

Condolences on the Martyrdom of Imam Muhammad at-Taqi (AS)

Protests Hit Tel Aviv for 24th Week

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands have held fresh anti-regime rallies across the occupied territories, denouncing the Israeli prime minister's determination to push through with a set of highly divisive "judicial reforms."

The rallies were held in Tel Aviv and other cities throughout the occupied territories on Saturday for a 24th straight week. Protesters were seen lighting up flares and shouting anti-regime slogans. Some held up a huge banner emblazoned with prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's picture and the words "persona non grata."

Kayhan International

Raisi: Enemies Angry at Iran-Saudi Rapprochement

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi says enemies, particularly the occupying regime of Israel, are the only ones furious at the improvement of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. In a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan here Saturday, Raisi said many Muslim nations have welcomed the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia as two influential countries in the Muslim world. He said Iran sets no limitation to the expansion of ties with Muslim countries. "Only the adversaries of Muslims, not least the Zionist regime, are upset with the enhancement of cooperation between Iran

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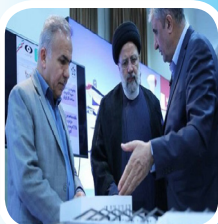
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Viewpoint

Iran, Uzbekistan Explore New Areas of Cooperation

President: Nuclear Industry Has Empowered Iran



Iran to Play Uzbekistan in CAFA Nations Cup Final



Zionist Regime Ramps Up Settlement Expansion, Palestinians Boycott Meeting



Martyrdom of the Spring of Wisdom

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"O Allah send blessings upon Muhammad and his Household, and send blessings upon Muhammad ibn Ali, the Pure, the Pious, the Devout, the Loyal, the Respectful, the Immaculate; "Peace upon you O Abu Ja'far Muhammad son of Ali, the Pious, the Devout, the Guide, and the Loyal (to Almighty Allah)."

Today, the last day of the month of Zi'l-Qa'dah is a day of grief for Muslims, especially for the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt or Immaculate Household of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind.

It is the day on which in the year 220 AH (835 AD), the 9th Infallible Heir of the Seal of Messengers was forced to leave world as a martyr through a fatal dose of poisoning, administered yet again by an usurper caliph.

As is clear from the wordings of the above-mentioned phrases of the "ziyarah" or standard form of salutation to him, he was the namesake of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), and like the "Mercy unto the whole creation", he was a picture of piety, patience, and devotion to God Almighty, to the extent that he acquired the epithets of "at-Taqi" (the Pure) and "al-Jawad" (the Generous).

Imam Muhammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), who lived in an age when the Muslim world had reached its height, both politically and intellectually – straddling vast areas of the three continents of Asia, Africa and Europe – was not just generous in spending on the needy from whatever he possessed materially, but his generosity included the dispensing of knowledge and bezares of wisdom to all those who came into contact with him.

Volumes would be required to pen the virtues of the 9th Imam whose praises the celestial angels chant. He was a mere boy of 8 years, when the Divine Trust of Imamate, which on Almighty Allah's express orders Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) had entrusted to his dear cousin and son-in-law Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) on the memorable 18th of Zi'l-Hijjah at the historic gathering of over a hundred thousand Hajj pilgrims at Ghadeer-Khom in 10 AH, came to rest on his tender shoulders – following the martyrdom of his father Imam Ali ibn Musa ar-Reza (AS) in distant Khorasan due to a fatal dose of poison given by Mamoon the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime.

The crafty Mamoon now plotted to tarnish the image of the young son and successor of his victim by pitting him in a debate with the Mu'tazilite ideologue, Yahya ibn Aktham. Since, we are on the threshold of the Hajj pilgrimage, the first question of the lively debate and its answer is worth contemplating upon.

Ibn Aktham asked the Imam: "What is the atonement for a person who hunts a game while he is dressed in the pilgrimage garb (Ehram)."

The question appears simple, especially during the Hajj season when pilgrims acquaint themselves with the rules before setting off to Mecca to circumambulate the Holy Ka'ba – the symbolic House of the Unseen but Omnipresent Lord. The questioner, however, had ulterior motives. He intended to ensnare what he viewed as a mere boy in the intricacies of legal issues, but to his astonishment and of the whole court, the lad, with composure and wisdom beyond his tender years, said:

"Your question is utterly vague and lacks definition. You should first clarify whether the game killed was outside the sanctified area or inside it; whether the hunter was aware of his sin or did so in ignorance; did he kill the game purposely or by mistake; was the hunter a slave or a free man; was he adult or minor, did he commit the sin for the first time or had he done so before; was the hunted game a bird or something else; was it a small animal or a big one; is the sinner sorry for the misdeed or does he insist on it; did he kill it secretly at night or openly during daylight; was he putting on the pilgrimage garb for Hajj or for the Umrah? Unless you clarify and define these aspects, how can you have a definite answer?"

Ibn Aktham stuttered for words and couldn't find any answer to the counter question posed by the boy-Imam. His claim to knowledge now shattered before the whole court, he changed his tone and humbly addressed the boy with the words: O' son of the Prophet, you know better.

This admission of inability by the learned doctor of law embarrassed Mamoon and evaporated his dreams of humiliating 9th infallible Heir of the Prophet. The boy-Imam calmly elaborated by saying: "If he (the pilgrim) had killed the animal outside the sacred ground and it was winged and large, an atonement of sheep would have been necessary for him. If he had struck it down in the sanctuary, the penalty required of him would be doubled. If he killed a young bird outside the sacred ground, then the atonement of a lamb which had been weaned off milk would have been required of him. If he had killed it in the sanctuary, then he would have been required to sacrifice a lamb and the value of the young bird. As for wild animals, if it was a wild ass, he would have been required to sacrifice a cow. If it was an ostrich, the sacrifice of a camel would be necessary. If it had been a deer, then a sheep would have been necessary. If he had killed any of those in the sanctuary, the penalty would have been doubled."

Imam Jawad (AS) continued to describe the various penalties for the pilgrim in the state of Ehram, to the astonishment of the audience. The crafty Mamoon was speechless. He now connived to marry his daughter to the Prophet's Rightful Heir – not out of devotion to him but in order to keep under surveillance what he thought were political aspirations of Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS) to take over the caliphate.

Mamoon was wrong, since the 9th Imam whose spiritual powers were far greater than the wealth and political might of any king or caliph, did not need to rise and establish the rule of the Ahl al-Bayt on earth, which God Almighty had deferred for the end times through the Promised Imam Mahdi al-Qa'em (AS).

Mu'tasem, the next self-styled caliph, was also jealous of Imam Jawad. He vividly remembered the debate held over a dozen years ago in Baghdad between the 9th Imam and Ibn Aktham, yet he was so blind to the truth that he forced Imam Jawad (AS) to leave Medina on the threshold of the Hajj pilgrimage and come to his capital Baghdad, so as to be under the watchful eyes of the regime.

It was clear Mu'tasem was looking for a pretext to harm the Imam. Once a thief was brought before him and the jurists in his court gave conflicting verdicts, with some saying that the culprit's hand be severed from the wrist, some that it should be cut off from the elbow, while others wanting that the whole arm to be chopped off.

When Mu'tasim turned to the 9th Imam and insisted on his opinion in this regard, the Prophet's

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Leader: Iran-Uzbekistan Affinity is Unique



Ayatollah Khamenei holds talks with Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tehran Sunday. Insets left show President Raisi's meetings with the Uzbek leader.

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev here Sunday that common grounds between Iran and the Central Asian nation should be used to expand relations in different sectors.

Ayatollah Khamenei touched on unparalleled historical, cultural and scientific affinity that exists between the two countries and expressed his satisfaction at the revival of relations after a long break.

"Unfortunately, for many years

the relations between Iran and Uzbekistan were very limited. We hope that this trip and the talks held in Tehran will be the beginning of a better future with regards to the relations between the two countries," the Leader said.

The Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khamenei said, has the ability to easily connect Uzbekistan to open waters through Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

Furthermore, the areas of cooperation between the two countries are beyond trade and transportation, and more cooperation can

be done with various initiatives in the field of science and technology and in other sectors, he added.

The Leader said there are some who oppose the idea of Iran and Uzbekistan expanding relations, but decisions should be made despite these objections and based on the interests of the two countries and their cooperation should be expanded as much as possible.

During the meeting, also attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the Uzbek president described his meeting with Ayatollah Khamenei as historic.

"We too were upset about the interruption that had occurred in relations between the two countries as well as the reduction in cooperation. We hope that with the talks that were held in Tehran, we will take great steps and cooperation will reach their proper and desired level in the fields of trade, transportation, science and technology and tourism," he said.

The Uzbekistan's president also lauded the Iranian nation for its resistance in the face of sanctions.

"The achievements of the Iranian

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British-Israeli Historian Avi Shlaim: Mossad Behind 1950s Attacks on Iraqi Jews

LONDON (Middle East Eye) -- British-Israeli historian Avi Shlaim has claimed in his new book to have uncovered "undeniable proof" of Israeli involvement in attacks on Jewish communities in Iraq in the early 1950s.

Shlaim's autobiography, Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab-Jew, which details his childhood as an Iraqi Jew and subsequent exile to Occupied Palestine, was published last week.

According to a review of the memoir printed on Saturday in the Spectator magazine, Shlaim unveils in his book "undeniable proof of Zionist involvement in the terrorist attacks" which prompted a mass exodus of Jews from Iraq between 1950 and 1951.

The historian concluded, after extensive personal research, that while a grenade assault on the Masuda Shemtov synagogue in Baghdad - which killed four Jews in January 1951 - was carried out by an Arab, other bombings were allegedly the work of Mossad, Is-

rael's spy agency.

These were carried out to quicken the transfer of 110,000 Jews in Iraq to the then-newly created Israel, he said.

Over 800,000 Jews either left or were expelled from countries in the Middle East and North Africa between 1948 and the early 1980s. The majority of them settled in Israel.

As of 2005, 61 percent of Israeli Jews were of full or partial Mizrahi ancestry - the sociological term coined to refer to Jews from the region following the creation of Israel.

In his book, Shlaim describes how he was one of those who fled violence in the region.

Born in 1945 in Baghdad, his parents were well-connected and well-to-do members of Iraq's millennia-old Jewish minority.

But at the age of five, Shlaim was forced to flee with his family following the bombings targeting Jews in the Iraqi capital.

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Fresh Gun Violence Engulfs U.S. States

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- At least six people were killed and more than two dozen others injured in shootings in Illinois, Missouri, Washington state, and Pennsylvania in a deadly night of gun violence.

At least one person was killed early Sunday with 19 more injured at a strip mall in Willowbrook, Illinois, a southwest suburb of Chicago, police said.

Eric Swanson, the deputy chief of the DuPage County Sheriff's office, told a news conference that deputies "heard numerous gunshots fired and responded to an area where a large gathering of people was happening."

Preliminary witness and victim reports indicated "that there were at least 20 individuals shot," he said. "At this time one victim is deceased," he added.

He added that the victims had been taken to nearby hospitals, adding that the names and ages of the victims were not available. "The motive behind this inci-

dent is unclear and this is still an active investigation," he said.

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital said it received 12 patients in relation to the shooting Sunday, seven of whom were treated and released. Four patients remained in good condition, with one person described as being in "fair" condition.

"We were all just out, and next thing you know, shots just going off," said Craig Lottie. "Everybody ran, and it was chaos."

The shooting came hours after two people were killed and three injured near the Beyond Wonderland electronic dance music festival in Washington State.

There, police said the suspect shot "randomly into the crowd," at a campground near the Gorge Amphitheater, in the small city of George, around 149 miles east of Seattle.

Another deadly shooting took place just after 1 a.m. in St. Louis, Missouri. One person was killed

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