

Minister: Iran's Defense Exports Rise

TEHRAN -- Iran's defense minister said Wednesday there has been a significant increase in production and export of defense equipment despite harsh economic sanctions on the country.

"Production and export of defense equipment ... have seen a three- and five-fold increase [respectively] compared to last year," Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani said. There has been "considerable growth" in all aspects of the defense ministry, he said, adding that the ministry has been putting efforts to meet the growing requirements of the country's armed forces.

Kayhan International



Emergency State in Kouhrang After Heavy Snowfall

TEHRAN -- Iranian officials have declared an emergency state in the western city of Kouhrang after heavy snow buried houses.

Iran's Meteorological Organization announced that the total height of snow that has fallen in the city has reached 222 centimeters. The snow fall is forecast to continue until Thursday. Images coming out of the cities show buildings are disappearing under the snow.

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Thursday, February 16, 2023, Bahman 27, 1401, Rajab 25, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Terrorism is Synonymous With the US

UN Experts Detail Inhuman Impact of U.S. Sanctions on Iran



FIFA Confirms Canada, Mexico, U.S. Automatically in '26 WCup



Palestinian Prisoners Begin Mass Disobedience in Zionist Jails



The Martyrdom of Guidance

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Indeed, God has two authorities over the people; an apparent one and a hidden one. His apparent authority are the Apostles, Prophets and Imams; and the concealed authority is the intellect of the people."

The above words are food for thought. They clearly point out to the proper paths of guidance. These dynamic words are indeed a safeguard against the pitfalls that the devil has set up to trap the children of Adam and distance them from both the apparent and concealed authorities, through such deviated elements as kings, presidents, prime ministers, dictators, and even pseudo caliphs and similar scholars, as well as the mindless pursuit of carnal pleasures.

Today we are commemorating the martyrdom anniversary of the person who presented to us such pearls of perfection. He was the Imam or Divinely-Designated Leader of his age, and achieved immortal martyrdom on this day, the 25th of Rajab, as a result of the poisoning of his food in prison on the orders a tyrannical self-styled caliph.

Born in 128 AH in Abwa between the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, he was the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and was named "Musa" in honour of another Prophet - Arabic for Moses.

During the 35 years of his imamate that coincided with the reigns of four Pharaohs of the usurper Abbasid regime - Mansour Dawaniqi, Mahdi al-Abbasi, Hadi al-Abbasi, and Haroun ar-Rasheed - he displayed such remarkable patience in controlling his emotions that he is known till this day as "Kazem".

If his God-given knowledge was a byword amongst the people, his wisdom exceeded that of Prophet Solomon, and so dedicated was he in worship that he acquired the epithet "Abd Saleh" (most pious servant of God).

In addition, he has been immortalized as "Bab al-Hawa'ej" (Gateway of Boons), a title by which he is addressed universally by one and all from all over the world, who reverently bow towards his holy shrine in Kazemayn, the northeastern suburb of Baghdad, where no traces remain of the magnificent palaces built by his assassin, Haroun Rasheed.

Once, Haroun, in trying to show off to Imam Kazem (AS) his pomp and ill-accumulated wealth, pointed to a newly built palace and asked him about the owner of such a majestic building. The Imam without being the least impressed said: "this is the home of a corrupt person. It is about such people that God says in the Qur'an (7:146):

"Soon I shall turn away from My signs those who are unduly arrogant in the earth: [even] though they should see every sign, they will not believe in it, and if they see the way of rectitude they will not take it as [their] way, and if they see the way of error they will take it as [their] way. That is because they deny Our signs and are oblivious to them."

At the recitation of these words of God, the self-styled caliph became so incensed that he lost his composure. This was not the only instance when the boastful Haroun had lost face vis-à-vis the Prophet's rightful successor. Another famous encounter between the two took place in Medina at the Prophet's shrine, where to deceive the people Haroun saluted the sacred tomb with the words: Greetings to you O Messenger of God; greetings to you O Cousin."

Soon Imam Musa Kazem (AS) entered the holy shrine and saluted the Prophet's tomb with the words: "Greetings to you O Messenger of God; greetings to you O Grandfather."

The tyrant was dumbfounded and left in rage, since the people will begin to ask "when the direct descendant of the Prophet is present in our midst, who is this so-called cousin to rule the Muslim realm."

Soon Haroun devised a plan, and after kidnapping the Imam, arranged two canopied litters atop a string of camels, sending one in the direction of Baghdad and the other in the direction of Basra, so as to keep prevent possible intervention by the people in support of the Imam.

To be brief, the 7th Imam was confined to the house of the governor of Basra, who, however, refused to do any harm to the Prophet's venerable descendant.

Haroun then had the Imam transferred to Baghdad to the custodianship of Fadhl ibn Rabi', who also treated Imam Kazem (AS) with respect.

The usurper went mad with rage and ordered the flogging of Fadhl ibn Rabi'. He then gave charge of the Prophet's heir to the despicable Sindi bin Shahik, who finally on the orders of Haroun poisoned the Imam's food. As a result, after three days of writhing in pain, Imam Musa Kazem (AS) achieved martyrdom on the 25th of Rajab 183 AH (799 AD).

Today, it is the sprawling twin-domed gold-plated shrine of Kazemayn that majestically towers over the former Abbasid capital, Baghdad, with both Sunnis and Shi'ite Muslims saluting the Prophet's 7th Infallible Heir at the sight of the mausoleum, and reverently bowing towards it, despite the bomb blasts that are often triggered by dastardly terrorists.

As for the tyrant Haroun, his rotten bones lie at the feet of the son of his victim in Mashhad, Khorasan, where pilgrims to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), invoke the curse of God upon the tyrannical caliph, while sending blessings on Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and the Infallible Ahl al-Bayt.

Leader: 22 Bahman Rallies This Year Were Historic



Ayatollah Khamenei meets a group of Azeri visitors from northwestern city of Tabriz in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday greatly admired the Iranian nation for their "historic" turnout in this year's mass rallies to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

"This real, passionate and meaningful epic is the result of the nation's persistence and not getting deviated from the path of the Revolution," he told a group of Azeri visitors from northwestern city of Tabriz.

"This path of progress and power

will continue with national unity and with a revolutionary perspective toward problems, that is, relying on the efforts that brought about the achievements of the Revolution," the Leader said.

The Leader further hailed the people's "invaluable" presence during 22 Bahman rallies despite the enemies' massive propaganda campaign, the problems faced by the people, the cold weather and other discouraging factors.

"People with faith and insight ignored all these and came together

from east to west and from north to south of beloved Iran and raised their voice so that everyone could hear," he said, adding that only God is able to really appreciate this great national movement.

He referred to "the nation's historic Saturday" as an example of the continuation of national persistence and once again drew comparisons between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and other revolutions which gradually deviated from their ideals, saying, "In the Islamic Revolution, too, some people

turned away from the direct path of the Revolution due to various reasons, and they eventually acted against the principles and ideals of the Revolution."

"Contrary to these elements, the nation continued the straight path without feeling fatigued and despair and without fearing the enemy's blows, threats and screams, while preserving its identity, character and greatness," he said. "In this path, [the nation] came to the streets across the entire country on 22 Bahman of this year and, with different motivations, showed its meaningful perseverance and stubbornness against the enemy."

The Leader pointed out that the enemy and some elements inside the country are making efforts to weaken the determination of the Iranian nation in an attempt to make the people forget the path of the Revolution.

"One of the important goals of the autumn riots was to make the people forget the 22nd of Bahman. Inside the country, some were following the same line in the newspapers and on social media with weak arguments and incorrect statements. The people, however, disappointed them," he added.

The people's attendance and analysis were some of the characteristics of the magnificent 22nd of Bahman rally that the Leader applauded. "It was clear from people's interviews that they attended

(Continued on Page 7)

President Raisi: New World Order Taking Shape

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- President Ebrahim Raisi said here Wednesday a new world order with Asia as its epicenter is taking shape and replacing the previous one.

Addressing students, professors and academic personnel from Peking University, Raisi highlighted the importance of China in the emerging world order.

"A new world is forming and taking the place of the older one. The new world requires an up-to-date order in which real multilateralism, maximum synergy, solidarity and dissociation from unilateralism will thrive more than ever, and a fair and just order will accordingly emerge," he said.

He said Asia lies at the center of the emerging global developments, stressing that protecting and promoting peace throughout the vast continent is not only a matter of choice but an absolute necessity.

Raisi noted that Iran's military prowess and regional capabilities are directed at preserving peace

and stability in other countries and will only be employed to counter threats from hegemonic powers.

"Among the Islamic Republic of Iran's strategic achievements is its triumph over transnational challenges such as terrorism and extremism in West Asia," the Iranian president said.

Raisi also hailed the age-old relations between Tehran and Beijing, saying that China joined the international community through the ancient Silk Road, and Iran provided a fertile ground for the progress and welfare stemming from the trade route.

"Not only did the Silk Road facilitate trade and cooperation among different nations as the most important route, but it also served as a cultural bond and connected different societies together throughout history," he added.

Raisi went on to hail China's Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing that Iran and China, with the revival of this initiative in the

(Continued on Page 7)

Hopes Fade for Survivors in Turkey, Syria Quakes

KAHRAMANMARAS, Turkey/JANDARIS, Syria (Reuters) -- Two women were pulled from the rubble in Turkey's southern city of Kahramanmaras on Wednesday, even as hopes to find survivors from last week's devastating earthquake dwindled and the focus switched to giving survivors some relief.

Rescuers could be seen applauding and embracing each other in a video posted to social media as an ambulance carried away a 74-year-old woman rescued after more than nine days trapped in rubble.

Earlier in the day, a 46-year-old woman was rescued in the same city, close to the epicenter of the quake.

The combined death toll in Turkey and Syria has climbed over 41,000, and millions are in need over humanitarian aid, with many survivors having been left homeless in near-freezing winter temperatures. Rescues are now few and far between.

In hard-hit Kahramanmaras, where the earthquake forced hun-

dreds of families to live in tents erected in a stadium in freezing temperatures, empty buildings with their walls ripped open showed the power of the earthquake.

With much of the region's sanitation infrastructure damaged or rendered inoperable by the earthquakes, health authorities face a daunting task in trying to ensure that survivors now remain disease-free.

"We haven't been able to rinse off since the earthquake," said Muhammad Emin, a 21-year-old graphic design student, as he carried flu medicine from the clinic of the city's open-air stadium.

Batyr Berdyklychev, the World Health Organization's representative in Turkey, has warned that the water shortage in quake-hit areas "increases the risk of waterborne diseases and outbreaks of communicable diseases."

The government encouraged people to go back home, if and when authorities have deemed their building

(Continued on Page 7)