

Shiraz Court Sentences Two Terrorists to Death

TEHRAN -- An Iranian court on Saturday handed out death sentences to two men over their involvement in a deadly terrorist attack last October on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern city of Shiraz.

Judiciary chief of Fars province Kazem Moussavi said the two main culprits of the terrorist attack were convicted of assisting in corruption on earth, armed rebellion and acting against national security. They were directly involved in the arming, procurement, logistics and guidance of the main perpetrator of the terrorist attack, he said.

Kayhan International



VOL NO: LV 11944 TEHRAN / Est. 1959

Sunday, March 19, 2023, Esfand 28, 1401, Sha'ban 26, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Spectacular Achievements of the Year 1401

President Raisi Hails Spirit of Progress in Iran



Iran Vollyballers to Compete in Pool A for Paris Olympic Games



Palestinian Martyred by Zionist Troops in West Bank



Blessed Coincidence of New Year & the Month of Fasting

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Ya Moqallab al-Qoloub wa'l-Absaar;
"Ya Modabber al-Layl wa'n-Nahaar;
"Ya Mohawwel al-Howl wa'l-Ahwaal;
"Hawwil Halana ila Ahsan il-Haal."

Rendered into English the above passage means:

"O Transformer of Hearts and Eyes;
"O Regulator of Day and Night;
"O Rotator of Time and Situation;

"Change our state to the most excellent of Situation."

This supplication will echo throughout the length and breadth of the Islamic Republic of Iran and beyond its geographical and political borders at 00:54:28 hours sharp local time a little past midnight (early hours of Tuesday March 21), as Iranians and all those peoples and nations of the region observing the solar hijri calendar, usher in the New Year 1402 (21:24:28 GMT Monday).

We felicitate our readers in advance on the auspicious coincidence of Nowruz or the Spring Equinox with the blessed fasting month of Ramadhan which starts this year two days later (probably Thursday) when the spiritual banquet is spread out by God Almighty for all believers.

Iran wishes peace and progress for all its neighbours, including those which traditionally celebrate Nowruz, such as the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Subcontinent, Turkey, Iraq, the Levant, and the Balkans.

The Spring Equinox and the celebrations of Nowruz, whatever the pre-historic past, is the handwork of the One and Only Creator of the universe. It is for this very reason that the New Day of Spring is celebrated in the Islamic Republic as a manifestation of the Glory of God with prayers, especially the supplication for hastening of the reappearance of the Redeemer of mankind, Imam Mahdi (AS) and his global government of peace, prosperity, and justice.

Most of the faithful try to be present at the exact time of the start of the New Year in the holy shrines of the descendants of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) that dot Iran, in Mashhad and Qom in particular.

The shrine of the Prophet's 8th Infallible Heir, Imam Reza (AS) is all prepared to host some ten million pilgrims during the Nowruz holidays.

Interestingly, a hadith from Imam Reza (AS) reads that once on the advent of Ramadhan, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) delivered the following sermon:

"O People! The month of Allah has come with its mercies, blessings and forgiveness. Allah has decreed this month the best of all months; its days the best of all days, its nights the best of all nights and its hours the best of all hours. It is the month in which He has invited you (to fast and pray); He has honoured you in it. Every breath you take in it has the reward of tasbih (praise of Allah); your sleep is worship, your good deeds are accepted and your invocations answered. Therefore, you must invoke your Lord in right earnest with hearts that are free from sin and evil, and pray that Allah may help you to keep fasts, and to recite the Qur'an. Indeed, miserable is the one who is deprived of Allah's forgiveness in this great month. While fasting, visualize the hunger and thirst of the Day of Judgement. Give alms to the poor and the needy. Pay respect to your elders, have sympathy for your youngsters and be kind towards your relatives and kinsmen. Guard your tongue against unworthy words; your eyes from scenes not worth seeing (forbidden sights); and your ears from sounds that should not be heard. Be kind to orphans so that if your children were to become orphans they will also be treated with kindness. Do repent to Allah for your sins and supplicate with raised hands at the times of prayers as these are the best of times, during which Almighty Allah Looks at His servants with mercy; Answers if they supplicate; Responds if they call; Grants if they ask; and Accepts if they entreat.

"O people! You have made your conscience the slave of your desires. Make it free, by invoking Him for forgiveness. Your back is breaking under the heavy load of your sins; so prostrate before Him for long intervals and make it lighter. Do understand fully well that Allah has promised in the Name of His Majesty and Honour that He will not take to task such people who perform the prayers and the prostrations, and that He will guard their bodies against the fire of hell on the Day of Judgement.

"O people! If anybody from amongst you arranges for the iftar (food for ending of fast after sunset) of any believers, then Allah will give the reward as if he/she had set free a slave, and He will forgive previous sins."

When the audience asked: But everybody amongst us does not have the means to do so, the Prophet replied: "Keep yourself away from the fire of hell (by providing iftar), though it may consist of only half a date or even some water, if you have nothing else."

The Prophet, in continuation of his sermon, said: "O people! Anybody who in this month cultivates good manners will walk over the siraat (the bridge leading to Paradise via the rim of hell) on the day when feet will tend to slip. Anybody who in this month may take light work from servants, Allah will make easy his/her accounting, and anybody who does not annoy others in it, Allah will keep him/her safe from His wrath on the Day of Judgement. Whoever respects and treats an orphan with kindness in it, Allah shall look at him/her with kindness on that Day. Anyone who treats well kinsfolk in it, Allah will bestow His Mercy on him/her on the Day of Judgement, while anybody who maltreats kinsfolk in it, Allah will deprive him/her of His Mercy. Whoever offers recommended prayers in it, Allah will save him/her from hell; and whoever observes in it obligatory acts of worship, the reward will be sevenfold for such acts compared to other months. Whoever repeatedly recites salawat (blessings) on me in it Allah will keep the scales of good deeds heavy (on Judgement Day) whilst the scales of others would be tending to lightness. In this month whoever recites an ayah of the Qur'an, the reward will be that of reciting the whole Qur'an in other months.

"O people! The gates of Paradise remain open in this month, do pray to your Lord that they may not be closed for you; while the gates of hell are closed, do pray to your Lord that they may never be opened for you. Satans have been handcuffed, so invoke your Lord not to let them dominate you."

Imam Ali (AS) says: I asked: "O Messenger of Allah, what are the best deeds in this month?" The Prophet replied: "O Aba'l-Hasan, the best of deeds in this month is to be far from what Allah has forbidden."

Anger Spreads After Macron Bypasses Parliament

Protesters Chant 'Revolution' in France



Clashes broke out in Paris and other cities on Saturday and Friday night between riot police in and demonstrators unhappy over pension reform.

PARIS (Dispatches) -- France on Saturday braced for a weekend of protests after a second night of unrest sparked by President Emmanuel Macron imposing an unpopular pension overhaul without a parliament vote.

Police in Paris banned gatherings on the central Place de la Concorde as thousands of demonstrators continue to protest across France.

Protests were under way or planned on Saturday in cities including Bordeaux, Nantes,

Marseille, Brest and elsewhere in Paris after unions called for a determined show of resistance ahead of a ninth day of nationwide industrial action planned for Thursday.

Macron's government on Thursday invoked a controversial executive power to force through the bill by decree, something that is legal under France's constitution.

The move has caused outrage among the political class as well as angry protests in the street, presenting the president with one

of his biggest challenges less than a year into his second and final mandate.

Opposition lawmakers have filed two motions of no confidence in the government to be debated in parliament on Monday afternoon, according to parliamentary sources.

They hope to garner enough support to topple the cabinet and repeal the law to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Unions have called for protests over the weekend ahead of another

day of coordinated nationwide strikes and rallies against the bill on Thursday.

In the central French city of Dijon, protesters burned effigies of Macron.

Thousands of people rallied in Paris opposite parliament on Friday to vent their frustration at the government imposing the reform, despite two months of strikes and demonstrations against the change.

Fires were also lit and crowds chanting 'Revolution!' swarmed on to Place de la Concorde - the largest square in the French capital and the focal point of the protest movement.

Groups of people threw bottles and fireworks at the security forces, who responded by firing tear gas to try to clear the square. Police said they made 61 arrests.

In the southeastern city of Lyon, demonstrators tried to break into a town hall and set fire to the building, said police, who reported 36 arrests.

Opinion polls have shown around two-thirds of French people oppose the reform, which is also to require people to work longer for a full pension.

Critics say the changes are unfair for people who start working at a young age in physically tough jobs, and women who interrupt their careers to raise children.

Protests since mid-January have

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Iran, China, Russia Wrap Up Naval Drills

TEHRAN -- Naval forces of Iran, China and Russia on Saturday wrapped up their joint military exercises, held in the Sea of Oman as part of the three partners' efforts to strengthen trilateral security cooperation.

The maneuvers, officially named "Combined Maritime Security Belt exercise 2023," saw naval forces of Iran's Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) joining those of China and Russia to practice a variety of maritime military operations.

Among other operations, the participants practiced confronting maritime terror activities and responding to fire on vessels.

Iranian Navy chief Shahram Iranian said friendly and allied countries had been invited to join the maneuvers since last year, and some of them responded to attend as observers to the drills.

These countries will be joining the next round of the drills next year, said the Navy commander, adding, "We expect that the number of the participating states and

vessels will increase next year."

"Maritime security has been achieved in the region and our neighbors have also felt the difference. Today, they know their [real] benefactors and brothers," he added.

The three countries held similar drills last year and in 2019, in what was widely seen as a show of unity against the United States.

The Russian defense ministry said on Saturday Russia, China and Iran have completed three-way naval exercises in the Arabian Sea that included artillery fire at targets on the sea and in the air.

The exercises, off the Iranian port of Chabahar, took place as Russian President Vladimir Putin prepares to host his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Moscow for a three-day state visit starting on Monday.

Russia has continued to stage military exercises with partners, especially China, despite the strain on its armed forces from the year-long war in Ukraine.

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Contagion From U.S. Bank Failures Spreads

Credit Suisse in Crisis

FRANKFURT (Reuters) -- UBS is examining a takeover of Credit Suisse that could see the Swiss government offer a guarantee against the risks involved, said two people with knowledge of the matter on Saturday.

The people said that UBS was coming under pressure from the Swiss authorities to carry out a takeover. Under the plan, Credit Suisse's Swiss business could be spun off, they added.

UBS, Credit Suisse, and Switzerland's financial regulator FINMA declined to comment when approached by Reuters.

Regulators have urged Credit Suisse Group to pursue a deal with Swiss rival UBS as the troubled bank began a make-or-break weekend after some rivals grew cautious in their dealings with it.

Credit Suisse Chief Financial Officer Dixit Joshi and his teams will hold meetings over the weekend to assess the bank's options, people with knowledge of the matter said on Friday.

The 167-year-old bank is the biggest name ensnared in the market turmoil unleashed by the collapse of U.S. lenders Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank over the past week, forcing the Swiss bank to tap \$54 billion in central bank funding.

Dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, UBS is Switzerland's biggest bank with a market value of 60 billion Swiss francs (\$65 billion) and the world's largest wealth manager.

UBS itself has had its own tumultuous periods, with a clampdown on banking secrecy and a bailout during the global financial crisis more than a decade ago.

It went through several restructurings, cutting thousands of jobs, and pared back the investment

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Holiday Notice

Kayhan International offers felicitations on the holy month of Ramadan and Nowruz. Our next issue will be published on Monday, April 3, 2023.