawr province on Sunday, pressing their offensive in eastern Syria which has raised fears of a confrontation with government troops.

The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said its fighters took al-Omar field on the eastern bank of the Euphrates river in the early hours.

With the support of airstrikes and special forces from the U.S., the SDF has been rushing to gain as much as territory as possible in oil-rich Dayr al-Zawr, bordering Iraq. The group has been focused on territory east of the river, which bisects the province.

Al-Omar oil field lies about 10km north of the town of al-Mayadin, which government troops and their allies took earlier this month. The town had turned into a major base for Daesh after they left Raqqa under a deal with U.S.-backed mili-

itants.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Daesh terrorists who had withdrawn from the oil field mounted a counter-attack overnight against government forces. The militants made some gains around al-Mayadin, the Britain-based monitor said.

A Syrian military source denied this, saying there was no significant attack and fighting raged on at the same pace.

Any attack by Daesh there was a “desperate attempt,” the source said. “The Syrian Arab Army is attacking, hitting Daesh positions ... and advancing,” the source said.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday a transition can soon begin to set conditions for the administration of Syria now that the end of Daesh “caliphate is in sight” with the fall of Raqqa.

“We will soon transition into a new phase in which we will support

(Continued on Page 7)