

TEHRAN – President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi has lauded Qatar for its efforts to honor Islamic values as the Arab nation is hosting the FIFA World Cup games.

In a telephone conversation with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Raisi congratulated the Qatari government for successfully holding the FIFA World Cup and praised the country's efforts to respect Islamic values.

TEHRAN -- Iran exported 95 million euros of pistachios to the European Union in the first three quarters of 2022, ranking as the second exporter of the nibble to Europe, the bloc's statistics office Eurostat has announced.

The figure is down 39% compared to the same period last year when Iran exported 154 million euros worth of pistachios to the EU countries, it said. Germany, Spain and Italy were the top importers of Iranian pistachios and Iran accounted for 10% of the total European pistachio imports during the period.

Viewpoint

Iran, Iraq Determined to Jointly Root out Terrorists

Envoy: Iran Biggest Victim of Chemical Weapons



Iran Runners-Up in Kurash World Championship



Two Brothers Among Four Palestinians Martyred



Zainab (SA) the Defender of Humanitarian Values

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"You are Pure and the Purifier of the land where you are buried, and you are on a very high station, "I wish I had been with you and under your banner..."

"I beseech Allah, Who blessed me in this world with your pilgrimage, to grant me the blessings of your intercession on the Last Day, and gather me in your company and under your banner, and quench my thirst at your fountain (of Kowsar)."

It is obvious from the above phrases that the address is to a person who is no longer physically present in the world.

Yet, the words indicate that physical death has not numbed the senses of the addressee, who seems to be aware of the presence of the addressor; is hearing, is seeing, and might respond.

The sentences speak of the lofty position of the person addressed as not just personally pure and spotless but a purifier of the land of eternal repose.

The addressor then wishes if only he/she had been with the object of the address and under the banner of the addressee at crucial junctures, certain benedictions would have been his/her share and some calamities averted.

The concluding passage proves that the Grace of God is the share of the pilgrim, who yearns for the fresh flowing Fountain of Kowsar, where the true believers quench their thirst, while the angels of wrath drive away the disbelievers and the deviationists who in the mortal life of the transient world had teased, tormented and tortured these heavenly personalities.

Today happens to be the auspicious 5th of the month of Jamadi al-Awwal, the day on which the addressee was born and whose identity now becomes crystal clear.

She was the eldest of the two granddaughters of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA); and in turn the daughter of such Immaculate Parents as the Noblest-ever Lady Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) and the Barometer of Faith, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

She was none other than Zainab (SA), the sister of the Leaders of the Youths of Paradise – Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) the Martyr of Karbala.

Peace upon you O Seyyedah Zainab (SA) on your blessed birthday, which we celebrate every year this day, whether at your holy shrine in the capital of Syria or afar in lands where your devotees dwell.

We strive to be among the fortunate ones, who though prevented by the barriers of time from coming to your assistance at the tragedies that struck you in Karbala, Kufa, and Damascus, are now rushing from all over the world, to defend the sanctity of your mausoleum against terrorists of all hue and colour and their cowardly masters.

You endured the tragedies of the fateful day of Ashura in Karbala and its equally tragic aftermath in the courts of the tyrants in Kufa and Damascus, for the sake of the Lord Most High in order to make Islam triumphant, with that immortal phrase on your lips: *"I have seen nothing but the Grace (or Beauty of God)."*

Today, when the hordes of Satan in the form of the Zionists, the Wahhabis, the Americans, etc., are threatening the security of the land where you rest in peace, your real followers have volunteered to sacrifice their life and limbs in order to nullify the sinister plots of the modern-day Yazids.

This is ample proof of the peerless position of Hazrat Zainab (SA). It means, when any conscientious mind turns to the Epic of Ashura and the traumatic aftermath of history's greatest tragedy, it will acknowledge that Islam and all humanitarian values, without the least doubt, are also indebted forever to the heroic lady, whose indefatigable role earned her the title of *"Sharikat al-Husain"* or partner in the mission of Imam Husain (AS).

A proper perspective of the dynamic personality of Hazrat Zainab (SA) reveals that she did not emerge spontaneously in Karbala, or at the scenarios schemed by the avowed enemies of the Ahl al-Bayt in Kufa and Damascus, where the womenfolk and children of the Prophet's Household were paraded behind the severed heads of their dear ones mounted on lances.

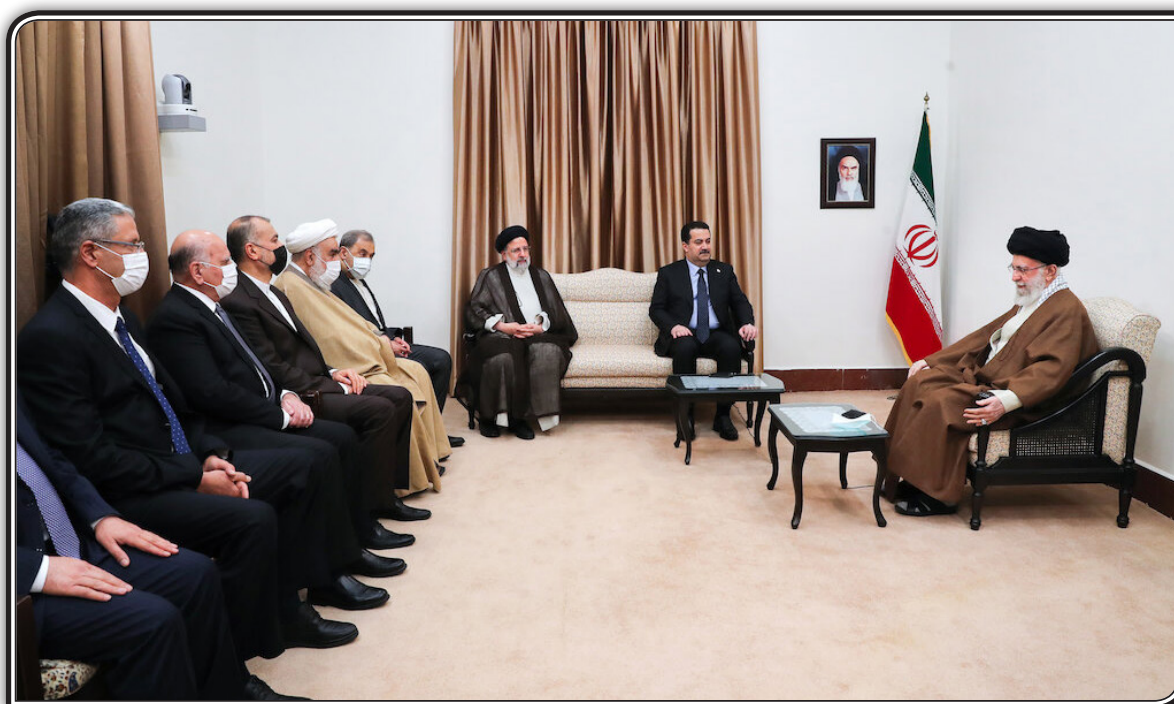
In fact, Karbala and the two centres of power in Iraq and Syria merely provided the fitting climax to a fruitful life of almost six decades that started with her blessed birth during the days of the Prophet and ended in the mournful martyrdom some four years after the heroic sacrifice of her brother. Therefore, although it is beyond our ken to fully gauge the pride of place in the history of civilization of a lady, whose real merits are known only to God Almighty, the Prophet of Islam and the Infallible Imams, we could at least have the honour of paying our humble homage to Hazrat Zainab (SA) by studying her eventful life.

From the day she had opened her eyes in the abode of Divine Revelation till the day she departed from the world, she was surrounded by the aura of spirituality.

"Peace upon you and upon your Grandfather, your Father, your Mother and Two Brothers,

"Peace upon you and upon the Infallible Imams of the progeny of your Brother Husain (AS)..."

Ayatollah Khamenei's Advice to PM Sudani



Iraqi PM Muhammad Shia al-Sudani, 2nd right, and his accompanying delegation meet with Ayatollah Khamenei, with President Ebrahim Raisi, 3rd right, also in attendance in Tehran on Nov. 29, 2022.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Tuesday anything that disrupts Iran's security will inevitably impinge on Iraq as well, calling on the Baghdad government to exercise greater sovereignty over areas in the country's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

Since riots erupted in Iran more than two months ago, Iranian officials have said terrorist groups in northern Iraq are stoking the unrest and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has launched a series of

cross-border strikes to neuter subversive acts.

"According to the constitution, we do not allow any party to use Iraqi soil to disrupt Iran's security," Ayatollah Khamenei told visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Shia al-Sudani and his accompanying delegation here.

"Unfortunately, this is now happening in some areas of Iraq, and the only solution is for the Iraqi central government to extend its authority to those areas as well," the Leader said.

For the First Time, Less Than Half of UK Population is Christian

LONDON (AP/AFP) — Fewer than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census — the first time the country's official religion has been followed by a minority of the population.

Britain has become less religious — and less white — in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the population, while 1.7% identified as Hindu, up from 1.5%.

More than 1 in 3 people — 37% — said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011.

The other parts of the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland, report their census results separately.

Secularism campaigners said the shift should trigger a rethink of the way religion is entrenched in British society. The UK has state-funded Church of England schools, Anglican bishops sit in Parliament's upper chamber, and the monarch is "defender of the faith" and supreme governor of the church.

Andrew Copson, chief executive of the charity Humanists UK, said "the dramatic growth of the non-religious" had made the UK "almost certainly one of the least religious countries on Earth."

"One of the most striking things about these results is how at odds the population is from the state itself," he said. "No state in Europe has such a religious set-up as we do in terms of law and public policy, while at the same time having such a non-religious population."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, one of the most senior clerics in the Church of England, said the data was "not a great

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Secure Iraq's Borders

pendent position worthy of its civilization and history," the Leader told Sudani.

Ayatollah Khamenei congratulated Sudani for his election as the prime minister of Iraq, calling him a faithful and capable person, and stating that his appointment as the head of the Iraqi government is a source of joy.

He called Iraq as the best Arab country in the region in terms of natural and human resources as well as cultural, historical and civilizational background.

"Unfortunately, despite such a background, Iraq has not yet been able to reach its high and true position and it is hoped that with Your Excellency at the helm, Iraq will achieve its real progress and status."

Ayatollah Khamenei said one of the basic necessities for Iraq to reach its true position is the coherence and unity of the Iraqi groups, adding another requirement for this progress is the maximum use of young and motivated Iraqi forces.

"Of course, the progress of Iraq has enemies who may not show hostility on the surface, but they do not accept a government like yours," the Leader said.

"You must rely on the people and motivated and young forces who have passed their test in confronting the great and deadly danger of Daesh to stand firm against the will of the enemy," he added.

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UN: All Regions Suffered Water Extremes in 2021

GENEVA (AFP) — All regions of the world saw water extremes last year -- both floods and droughts -- and billions of people had insufficient freshwater, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Large areas of the planet recorded drier than normal conditions in 2021, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its first annual State of Global Water Resources report.

The report assesses the effects of changes in the climate, environment and society on the Earth's freshwater resources -- limited supplies that are under growing demand -- so they can be managed better.

"The impacts of climate change are often felt through water -- more intense and frequent droughts, more extreme flooding, more erratic seasonal rainfall and accelerated melting of glaciers -- with cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and all aspects of our daily lives," said WMO head Peteri Taalas.

"And yet there is insufficient understanding of changes in the distribution, quantity and quality of freshwater resources."

Some 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to freshwater at least one month per year. That is forecast to rise to more than five billion by 2050, the report said.

Between 2001 and 2018, 74 percent of all natural disasters were water-related, according to UN studies.

In 2021, all regions saw devastating water extremes, the report said. There were record-breaking floods in western Europe and the Amazon, while water levels in rivers in Paraguay and southern Brazil dropped to an all-time low.

The report assessed streamflow -- the volume of water flowing through a river -- over a 30-year period.

Drops in water volumes were twice as widespread as rises.

Major river basins in the Americas and central Africa saw water

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