

President Raisi in Astana to Attend CICA Conference

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raeisi left for Astana on Wednesday to attend the 6th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), stressing the importance of cooperation between Iran and Asian countries to ensure peace, stability, and security in the region. Speaking to reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport before boarding the flight, Raeisi emphasized that active cooperation with regional and transregional organizations is part of his administration's foreign policy.

"Cooperation with these organizations is a good opportunity (Continued on Page 7)



Kayhan International

Health Minister Blasts 'Destructive' U.S. Sanctions

TEHRAN -- Health minister Bahram Einollahi on Wednesday denounced unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran as "inhumane," noting that the embargos have had a "destructive" impact on the resilience of the country's healthcare sector.

"Coercive, unilateral and inhumane sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran have had destructive effects on some pillars of the resilience of Iran's health system and, in particular, it has restricted the access to essentials needed to control pandemics," he told the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo.

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Viewpoint

Islamic Republic of Iran Resolutely Treads the Prophet's Path

China, Iran, Russia to Hold Joint Naval Drill



Chelsea Top Group With Comfortable Win at 10-Man Milan



Zakzaky: Saudi Arabia Involved in Zaria Massacre on U.S., UK Orders



Blessed Birthday of the Best of Creation

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"And say: Truth has come and falsehood has vanished; indeed falsehood is bound to vanish." (Holy Qur'an 17:81)

We are on eve of the grand anniversary of Rabi al-Awwal 17, the blessed day in the history of mankind, when the Almighty Creator of the universe decided to bring into the world the Best of all creation – His Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA). Born into the monotheist Hashemite clan of the Quraysh in the lineage of Prophet Ishmael (AS), the firstborn son of Prophet Abraham (AS), he needs no introduction.

His coming was foretold in all previously revealed heavenly scriptures, and the tidings given by the Prophets of the past in every age and geographical regions.

As for the exact date of his birthday, reason says, we should refer to family accounts, since narrations from those who had witnessed the events when he was born and passed them down from father-to-son, are more reliable than the hearsay of companions he acquired at the age of 40 and after, or the wives he had to marry out of social necessity as a 53-year old widower in the last ten years of his life.

Thus, according to Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), his dearest cousin, ward, son-in-law, and Divinely-designated Vicegerent, who was personally groomed by the Prophet almost a decade before proclamation of the universal mission of Islam, the Ayah mentioned at the beginning of this column was clearly heard from a voice emanating from the sky at sunset, while at the Holy Ka'ba, the idols installed by the Arabs in and around the supreme edifice of monotheism built by Prophet Abraham in antiquity, fell headlong on the ground.

This was among the signs of the end of Jahiliyyah or the Age of Ignorance, whether in the Arabian Peninsula or elsewhere in the supposedly civilized world.

History also bears witness that the sacred fire of the Zoroastrians that had been kept burning in Persia proper for over a thousand years, suddenly died down to the horror of the Mobads, while in Ctesiphon (Mada'en near Baghdad in Iraq), a crack suddenly appeared in the huge arch of the magnificent hall of audience of the Sassanid king of kings (Shahenshah). At the same time, 14 parapets came crashing down from atop Khosrow's palace

Household accounts further quote the Prophet's virtuous mother, Amena bint Wahb (SA), who had seen strange signs during pregnancy, that when he was born an invisible voice echoed in the house, saying: "The best of creation is born. Name him Muhammad (SAWA)."

His Ahl al-Bayt, whom God has made immune from any blemish and uncleanness (Holy Qur'an 33:33), say:

"When the newborn was brought to Abdul Muttalib (AS) he took him in his arms and said: "I praise and thank Allah Who blessed me with such a handsome (grand)son who surpasses all children."

The Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS) – incidentally born in this same date (Rabi al-Awwal 17) 136 years later – has said that on the day the Prophet was born, Fatema bint Asad (SA), the mother of Imam Ali (AS), rushed to her husband Abu Taleb (AS) and gave the good news of the birth of a radiant nephew to him. She also described strange things about the wonderful birth. Abu Taleb said: "After thirty years a son (Imam Ali – AS) will be born to you too who will be like this newborn in every aspect, except prophethood."

Amena, widowed a couple of months earlier, was joyous at the birth of the son of Abdullah, and related that she saw: "The radiance which is rising and spreading everywhere from the east to the west."

Abu Taleb (AS) performed the "aqiqah" or hair-removing ceremony of his nephew on the seventh day of birth and invited the entire Hashemite clan. On being asked the reason, he said: It is the feast of aqiqah of Ahmad. The gathering said: Why do you call him Ahmad? He replied: Those in the heaven praise him as such.

Those pseudo Muslims wrongly accusing the Prophet's Guardian and Uncle who till the last years of his life fiercely protected his nephew from the plots of the pagan Arabs, of lacking faith in Islam, should read the Holy Qur'an, where in Ayah 6 of Surah Saff, the Almighty Allah has quoted the tidings of Prophet Jesus (AS) to his followers, some six centuries before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA):

"O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the Prophet of Allah to you, to confirm what is before me of the Torah, and to give the tidings of the Prophet to come after me, whose name is Ahmad."

It is also interesting to note that the Gospel of St John, despite the tampering it has gone through during the past two millennia, still preserves Jesus' words of the coming of the Last and Greatest Prophet – using the word "Comforter" in the English translation, and the world "Paraclete" in the Greek translation, which in turn is the translation of the original Hebrew/Aramaic word "Hmda" or the Praiseworthy, and which in Arabic means "Ahmad". This is further proof of the universal mission of the Prophet of Islam to all mankind, and the reliability of the narrations of his monotheist household, as is confirmed by Ayah 157 of Surah A'raaf of the Holy Qur'an:

"Those who follow the Prophet, the unschooled Messenger, whose mention they find written with them in the Torah and the Evangel, who bids them to do what is right and forbids them from what is wrong, makes lawful to them all the good things and forbids them from all vicious things, and relieves them of their burdens and the shackles that were upon them —those who believe in him, honour him, and help him and follow the light that has been sent down with him, they are the felicitous."

It is outside the scope of this brief column to mention the prayers of Prophet Abraham (AS) for Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), or the prophecy of Prophet Moses and Prophet Isaiah about the Last Prophet, and the predictions in the sacred texts of the Zoroastrians and Hindus about the prevailing over all the world of the universal creed of Islam.

In short, since we are celebrating the birth of the Best of creation, we should scientifically probe the exemplary life of the Best of Creation; the legacy he left, for whom, and did those who claimed to be the political representative of the Prophet of peace, follow his advice and formula for unity, especially the following hadith:

"I am leaving behind among the you the Thaqalayn (Two Weighty Things); the Book of God (Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt; hold fast to them and you will not go astray, for the two never separate with each other even when they return to me at the Fountain (of Kowthar on Resurrection Day)."

Leader: Riots Were Clumsy Design of the Enemy



Ayatollah Khamenei address members of the Expediency Council in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday described the Expediency Council as a very important body in the Islamic Republic because of the presence of elite and experienced individuals in that body, the comprehensive views they take on the affairs of the country and because of the essential duties this council is responsible for.

During a meeting with the chairman and the incumbent and newly-appointed members of the Expediency Council, the Leader also spoke about the recent sporadic

riots in the country.

"The scattered riots were a passive and clumsy design of the enemy in the face of the great and innovative developments and movements of the Iranian nation," he said.

"The enemy's role and interference is clear and obvious to everyone, even to impartial foreign experts. These events aren't a domestic, spontaneous matter. The actions taken by the enemy, their propaganda, their efforts to influence people's minds, the creation of excitement, and the way they have

been encouraging and even teaching people to make flammable and explosive materials, are now completely clear and obvious."

The Leader noted that the most important point in this affair has been the enemy's passivity and reactive moves, citing the reasons for the behavior.

"In a short period of time, the Iranian nation made great moves that were 180 degrees the opposite of the policies of the global arrogant powers, so they had no choice but to react. In this context, by planning and spending money they

brought out some people onto the field, including some politicians in the U.S., Europe and some in other places.

"These great movements showed that the Iranian nation is high-spirited, religiously inclined and adheres to religious values and issues and that the country will continue advancing forward with great speed," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the presence of millions of young people participating in the Arbaeen pilgrimage and the altruistic actions during the coronavirus pandemic as examples of the Iranian nation's religiosity and beliefs.

Highlighting the great actions taken by the Iranian people, the Leader added, "In fact, the initiative is in the hands of the Iranian nation and the enemy was forced to react in a clumsy and foolish manner and so they started planning the riots."

The Leader also emphasized the need to stand against the foreign plots made against the Islamic Republic.

"Enmities toward Iran will continue in various forms as long as the people of Iran hold on to the flag of Islam and accompany the Islamic Republic. The only solution is to stand firm. Standing up to the plots and meddlesome behavior of these devils, will not result in the halting of our movement. It will rather become the basis of our movement forward."

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President Raisi Tells Islamic Unity Conference: Islam Only Power Standing Against Hegemony

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi here on Wednesday hailed Islam and its true followers as the only power that can stand against the hegemonic system.

"The comprehensiveness of Islam can meet all the needs of today's mankind, and the modern man can create a happy life for himself by relying on God, self-confidence and religious learning," Raisi said in an address to the opening of the 36th International Islamic Unity Conference.

"The comprehensiveness of Islam meets all the needs of contemporary man and gives him the strength to stand against cultures that are not compatible with religious life," he added.

Raisi said the Tehran conference will lead to common understanding among all influential figures in the Islamic world.

He touched on the huge capital called religion and religious values and the Islamic lands, which today with all the material and spiritual wealth are at the disposal

of Muslims.

Raisi described the educated young people with a tendency towards spirituality, the spirit of resistance and standing against the enemy, ready to take risks in the path of a religious life, as well as the educated human resources of the Islamic world as another great asset of the Islamic world.

"The thinkers of the Islamic world are a great asset who are ready to stand together from various fields, universities and scientific and research centers against atheistic thinking, secular trend, Takfiri and extremist thinking."

Men and women in the Islamic countries are ready to unite under the banner of religion and frustrate the enemies, the president stated, stressing the need to understand the tricks of the enemy aimed at playing down the abilities of Muslims and exaggerating their own capacities.

President Raisi said the flag that Imam Khomeini raised was the flag (Continued on Page 7)

French Minister of Economy: Energy Crisis Can Lead to U.S. Domination

PARIS (Dispatches) -- The Russia-Ukraine conflict and the resulting energy crisis could lead to American economic domination, warned French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

Speaking to the French National Assembly, Le Maire said he feared the United States could benefit from the situation to the detriment of European interests.

"We cannot accept that our American partner sells its LNG at four times the price at which it sells it to its own companies," he said.

Le Maire said "the conflict in Ukraine must not end in American economic domination and a weakening of the EU."

He insisted on the need to build "economic relations that are more balanced on the energy issue between our American allies and the European continent."

Le Maire's remarks came just days after French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his dis-

satisfaction over LNG imported from the U.S. and Norway.

Macron told the informal European Union Summit in Prague: "We are going to say with great friendship toward our American friends, our Norwegian friends, that 'you are great, you provide us with gas.' But there is one thing that can't work for a very long time, that is we can't pay for gas that is four times more expensive."

The statements signal dissatisfaction and sense of crisis, indicating that after the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has lasted for more than half a year, Europeans have gradually found that the strategic direction of the situation is becoming seriously unfavorable to Europe, and the U.S. has become the biggest beneficiary of the war, and Washington is trying to expand the unilateral benefits of its own.

According to a BFMTV report, the U.S. provides 500 million euros (Continued on Page 7)