

Kayhan International



'Khayyam' Ready for Launch Into Orbit
 MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russia will launch a satellite on behalf of Iran into space on Aug. 9, the Roscosmos space agency said on Wednesday. The spacecraft, a remote sensing satellite called "Khayyam", will be sent into orbit by a Soyuz rocket, Roscosmos said. "We plan to launch a Soyuz-2.1b rocket, equipped with a Fregat upper stage, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome [a spaceport in southern Kazakhstan leased to Russia] on August 9, 2022; it will take the Khayyam remote earth probing spacecraft into the orbit under an order of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the company said.

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Viewpoint

Iran's Means of Defence Proves Commitment to Peace

Iran's Achievements Belong to Entire Ummah

Sogand Shiri Wins Gold at World Junior Taekwondo Championship

Hezbollah Slams U.S. Over 'False Promises'

The Immortal Epic of Ashura

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Indeed, anyone joining me (in Karbala) will attain martyrdom, while anyone who does not join me will not have any success."

This is what Imam Husain (AS) remarked on the Day of Ashura (Muharram 10), 61 AH (680 AD) as the bloodthirsty Omayyad hordes closed in upon him in Karbala from all directions, eventually cutting his access to the waters of the River Euphrates on the assumption that thirst and hunger would make the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), yield to their illogical demand of giving pledge of allegiance to the Godless rule of the self-styled caliph, Yazid ibn Mu'awiyah.

They were totally wrong. It is not that they did not know whom they were opposing. They were fully aware of his position, his personality, and his parentage, since they were not Jews, neither Christians, nor Hindus, and had no Zoroastrian origin.

They said they were Muslims, but it was obvious that "Imaan" or faith had not entered the hearts of these hypocrites regarding whom the Almighty says in the holy Qur'an: *The Bedouins say, 'We have faith.' Say, 'You do not have faith yet; rather say, 'We have embraced Islam,' for faith has not yet entered your hearts'.* (49:4)

"The Bedouins are more obdurate in unfaith and hypocrisy and more apt to be ignorant of the precepts that Allah has sent down to His Prophet." (9:97)

Thus, as the former idolaters of Arabia or sons of the pagan Arabs who had entered the Islamic fold for worldly gains and not any belief in the fundamentals of Islam – "Towheed" (Monotheism), "Adl" (Justice), "Nubowwah" (Prophecy), "Imamah" (Vicegerency) and "Qiyamah" (Resurrection) – they were well aware of the nobility of the Bani Hashem Clan among whom God had raised His Last and Greatest Prophet, and whose Divinely-designated Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), had been deprived of the political leadership of the Ummah by their sires at the scandalous gathering of Saqifa Bani Sa'dah in Medina in 11 AH.

Imam Husain (AS) spared no efforts in guiding these errant hordes and reminded them of his position so that none could have any excuse of pretending not to know him. He said: *"Am I not the son of your Prophet's daughter – Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA)? Is not my father – Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb – the 'wasi' (vicegerent or testamentary legatee) of your Prophet and his cousin and the first person, who expressed belief in Allah and confirmed what was brought by His Prophet? Is the Doyen of Martyrs Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib not the uncle of my father? Is the martyr Ja'far ibn Abi Taleb whom God has given two wings to fly with the angels in paradise, not my uncle? Have you not heard that the Prophet has said about me and my brother – Imam Hasan (AS): "These two sons of mine are the chiefs of the young men of Paradise?"*

They sheepishly acknowledged whatever he said, yet persisted in putting all sorts of pressures upon him in the vain hope that his surrender – or death – would bring them rewards in the form of wealth, land grants, political posts, and the governorship of the rich province of Rayy (extending in those days from the Alborz Mountain Range north of modern Tehran to Kashi and Isfahan).

The Imam continued his address: *"By Allah, I will not pledge allegiance to these people like weak and mean persons, or like slaves will not flee the battlefield while fighting the wicked. I seek refuge in Allah from the mischief of you people and of every arrogant person who does not believe in the Day of Judgement."*

They failed to heed his wise words that real victory lies in martyrdom in the way of Allah. It means those who would kill him; trample his body; sever his head; mount it in on a lance; and parade it through the streets of Kufa and Damascus, with his children and womenfolk bound in ropes and chains walking behind; will not get anything in return.

A day earlier on the 9th of Muharram the Imam had held parleys with Omar ibn Sa'd, the Commander of the Omayyad forces and the son of Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, who was supposedly a senior companion of the Prophet.

Imam Husain (AS) asked him the reason for the hostility but did not receive any convincing answers from that weak and cowardly person who made several lame excuses, initially saying he feared his own life if he disobeyed the libertine Yazid's tyrannical governor of Iraq, Obaidollah ibn Ziyad.

When the Imam invited him towards lasting felicities, with the promise of paradise in afterlife, the short-sighted Omar said the Omayyads had promised to reward him with governorship of Rayy in Iran, for doing their bidding.

After a lengthy discussion which had no effect on Ibn Sa'd, the Imam got up saying: *"You are not destined to taste even a single grain of the wheat of Rayy."*

How true. A few years later, Omar ibn Sa'd perished like a miserable dog, killed by his own conscientious brother-in-law (wife's brother), Mukhtar ibn Abi Obyada who avenged the innocent blood of Imam Husain (AS) by bringing to justice the principal perpetrators of the heartrending tragedy of Karbala.

Imam Husain (AS), who fulfilled the Great Sacrifice that had ransomed Prophet Ishmael in antiquity by temporarily substituting a ram, thus stands for all times as the "Beacon of Light and the Ark of Salvation" – true to the words of his grandfather the Prophet.

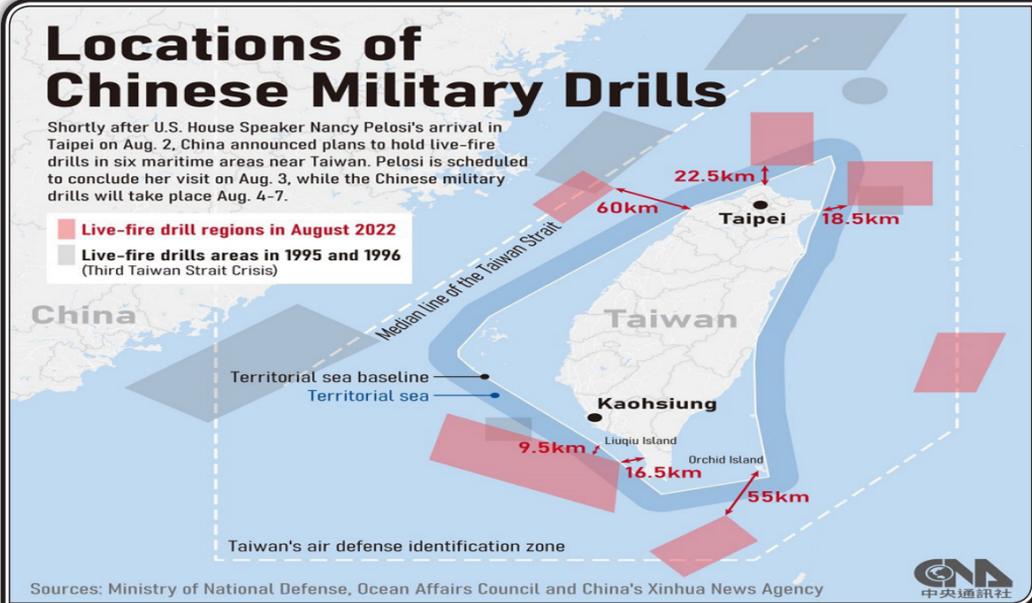
As the Heir of the missions of the prophets of the past (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus), and as the Legatee of his grandfather, father and elder brother, he was the Divinely-designated Imam of mankind of his age.

It means Imam Husain (AS) was not one of those caliphs thrust upon Muslims by a comrade (as at Saqifa Bani Sa'da in 632 AD); or supposedly nominated on deathbed by a questionable predecessor (in 634 AD without any evidence of legal authority); or chosen by a council ("shura") of dubious persons (644 AD); or had seized political rule through sword, sedition, and a treacherous truce (661 AD).

His authority was God-given. This is the reason eternal victory belongs to the Martyr of Karbala, while those who oppose him in every age and place, discourage pilgrimage to his holy shrine, destroy the holy shrines of his brother, son, grandson and great-grandson in Medina's Baqi Cemetery, persecute his followers, cannibalistically eat their organs raw, and massacre Hajj pilgrims in the most inviolable of all places, may rule for a certain period, but will eventually be wiped out – as was the case of Yazid and the Omayyads.

I end this brief column with a passage from the Ziyarat-e Ashura: *"O Aba Abdillah (Imam Husain – AS), your martyrdom was a great calamity and the cause of great distress for us and all followers of Islam! It was a tremendous calamity that befell the heavens and which affected all the denizens of the heavens! May Allah's curse be on those who instituted a regime of wrongdoing and injustice against you Ahl al-Bayt! May Allah's curse be on those who sidelined you from your rightful station and withheld from you the status that Allah had assigned you! May Allah's curse be on those who slew you, and may His curse be on those who paved the way for them making it possible to wage war against you! Before God and you, I repudiate them, their supporters, their followers and those who befriend them!"*

Specter of Military Showdown



BEIJING (Dispatches) – China has launched a volley of trade curbs against Taiwan in addition to live-fire military drills, as U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the island despite Beijing's warnings.

China considers Taiwan its territory and tries to keep it isolated internationally, opposing countries from maintaining official contacts with the self-ruled island.

After Pelosi became the highest-profile elected U.S. official to visit Taiwan in 25 years, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Wednesday the response will be "resolute, forceful and effective".

Although much attention has been on Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, the real potential for a military showdown comes now that she has left.

China's military has said it will conduct a series of live-fire drills beginning on Thursday. A post on Chinese state media offered coordinates for six swaths of sea surrounding Taiwan, three of which overlap with areas that Taiwan says are a part of its territorial waters.

Some of the areas are inside what Taiwan says are its territorial waters, and they are closer to Taiwan than similar areas announced during the Taiwan Strait crisis in the mid-1990s.

Exercises will be held in areas less than 10 miles from the Taiwanese coast.

The drills, assuming that they go forward, would mark a direct challenge to what Taiwan defines as its coastline. They would also strike at the heart of a decades-long disagreement in which China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a self-ruled island with its own democratically elected government and military.

In its warning, China's military called for all boats and airplanes to avoid the areas it identified for 72 hours. For Taiwan, and the United States military, a key question will be whether they obey the orders or test China's resolve to carry out the tests by sending boats and planes into those zones.

The standoff is reminiscent of an incident in 1995 and 1996 called the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis. Back then, China fired live ammunition and missiles into the waters around Taiwan to signal its anger over a trip by Taiwan's then-president, Li Teng-hui, to the United States, and to raise pressure before a presidential election. The United States then sent two aircraft carrier groups to the area and sailed one through the Taiwan Strait.

The new live-fire drills will occur in areas closer to the island than those in 1995 and 1996, presenting a conundrum to Taiwan and the United States. If China takes action, they must decide whether to offer a show of force similar to the earlier crisis.

Much has changed since then. China's military is more powerful and more emboldened under Xi Jinping. This summer, Chinese officials also strongly asserted that no part of the Taiwan Strait could be considered international waters, meaning they might move to intercept and block U.S. warships sailing through the area, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

China has wasted little time in signaling that it is serious. On Wednesday its state broadcaster released images from preparatory

Biden Clears Weapons Sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The Biden administration on Tuesday approved and notified Congress of possible multibillion-dollar weapons sales to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The notice of the approval comes just weeks after President Joe Biden met with the leaders of each nation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as he sought to improve relations between the U.S. and the Saudis.

The approval was also notified on the same day that the United Nations announced a two-month extension of the truce in Yemen, where the Saudi-led coalition has been waging a years-long bloody war that has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians.

According to a news release from the U.S. State Department, the agency approved a possible sale of PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical Ballistic Missiles (GEM-T) and related equipment to Saudi Arabia for an estimated \$3.05 billion.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region," the State Department said of the sale.

"The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats by replenishing its dwindling stock of PATRIOT GEM-T missiles," it said. "These missiles are used to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's borders against persistent Houthi cross-border unmanned aerial system and ballistic missile attacks on civilian sites and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia."

"These attacks threaten the well-being of Saudi, International, and U.S. citizens (approximately 70,000) residing in the Kingdom. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces," it added.

Climate Endgame: Risk of Human Extinction

PARIS (AP) -- Experts are ignoring the worst possible climate change catastrophic scenarios, including collapse of society or the potential extinction of humans, however unlikely, a group of top scientists claim.

Eleven scientists from around the world are calling on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's authoritative climate science organization, to do a special science report on "catastrophic climate change" to "bring into focus how much is at stake in a worst-case scenario." In their perspective piece in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences they raise the idea of human extinction and worldwide societal collapse in the third sentence, calling it "a dangerously underexplored topic."

The scientists said they aren't saying that worst is going to happen. They say the trouble is no one knows how likely or unlikely a "climate endgame" is and the world needs those calculations to battle global warming.

"I think it's highly unlikely you are going to see anything close to even extinction over the next century simply because humans are incredibly resilient," said study lead author Luke Kemp at the Center for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge in England. "Even if we have a 1% chance of having a global catastrophe, going extinct over the coming century, that 1%, that is way too high."

Catastrophic climate scenarios "appear likely enough to warrant attention" and can lead to prevention and warning systems, Kemp said.

Good risk analyses consider both what's most likely and what's the worst that could happen, study authors said. But because of push back from non-scientists who reject climate change, mainstream climate science has concentrated on looking at what's most likely and also disproportionately on low-temperature warming scenarios

Holiday Notice
 With Tasua and Ashura being landmark commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions, the next Kayhan International issue will be on the newsstands on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Editor

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7)