

Iranian FM Visits Qatar on Third Leg of Tour

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister of Iran Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Monday traveled to Qatar on the third leg of a regional tour that is focused on ways to settle the crisis in Gaza.

His regional tour had earlier taken him to Lebanon and Syria. He was to hold meetings with senior Qatari officials about a range of issues, including the cooperation between Tehran and Doha.

Kayhan

International

Minister: Iran to Launch Foreign Satellites in Two Years

TEHRAN – Minister of Communications and Information Technology Isa Zare'pour said Monday Iran will put into orbit satellites of other countries, using Iranian-made carriers and launchers within the next two years.

Iran's space industry is back on track and has witnessed significant growth over the past two years, the minister said, adding that the number of space launches in the past two years is as equal as the launches carried out over ten years earlier.

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Viewpoint

The Changed Political Landscape of the Region

President: West Spreading Iranophobia for Colonial Ends



Iran Win CAFA Women's Futsal Championship for Third Time



WHO Chief: Medical Aid to Gaza 'Drop in Ocean'



Imam Husain (AS), the Saviour of Humanity

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"O Allah! Confer on us the best of gifts today, and grant us success in whatever we seek, just as You gave Husain to Muhammad, his grandfather. The Angel Fotros sought refuge by Husain's cradle, and we seek shelter by his tomb. Being present at his graveside, we await his return. Amen, O Lord of all the worlds."

Heartiest congratulations to all our readers on a very special day. Today the 3rd of Sha'ban is that blessed day in the history of humanity when the Saviour of faith and humanitarian values, was born in 4 AH in Medina.

It is the day that revives for us memories of the dynamic life of a person, who is part of a select group mentioned in the holy Qur'an as the **"Ahl al-Bayt"** or Persons of the Blessed Household, whose pristine purity has been vouchsafed by God Almighty himself (33:33).

It is the day on which – as is obvious by the wordings of the above-mentioned supplication in the Divine Court – the All-Merciful Lord restored to the fallen angel, Fotros, his former status after granting him permission to accompany Archangel Gabriel to Planet Earth to congratulate Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) on the birth of his younger grandson.

To be more precise, today is the birthday of the Immortal Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), whose epic of **"Ashura"** (Muharram 10) and **"Arba'een"** – Safar 20, the traditional 40th day of his martyrdom which this year saw over 20 million pilgrims converge on his shrine in Karbala – are commemorated every year around the world by scores of millions of people, and continues to inspire seekers of truth and justice against falsehood and tyranny. Imam Husain (AS) needs no introduction. It would be repetitive to say he was the son of such peerless parents as the Prophet's Immaculate Daughter, the Noblest-ever Lady Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) and the One and Only Infallible Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

Hailed, along with his elder brother, the equally chivalrous Imam Hasan (AS), as **"Leaders of the Youths of Paradise"**, by the Prophet, his lofty status has been mentioned by God in several ayahs of the holy Qur'an, in addition to the term **"Ahl al-Bayt"** in Ayat al-Tatheer (33:33).

When Ayah 61 of Surah Aal-e Imran was revealed for holding **"Mubahala"** or challenge to demonstrate the truth through imprecation of the liars, following three days of inconclusive debate with the Christians of Najran, the Prophet in obedience to the Divine Commandment took to the crucial field only his immediate family, the Ahl al-Bayt – daughter Hazrat Fatema (SA), son-in-law Imam Ali (AS) and his two grandsons, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) – in order to make Islam triumphant.

When a group of Arabs asked the Prophet how should they reward him for their being enlightened with the dynamic message of Islam, God revealed Ayah 23 of Surah Shura, saying that the token of gratitude of any Muslim in this regard, is love, affection and respect for the Prophet's nearest and dearest of kin, who are no one else except Imam Husain (AS), his brother and his parents.

Among other instances in the holy Qur'an in praise of the Ahl al-Bayt and their lofty status in Paradise, are the ayahs five to twenty-two of Surah Dahr when the boy Imam Husain (AS), along with his brother, parents and the maid Fizza kept three days of fasts to fulfill a vow, but gave whatever they had for breaking the fast to a destitute, an orphan and a freed prisoner, when these persons happened to knock on the door of the Prophet's progeny on three consecutive days.

To further specify the position of the Ahl al-Bayt, the Qur'an uses the terms **"Rasekhouna fi Ilm"** (Repositories of Knowledge), and **"Ahl az-Zikr"** (Persons of Profound Remembrance). These terms also include the Infallible Offspring of Imam Husain (AS) that is, the Nine Imams in lineal descent from him, of whom the Last is the Prophet's 12th Divinely-Designated Heir, Imam Mahdi (AS) – who will reappear in the end times to cleanse the Earth of all vestiges of corruption and oppression by establishing the global government of peace, prosperity and justice.

Last but not the least is Ayah 107 of Surah Saff, which after having confirmed the firm and unflinching faith of Prophet Abraham and deferment of the sacrifice of his firstborn son, Prophet Ishmael, by sending a ram as replacement for the time being, says: **"We ransomed him with a Great Sacrifice."**

According to exegetes of the holy Qur'an the Arabic word **"Zibhin Azeem"** or Great Sacrifice used by God Almighty is a reference to Imam Husain (AS), who in the full limelight of history, in order to save the essence of faith and humanitarian values, was to court martyrdom after having sacrificed in the way of God his sons, brothers, nephews, cousins, and close friends.

Till this day, the Martyr of Karbala's memorable sacrifice for immortalizing humanitarian values continues to be commemorated by the faithful all over the world in the months of Muharram and Safar.

No wonder, every year on the 3rd of the month of Sha'ban the faithful supplicate to the Almighty Creator, with raised hands, invoking the right of the baby born this day:

"O God, I beseech You by the right of him who was born this day, to whom martyrdom was promised before he appeared and was born, for whom the heavens wept and those who are in them and the earth and those who are in it, before he even tread its stony grounds."

As is clear from the wording of this passage, Imam Husain (AS) was destined to be the greatest-ever martyr. He courted death in defence of Godly values in the most heart-wrenching manner preceded by gruesome trials and tribulations, otherwise the heavens and the earth (and all they contain), would not have wept for him.

Here is another passage of the same supplication that sheds more light on the brilliance of this person:

"The Imams are from his descent, curative is the soil of his shrine, and triumph will be with him and the legatees of his line at his return, after their "Qa'em" (the Promised Saviour) and his (lengthy) occultation, until they take vengeance and avenge the blood of the martyrs, pleasing God and being the best of helpers... O Allah, bless Mohammad and his descendants and gather us at resurrection in his fold and settle us with him in the abode of dignity and permanence."

Thus, in view of his dynamic move to sacrifice his life in the way of God, Imam Husain (AS) has been hailed as not only the Legatee of his grandfather, father, and brother but also the Legatee of the Prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others, for safeguarding humanitarian values and bequeathing them to humanity.

This is the among the reasons, the Islamic Republic of Iran every year marks the birthday of Imam Husain (AS) as **"Rouz-e Pasdaraan"** or Day of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) for their heroic defence of Islam and all humanitarian values against terrorists and terrorism of all kinds, including the state terrorism of reactionary regimes and the US.

Genocide in Rafah



A picture taken from Rafah shows smoke billowing during an Israeli bombardment, while a man mourns over shrouded bodies of relatives and wounded people are transported to Kuwait Hospital.

RAFAH (Dispatches) -- **Dozens of people, including children, have been killed as "extremely intense" Israeli airstrikes and shelling pounded multiple locations in Rafah overnight Monday, according to the Palestine Red Crescent Society, as international alarm mounted over the Zionist regime's planned ground invasion of the southern city in the besieged**

Gaza Strip. More than 100 people were martyred due to Israeli airstrikes as warplanes targeted different areas of the city and helicopters fired machine guns along the border areas, the PRCS said early Monday.

There are fears the death toll could rise further as the PRCS said people remain trapped un-

der the rubble and there is still a heavy presence of warplanes in the skies over Rafah.

The director of Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital said medical facilities in Rafah "cannot handle the large number of injuries due to the Israeli occupation's bombardment."

Footage showed a chaotic scene inside Rafah's Al Kuwaiti hospi-

tal, with medics trying to resuscitate a motionless child in one scene and another showing doctors treating a wounded man on the hospital floor. In another video a woman was inconsolable as she held a child's body wrapped in white cloth.

At least two mosques and around a dozen homes were targeted in the strikes, the Rafah municipality said Monday.

The Zionist military confirmed it conducted a "series of strikes" on what it said were targets in the Shaboura area of Rafah and that two Israeli captives were rescued in a "special operation".

In a statement Monday, Hamas condemned what it said was a "horrific massacre" by Israel against civilians in Rafah.

The Zionist military's attack on Rafah "and its horrific massacres against defenseless civilians and displaced children, women, and the elderly... is considered a continuation of the genocidal war and the forced displacement attempts it is waging against our Palestinian people," Hamas said.

At least 28,340 Palestinians have been killed by the occupying regime of Israel since October 7, according to Gaza's health ministry.

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Yemeni Forces Target U.S. Ship in Red Sea

SANAA (Dispatches) -- **The spokesperson for the Yemeni armed forces said Monday the country's naval units have launched several missiles that struck a U.S. merchant vessel in the Red Sea just off the coast of the Arab nation.**

Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a televised speech that the Yemeni military carried out an operation against Star Iris bulk carrier with a number of "appropriate" naval missiles, and that the strikes were accurate and direct.

The operation came as part of the Yemeni forces' religious, ethical and humanitarian duties, reiterating that the Arab nation's

naval units will continue their attacks in the Red Sea and the Arab Sea against Israeli-affiliated ships until the Tel Aviv regime halts its aggression on Gaza and lifts its tight siege against Palestinians in the territory.

Saree further noted that the Yemeni armed forces will not hesitate to carry out more operations in response to the relentless Israeli onslaught against the oppressed Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and in response to joint American-British aggression against the Republic of Yemen.

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation

since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7 after the territory's Palestinian resistance movements carried out a surprise retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity.

The United States and United Kingdom have been carrying out strikes against Yemen after the Biden administration and its allies offered the Tel Aviv regime unqualified support and said that Yemeni forces bear the consequences of their attacks against Israeli-owned ships or merchant vessels heading to the occupied territories.

The Yemeni armed forces have

said that they won't stop their attacks until unrelenting Israeli ground and aerial offensives in Gaza come to an end.

Leader of the Ansarullah resistance movement, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, has said that it is "a great honor and blessing to be confronting America directly."

The attacks have forced some of the world's biggest shipping and oil companies to suspend transit through one of the world's most important maritime trade routes. Tankers are instead adding thousands of miles to international shipping routes by sailing around the continent of Africa rather than going through the Suez Canal.

Dutch Court Bans Sale of F-35 Parts to Israel

AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) -- **A Dutch court on Monday ordered a ban on sales of F-35 parts to the occupying regime of Israel, citing a "clear risk" that they could be used in violations of humanitarian law.**

The Dutch Court of Appeals made its decision following an application from several human rights organizations that are concerned about Israeli war crimes in the Gaza Strip.

The court said that the Zionist regime did "not take sufficient account of the consequences of its attacks for the civilian population" of the enclave.

"The court therefore orders the state to put an end to the further export of F-35 parts to Israel within seven days," said the ruling.

"There is a clear risk that serious violations of humanitarian law of war are committed in the

Gaza Strip with Israel's F-35 fighter planes."

The appeals court overturned a ruling by the District Court in December that had said supplying the parts was to a "large extent of a political and policy nature" that judges should not interfere with.

Dutch officials previously suggested that they may not be able to prevent the deliveries of the U.S.-owned F-35 parts, which

are stored at a warehouse in the Netherlands and then shipped to several partners - including Israel - via existing export agreements.

The ruling comes as the Zionist regime launched overnight airstrikes on Rafah in southern Gaza, martyring scores of Palestinians and stoking fears of an imminent invasion of the area, which is densely packed with displaced people.