

TEHRAN -- The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Tuesday the military force is ready to share its experience in the field of cyber, intelligence and electronic warfare with the Syrian armed forces. "The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is ready for training cooperation with the Syrian armed forces, including in the courses of command and staff, advanced courses of war strategies and military branches as well as to promote other specialized departments while adhering to the previous agreements," Major General Hussein Salmi told Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas. (Continued on Page 7)



TEHRAN — A Tanzanian cargo ship sank Tuesday in a jetty in the southern Iranian port of Assaluyeh, reports said.

The official IRNA news agency said the vessel named Anil overturned because containers on it were configured incorrectly at the port's dock No. 9. The port has more than two dozen piers. IRNA said rescue teams transferred the ship's crew to safety. The port is the main hub for shipment of gas and petrochemicals produced in Iran and is located about 940 kilometers south of the capital Tehran.

Viewpoint

Indomitable IRGC Unscathed by any Enemy Resolutions

President Pledges Iran's Support for Syria's Reconstruction



Iran Table Tennis Player Gets Silver in France



Islamic Jihad Warns of Imminent Confrontation With Zionist Regime



Faith and Hypocrisy Defined

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"He who obeys you has in fact obeyed Allah; he who disobeys you has in fact disobeyed Allah; he who loves you has in fact loved Allah; he who hates you has in fact hated Allah..."

The above passage is from the famous **"Ziyarat-al-Jame'at-al-Kabira"**, which begins with the phrases: **"Peace upon you, O the Household of Prophethood, Location of the Divine Mission; Descent of Angels; Abode of Revelation..."**

It is indeed an excellent description of the pivotal position in the world of creation of the Infallible Ahl al-Bayt or the Blessed Household of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA). God Almighty Himself has vouchsafed the spotless purity of this group in the Holy Qur'an (33:33) and commanded Muslims to adhere to their path.

This famous **"Ziyarah"** or standard form of salutation comprehensively dwells on the fundamentals of faith, the bounties of the world bestowed on all creation, and the eternal bliss of paradise promised to the true believers.

It was bequeathed to us by the 10th Infallible Heir of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind, Imam Ali **"an-Naqi"** (the Pure), whose martyrdom we commemorate every year on the 3rd of the sacred month of Rajab.

Known also as **"al-Hadi"** or the Divinely-Inspired Guide, he needs no introduction.

Born in 212 AH (828 AD) in Medina, he lived at a critical period of history when hypocrites masquerading as Muslims had distorted the teachings of the Prophet and emptied Islam of its spiritual contents. These charlatans, in order to justify the rule of the usurpers and imposters who posed as caliphs, although neither any Ayah of the Holy Qur'an supported their claim to leadership nor any Hadith of the Seal of Messengers, tried to keep away the masses from the Ahl al-Bayt.

In such an atmosphere, the Tenth Imam strove to serve as Barometer of Faith, enduring the hardships imposed by the tyrannical Abbasid regime, including exile from Medina and stay in Samarra in Iraq under virtual house arrest, and at times under imprisonment, so that the genuine teachings of Islam will forever remain alive.

He removed ambiguities, enlightened minds, instilled hearts with faith and inculcated souls with the proper cognizance of the Almighty Creator and the Final Heavenly Scripture, the Holy Qur'an, for universal guidance.

One of the famous statements of the Tenth Imam in this regard is the phrase: **"Iman is that which hearts acknowledge and deeds prove, while Islam is that which tongues testify and marriage becomes lawful with."**

He thus expounded that **"Iman"** or true faith stems from the depth of the heart, while **"Islam"** is verbal expression of submission to the One and Only God and testimony of the mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), even if such a belief has not yet penetrated the heart.

This is evident by Ayah 14 of Surah Hujuraat, where God informs Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) of the dubious beliefs of most of the neo Muslim Arabs:

"The Bedouins say, 'We have faith.' Say (O Prophet to them), 'You do not have faith yet; rather (you should) say, 'We have embraced Islam,' for faith has not yet entered your hearts..."

The holy Qur'an has indeed drawn a permanent line between **"Iman"** (true belief) and the mere claim to be Muslims of those whose hearts have not been touched by true faith, as is evident by their deeds which are against the letter and spirit of Islam.

Thus, the person who spared no efforts to instil **"Iman"** in the hearts of Muslims during his 34-year mission on earth, was victim of those whose hearts were empty of real faith, while they paid mere lip service to Islam in order to deceive the unsuspecting masses.

Imam Hadi (AS), whose period of imamate coincided with the tyrannical rule of Mu'asem (the assassin of the 9th Imam), Waheq, Mutawakkil, Muntasir, Musta'in and Mo'taz, struggled against heavy odds to make Islamic triumphant. His greatest tormentor was Mutawakkil — the most infidel of all Abbasid rulers — who ordered the destruction of the holy shrine of Imam Husain (AS) in Karbala, and in a vain bid to stop pilgrims from visiting the martyrdom place of the Prophet's grandson, subjected them to heavy fines, including amputation of limbs.

Before this tyrant could harm the Prophet's righteous successor, his own son dispatched him to the bowels of hell.

When the powerful Turkic guards installed Mo'taz as the caliph, this wretch whose breast brimmed with blasphemous malice against the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, decided to poison the food of the Imam through his agents. He thought that by cutting short the lifespan of Imam Hadi (AS), he could prolong his own illegal rule.

Due to this cowardly act, the Tenth Imam departed from the mortal world, a martyr, at the age of 42 in 254 AH (868 AD).

Mo'taz, however, was utterly wrong. Soon, in less than a year after the Imam's martyrdom, the Turkic guards who three years earlier had installed him as caliph by removing his cousin, Musta'in, beat and kicked him most humiliatingly to death after exposing him to the torrid sun. They then threw away his corpse to rot. This is the fate of the enemies of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

Today, there is no trace of the graves of the Abbasid caliphs, let alone their palaces, while Imam Hadi (AS) continues to rule the hearts of those endowed with **"Iman"**.

His glorious shrine in Samarra, after due renovations, continues to welcome pilgrims from all over the world despite the dastardly bomb blasts by the Takfiri terrorists and their supposedly Muslim backers, whose hearts are obviously devoid of **"Iman"** and brim with hypocrisy and unbelief, as is evident by their violation of the letter and spirit of the holy Qur'an.

The wordings of the **"Ziyarat-al-Jame'at-al-Kabira"** continue to testify that truth is indeed with the Prophet and his Infallible Ahl al-Bayt, and never with the imposters and the usurpers.

Third Shooting in Eight Days Rocks California

Tragedy Upon Tragedy in U.S.



A police SWAT team opens the door of a van outside the site in Torrance, California, where the alleged suspect in the mass shooting in which 10 people were killed in Monterey Park, California, was believed to be holed up.

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. (Reuters) -- Just two days after a gunman killed 11 people at a Los Angeles-area dance studio, seven more victims were shot dead in an agricultural area near San Francisco, as California suffered one of its bloodiest spates of mass gun violence in decades.

Authorities said they had not identified the motive for either of the rampages. The attacks seemed especially baffling in part because the suspects in each were men of retirement age, much older than is

typical for perpetrators of deadly mass shootings that have become numbingly routine in the United States.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said he was visiting wounded survivors from Saturday night's massacre in the Los Angeles suburb of Monterey Park when he was informed of Monday's killings in northern California.

"Tragedy upon tragedy," Newsom wrote on Twitter.

Otherwise, the back-to-back shootings appeared to have little in

common.

The latest gun carnage struck the coastal town of Half Moon Bay, about 30 miles south of San Francisco, where a gunman opened fire on groups of farm workers at two locations about a mile apart, leaving a total of seven dead and one badly wounded, then fled.

The accused gunman, identified as Chunli Zhao, 67, was taken into custody a short time later after he was found sitting in his vehicle, parked outside a sheriff's station, where authorities said they believe

he had come to turn himself in.

A semi-automatic handgun was found in his car, San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus told an evening news conference.

Corpus said the suspect, who was "fully cooperating" with investigators following his arrest, had worked at one of the two crime scenes. She described the sites as agricultural "nurseries," where some of the workers also lived. Local media reported one site was a mushroom farm.

President Joe Biden said in a statement on Tuesday that he was briefed by his homeland security team on the shooting in Half Moon Bay and has directed his administration to ensure local authorities have support from the federal government.

"Even as we await further details on these shootings, we know the scourge of gun violence across America requires stronger action," he said, calling on Congress to reintroduce a federal assault weapons ban.

In a separate Bay-area incident on Monday evening that drew far less attention, one person was killed and seven wounded in a "shooting between several individuals" in Oakland, police reported, in circumstances suggesting a case of gang violence. Police gave few details, but said the surviving victims had all gotten themselves to area hospitals.

(Continued on Page 7)

Ukraine Corruption Scandal: Top Officials Quit

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A high-level shakeup in the Ukrainian government cost nearly a dozen senior officials their jobs, as the country's president sought Tuesday to root out entrenched corruption.

The crackdown came as Poland formally requested permission from Germany to transfer a modest number of its Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine. Germany builds the high-tech armor and Warsaw needs Berlin's permission to send them to a non-NATO country.

In Kyiv, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office quit after President Volodymyr Zelensky pledged to address high-level corruption allegations — including some related to specific wartime spending — that have embarrassed authorities and could slow the country's bids to join the European Union and NATO.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko asked to be relieved of his duties, according to an online copy of a decree signed by Zelensky and Tymoshenko's own social media posts. Neither gave a reason for the res-

ignation.

Deputy Defense Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, local media reported, alleging his departure was linked to a scandal involving the purchase of food for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Deputy Prosecutor General Oleksiy Symonenko quit, too.

In all, four deputy ministers and five regional governors were set to leave their posts, the country's cabinet secretary said on the Telegram messaging app.

The departures thinned the government's wartime ranks as Zelensky had already lost his Interior Minister, who oversaw Ukraine's police and emergency services, and the rest of the ministry's leadership in a helicopter crash last week.

With Western allies channeling billions of dollars to help Kyiv's fight against Moscow, Zelensky had pledged to weed out corruption which some observers have described as endemic. Zelensky

(Continued on Page 7)

Spain in Emergency Over Murders of Women

MADRID (Guardian) -- The Spanish government has called a second emergency meeting of domestic violence experts in less than a month after the murders of six women and a young girl since the start of January, and as it considers a plan to let abused women know if their partners have been convicted of violent offences.

The crisis committee was last assembled after the murders of 11 women in December.

On Monday, a 45-year-old woman and her eight-year-old daughter were murdered in the north-western Spanish province of Valladolid. Their killings came five days after a 38-year-old woman was murdered in the Catalan province of Lleida.

The latest deaths bring the number of women murdered by their partners or ex-partners to 1,188 since 2003, when the government began recording such murders. Over the same period, 49 children have been murdered in domestic violence attacks. In 2022, 49 women were killed by their partner or

ex-partner, while 43 women died in such attacks in 2021.

"So far this January, six women and an eight-year-old girl have been murdered by sexist violence," Spain's equality minister, Irene Montero, tweeted on Monday afternoon.

Faced with a sharp increase in such murders, Spain's Socialist-led government is studying proposals that would permit the authorities to inform women who are victims of domestic violence of their partners' previous convictions.

However, Spain's public prosecutor for violence against women has warned that such warnings could not be issued "automatically or in a generalized way", adding that the specific circumstances of each case would need to be considered.

Last month, the government called on courts and prosecutors to step up the use of electronic bracelets to help protect women whose former partners were subject to restraining orders.

(Continued on Page 7)