

UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Dies Aged 73

ABU DHABI (AFP) – The United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan died aged 73 on Friday, state media said, after battling illness for several years. The president of the oil-rich Persian Gulf state, who was rarely seen in public, is likely to be replaced by his brother, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Zayed, who was already seen as the UAE's de facto ruler.

The ministry announced 40 days of mourning, with flags at half-mast from Friday and work suspended in the public and private sector for the first three days.

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Kayhan International



Iraq Says Strikes Gas Deal With Iran

BAGHDAD (AFP) – Iraq has agreed to pay \$1.6 billion in debt to Iran by June 1 to secure a steady gas supply for power generation through the summer, its electricity minister said.

"We have reached agreement on supply in sufficient quantities. We have agreed on 50 million cubic metres (per day) during the four summer months," acting electricity minister Adel Karim told state television. During winter, Iraq will import between 10 million and 20 million cubic meters per day of Iranian gas, he added.

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Thursday, May 14, 2022, Ordibehesht 24, 1401, Shawwal 13, 1443, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Iran-Qatar Set the Trend for Regional Cooperation

A Taste of Own Medicine: Mora Detained at Frankfurt Airport



Nadal Knocked Out of Italian Open by Shapovalov in last-16



Rights Group: Occupying Regime Approves Over 4,000 Settlement Units



Recalling the Decisive Day of Ohad

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"When you were fleeing without paying any attention to anyone, while the Prophet was calling you from your rear, He requited you with grief upon grief, so that you may not grieve for what you lose (of booty) nor for what befalls you, and Allah is well aware of what you do. (Holy Qur'an 3:153)

The above passage is the wording of God. It refers to the day when most of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) fled the Battlefield of Ohad. It is clear that the Almighty Creator is well aware of what one actually does and harbours in the heart. In other words, this Ayah – along with the preceding and subsequent Ayahs – means to say: There were many amongst the companions of the Prophet who hid disbelief deep down in their hearts, despite claiming to be Muslims.

For this reason, those afraid of their life listened to the words of the ever-tempting Satan rather than of the Prophet, and decided to desert the Messenger of God, ignorant of the fact that death is unavoidable and could come any moment – even in the safety of the home and on the comfort of the bed.

As all exegetes of the Heavenly Scripture – whether Sunni or Shi'ite – say with one voice, these Ayahs describe the tumultuous scene during the Battle of Ohad, when one of the pagan commanders, Khaled bin Waleed, ambushed the Muslims from behind the mountain pass.

Although several years later on the eve of the surrender of Mecca to the Prophet in 8 AH realizing that the pagan plots against Islam were a lost cause, Khaled came to Medina claiming he has decided to become a Muslim, he or anyone of his heathen accomplices, such as Wahshi who cowardly martyred the brave Hamzah (AS) at Ohad, could have martyred the Prophet as well, if not for the valour of Imam Ali ibn Abil Taleb (AS) on that decisive day.

, there are lessons to be learnt from this armed encounter between truth and falsehood by contemplating on the events preceding it and its aftermath, as well as in the heat of battle on the battlefield itself.

It is for this reason God has preserved till eternity some of the happenings of this particular battle, although the Holy Qur'an is not a biography of the Prophet.

be more precise, every time we recite these Ayahs of Surah Aal-e Imran our minds open up to crucial facts of faith that could help us cleanse the rust of the false notions that sectarian prejudice has accumulated over the centuries.

As those who have visited the Land of Revelation know, the Mountain of Ohad and the plain of the same name lie 5 km north of Medina. It was here that a decisive encounter took place in the first half of the month of Shawwal in 3 AH (625 AD), when a three-thousand-strong force of Arab infidels of Mecca imposed a battle on the Prophet to avenge the surprising defeat they had suffered a year earlier at Badr.

The Prophet could assemble only 1,000 able-bodied defenders, but of these, 300 of the so-called Muslims, who were hypocrites at heart, deserted him before the start of the battle. When the battle ensued and the Meccans were repulsed in the initial encounter, there was again disobedience in the ranks of the 700 Muslims as most of them – including those whom the Prophet had entrusted to guard the mountain pass – went for the booty left by the retreating infidels.

At this juncture, the pagan warlord Khaled bin Waleed, who lay in ambush, seized the opportunity and burst upon the Muslims martyring several of them and forcing most of the Prophet's companions to flee the battlefield. The Prophet himself was injured and lost some of his teeth.

However, thanks to the valour of Imam Ali (AS) the day was saved for the Prophet and for Islam, although in the process the Prophet was injured and his brave uncle, Hazrat Hamzah (AS), was martyred by Wahshi, who tore out his victim's liver and took it to his mistress Hind, the wife of the pagan commander, Abu Sufyan, as proof of his savagery. Hind, who was the mother of Mu'awiyya and grandmother of Yazid, tried to chew it, but God made it as hard as a stone so that a part of the blessed body of a man of paradise should not enter a person destined for the fires of hell.

Thus, without the least doubt, Islam is indebted to the valour of Imam Ali (AS), in whose praise on the Day of the Battle of Ohad the angels chanted: "There is no sword except Zu'l-Feqar; there is no brave youth except Ali."

Among the immortal scenes of the Battle Ohad is the rushing of Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) to the place of the encounter to nurse the wounds of her father, the Prophet, when some of the prominent Muslims were fleeing in the other direction.

It was at Ohad, from the clay of the grave of her martyred grand-uncle, Hamza (AS) that the Prophet's noble daughter made her famous rosary of earthen beads.

Alas, the holy mausoleum of the noble Hamzah, along with the sacred graves of the 70 martyrs of Ohad, was destroyed in 1925 by the Godless Wahhabi hordes of Najd when they seized the holy cities of Medina and Mecca, desecrated the sanctities of Islam, and massacred Muslims in tens of thousands – in the precincts of the holy Ka'ba, in the holy shrine of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), in the mountain resort of Ta'ef, and in the Red Sea port of Jeddah.

Ayatollah Khamenei Tells Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim:

Regional Countries Must Strengthen Relations



Ayatollah Khamenei holds talks with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, right, in Tehran Thursday.

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on Arab countries to take unequivocal stance against Israeli atrocities after receiving Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani here Thursday.

The Leader touched on "decades-long oppression of the vicious Zionists against the Palestinian people" calling it a bitter reality and a blow to the world of Islam.

"Against these crimes, the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran expects the Arab world to explicitly enter the arena of political action," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader cited Israeli raids on the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of the occupied Al-Quds which led to a brief war between the Zionist regime and Palestinian resistance groups in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"Certain Arab countries' support for the Palestinians was even less than that of some European coun-

tries. They took no stance, and even now they're continuing in the same way," he said.

"If Arab countries have adopted this position out of their fear of the Zionist regime or due to certain interests, they should know that the Zionist regime today is in a situation where there is no reason to fear it, nor can one expect to gain anything from it," he added.

The Qatari Emir said Israeli crimes are horrible and must be

confronted by all regional countries. He touched on the occupying regime's murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh Wednesday, saying "the Zionists committed this crime in cold blood".

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the solution to the regional issues is in the hands of the regional countries, which should achieve it through dialogue.

"The issues of Syria and Yemen too can be resolved through dialogue. Of course, dialogue should not take place from a position of weakness while the other side – primarily the U.S. and others – rely on their military and financial power."

The Leader said there is no need for the interference of outside forces to resolve the regional problems.

He said wherever the Zionists step in, they bring corruption, but they are unable to empower other countries. "Therefore, we the countries of the region must strengthen our relations as much as possible through cooperation and consultation."

Ayatollah Khamenei further stressed the need for increasing political and economic relations between Iran and Qatar. He said stable and solid relations between the two countries benefits both.

The current level of economic dealings between the two countries

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Zionist Troops Assault Palestinian Journalist's Coffin

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Israeli forces fired stun grenades and assaulted mourners carrying the coffin of slain journalist Shireen Abu Akleh outside an Al-Quds hospital on Friday, ahead of her funeral service and burial in the Old City.

Palestinian mourners insisted on carrying Abu Akleh's coffin on their shoulders from the St Joseph French Hospital to the Roman Catholic church in the Old City, before taking her to her final place of rest.

Before they could leave the hospital premises, Zionist forces attacked them, pushing them back, storming the yard and making arrests.

Livestream images captured the moment mourners nearly dropped Abu Akleh's coffin as Israeli forces beat them.

Givera al-Budeiri, a long-time colleague and close friend of Abu Akleh, described the heavy-handed crackdown on mourners gathered outside the hospital live on air as it unfolded.

"Occupation forces are storming the hospital, they are now firing bullets, we are talking about

a hospital here, not an area of conflict," she said, distressed and holding back tears.

"Even in her death, Shireen has exposed the actions of occupation forces," another journalist said.

Moments later, Zionist officers forced mourners to place the coffin inside a car and only allowed it to leave the hospital if unaccompanied. People in the hospital who wanted to join the procession were prevented from doing so.

When the casket finally arrived at the Roman Catholic church, more supporters were waiting to attend Abu Akleh's funeral service.

Thousands of Muslim and Christian Palestinians from Al-Quds and the Palestinian community in Occupied Palestine, including Haifa and Nazareth, came to pay their respects to the veteran journalist at the Old City church on Friday.

"A nation united, raise your hands and raise your voices," Palestinians chanted ahead of the service. "Muslims and Christians, raise your voice in union."

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Explainer: President Raisi's Bold Economic Reform

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi has set about major reforms in Iran's subsidy system.

The president announced, during a televised late-night interview on Monday, that he is gradually transforming a subsidies system introduced by his predecessor to stabilize prices in the face of sanctions, but that mostly ended up breeding corruption.

"The prices of bread, medicine and petrol will not increase under any circumstances," Raisi promised as he directly addressed the Iranian people.

By the next morning, the central bank said an overwhelming majority of the country's 85-million population had received Raisi's promised cash subsidies – totaling 460 trillion rials (\$1.6 billion open market rate) for two months – in their bank accounts, which they will be able to use in the near future.

Only the richest Iranians are excluded from the cash subsidies list, as about one-third of the population reportedly received 4 million rials (\$13), and 60 percent received

3 million rials (\$10) per individual in a month.

After roughly two months, an electronic coupon scheme is expected to be implemented to control prices.

The coupon scheme is likely to be enforced digitally to first and foremost subsidize bread prices, which have been impacted amid a global soar in wheat prices in part due to the Ukraine war. The scheme could later include other goods such as chicken and vegetable oil, officials have said.

The reforms have been welcomed by analysts as they signal a break from a faulty policy implemented by the administration of former President Hassan Rouhani at a time of immense volatility for Iranian markets.

Rouhani introduced an artificial rate of 42,000 rials per U.S. dollar for imports in April 2018 with the aim of preventing price hikes, in effect creating a multi-layered exchange rate regime as rates on the open market were much higher and kept soaring.

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