

Source: Iranian FM to Visit Oman, Qatar

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian will visit Oman and Qatar, an informed source at the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission said on Monday.

The agenda of talks is unknown. But Oman is said to be mediating between Iran and the US for talks over a possible prisoner swap deal. Omani officials have been engaged in a shuttle diplomacy in order to finalize the agreement.

Kayhan International

Ministry to Establish Immigration Organization

TEHRAN – The Interior Ministry is to establish a national immigration organization to help streamline affairs related to a growing number of immigrants arriving in the country.

The ministry is entitled to collect legal and illegal immigrants' data in an integrated online database in cooperation with the Iran's foreign ministry and intelligence ministry and other relevant organizations and departments.

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Viewpoint

US-Zionist Plan of Jewish Townships in the West Bank Have Eyes on Arabia

Interior Minister Visits Flood-Hit Regions



Davoudi Bags 3 Gold Medals in IWF Grand Prix I



Ministry: 8,000 Yemeni Children Killed in War



Nuptials in the Heaven and on Earth

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"And those who say, 'Our Lord! Grant us comfort in our spouses and offspring, and make us Imams (Leaders) of the "muttaqeen" (God-conscious)." – Holy Qur'an 25:74) Today, the 1st of the sacred month of Dhu'l-Hijjah is the anniversary of a very auspicious day in history. It is the day on which the most blessed marriage took place and that too in the full limelight of history of two of the most foremost Leaders of the "muttaqeen" or God-conscious persons – universal Leaders, whose pristine purity the Almighty Himself as vouchsafed in the Holy Qur'an (33:33).

The wedding of this pair of the noblest souls was solemnized on Planet Earth as God ordered angels in the Celestial Heavens to celebrate the nuptials of the finest-ever-couple, whose offspring would be the most excellent exemplars for the children of Adam and Eve in every age and place.

Was it the anniversary of the marriage of the "Best of creation" Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) with the First Lady of Islam, Hazrat Khadija (SA) – the "Tahera" (Purified Lady) whom the Exalted Creator has glorified in the Holy Qur'an?

No, the "Mercy unto the creation" had entered into wedlock with the One and Only Mother of True Believers (Omm al-Momineen) in the month of Rabi al-Awwal and not Dhu'l-Hijjah. Moreover, at the time of his marriage, the 25-year old orphaned son of the Abrahamic monotheists Abdullah (AS) and Amana (SA) had not yet announced his universal mission to mankind as the Last and Greatest of the Messengers of God.

This means his matrimonial ceremony did not feature the claimants to be Sahaba or his companions, who in the future would hover around him for various reasons and after his passing away narrate to posterity accounts of happenings (hadith) – either honestly or twisted and distorted, as per the inclination of the particular Sahabi and his degree of faith (or perhaps lack of it in Islam and the Prophet).

Of course, this does not mean that Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) union with Hazrat Khadija (SA) was an obscure, uncelebrated, unrecorded, and insignificant event of the pre-Islamic days.

Such a thought is sheer ignorance of the realities of Islam, and puts a big question mark on the mindset and belief of anyone claiming to be a Muslim.

The marriage of the Prophet with the "Maleekat-al-Arab" (Richest Lady of Arabia), solemnized in the most monotheistic manner by his uncle and guardian Abu Taleb (the Primordial Muslim), was a landmark in the history of Mecca and Arabia. It was the talk-of-the-town. Elaborate preparations were made by the bride; complete with curtains and draperies to match the furniture of the bridal chamber, and for days the people of Mecca were fed and the poor clothed.

This was not any extravaganza, nor ostentatious display of wealth, and neither the squandering of hard-earned riches, because the Prophet of God, whether or not he has publicly declared his mission, never indulges in negative characteristics and vainglories. As a matter of fact, this was God's Will to preserve for posterity memories of that greatly blessed occasion, since over a quarter century later, the widower Prophet would never attach any undue significance, while taking as spouses any of the nine women in his middle age, as social necessity or to break the taboos of the days of Jahiliyyah.

Needless to say, with the Prophet's proclamation of his universal mission fifteen years after his marriage the vast wealth of his loyal wife, of a blissful 25-year long matrimonial life, were spent to the last penny on feeding, clothing and sheltering the persecuted neo-Muslim community of Mecca – the Sahaba or Salaf of the future, of whom some would remain loyal and some would turn traitors.

Thus, nothing remained of Hazrat Khadija's (SA) property, when on the 1st of Dhu'l-Hijjah in the year 2 AH, some four years after her passing away, the Prophet solemnized the nuptial of his only surviving offspring, the "Seyyedah-an-Nisa al-Aleemeen" (Noblest Lady of all times) Fatemat-az-Zahra (SA) with his dear cousin, "Imam al-Muttaqeen" Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), as the union of the most blessed God-conscious couple.

Now we better understand the meaning and purpose of the words of the Heavenly Scripture (25:74) stated at the beginning of this column as supplication in the Divine Court of the Imams of the God-conscious for the grant of sincere spouses and upright offspring.

In other words, this was manifestation of Divine Authority. The blessed union of the most-infallible-ever couple gave to the world the concept of the "Ahl al-Bayt" and their spotless purity – as indicated by Ayah 33 of Surah Ahzaab:

"Allah desires to keep away uncleanness from you Ahl al-Bayt, and preserve you thoroughly purified."

It was indeed a marriage-made-in-heaven, since no man was worthy of the hand of the Prophet's Immaculate Daughter, other than his Impeccable Cousin.

No wonder, a famous hadith says: *"if there was no Ali; Fatema would have remained unmarried"* (similar to the Virgin Mary), since no man was equal to her.

Following their marriage, these two Exemplary Figures started a simple life filled with kindness and spirituality. The fruit of this blessed union that guaranteed continuation of the Prophet's progeny were two noble sons, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS), and two virtuous daughters, Hazrat Zainab (SA) and Hazrat Omm Kulthoum (SA).

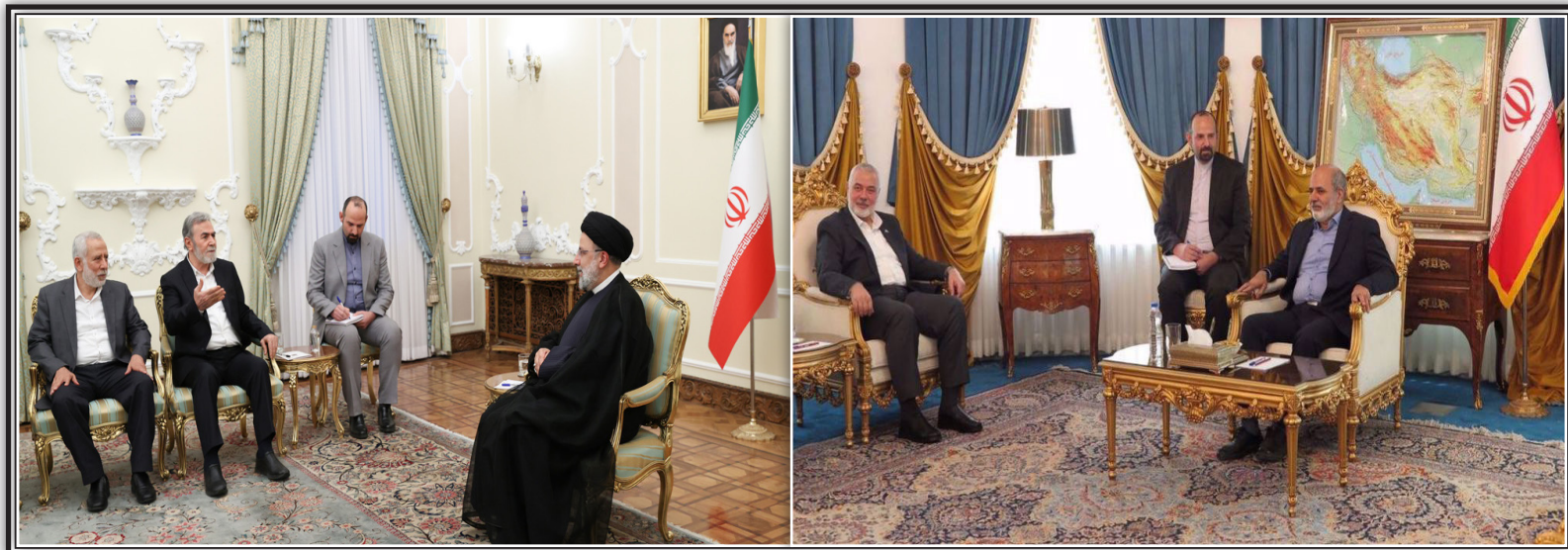
The nuptials this day that were celebrated in the most modest manner with praises of God Almighty and without any extravagant dowry or bridal-money, serves as the all-time universal model for any Muslim couple anywhere in the world.

Thus was planted the felicitous tree of perpetual munificence, whose branches in the form of the Saadat or honoured descendants of Imam Ali (AS) and Hazrat Fatema (SA), have spread today all over the world.

This made-for-each-other pair are ancestors of the Infallible Imams (the Leaders of the "muttaqeen" or God-conscious), the last of whom is the Awaited Redeemer of Mankind, Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance to cleanse the world of all vestiges of corruption and oppression, and to fill it with the global government of peace, prosperity, and justice).

Since Islam, unlike other creeds and cultures, regards men and women as equal and attaches paramount importance to the building of the family unit on a sound and healthy basis as the firm foundation of a progressive society, the Islamic Republic of Iran has designated the blessed 1st of Dhu'l-Hijja as the "Day of Marriage and Family" in view of the fact that there is no better example of a blissful husband-and-wife pair than Imam Ali (AS) and Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA).

Palestinian Resistance Leaders in Tehran



The picture on the right shows Islamic Jihad chief Ziad al-Nakhleh meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran. Left shows Hamas head Ismail Haniyeh meeting with Iran's Supreme National Security chief Ali Akbar Ahmadian on Monday.

At Least Five Palestinians Martyred; Eight Zionist Troops Injured Apache Helicopters Invade West Bank

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel used Apache attack helicopters in the occupied West Bank for the first time in over 20 years during its Monday morning raid on Jenin, which martyred at least five Palestinians and wounded 91.

An Israeli military spokesman said that after a Panther troop carrier was hit by an "unusual and dramatic" improvised explosive device (IED) fired by Palestinian fighters, an Apache helicopter gunship fired in support of Israeli commandos.

The use of the U.S. helicopter, made by aerospace company Boeing, is significant because of the heavy ordinance it carries and because Israeli Apaches are not

believed to have fired missiles inside of the occupied West Bank since 2002, during the days of the Second Intifada.

While the Zionist regime regularly launches airstrikes on Gaza, the use of heavily armed attack helicopters in what is essentially a residential zone is a profound sign of increased Israeli military aggression.

The security situation in the occupied West Bank has been deteriorating for some time, with Israel launching repeated incursions into Jenin over the last year. At least eight Israeli soldiers are believed to have been wounded in Monday morning's raid, which went on for several hours.

The declared aim of the raid was

Ismail Haniyeh held talks with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the newly-appointed secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), ahead of a meeting with other top officials.

"The most efficient way to end the more than 75 years of occupation of Palestine is resistance,"

to arrest 36-year-old Hamas activist, Assem Abu al-Haija, from the Jabriyat neighborhood on the outskirts of the northern West Bank city.

Videos from the Jenin refugee camp showed an attack helicopter firing flares, prompting speculation that Palestinian fighters there had acquired shoulder-launch anti-aircraft missiles.

Wafa Jarrar, a Palestinian resident of the Jenin refugee camp, told Middle East Eye that her cousin had been martyred in an Israeli air attack there in February 2002.

"What happened today is not easy for all the residents of Jenin and of course for those who lost family

(Continued on Page 7)

that the Zionist regime was seeking to normalize ties with more Arab and Muslim countries "to discourage young Palestinians from [seeking to] liberate the occupied territories," the president's office said in a statement, as he hailed Palestinian "resistance" against Israel.

In 2020, Israel established diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Bahrain under the Abraham Accords brokered by the United States.

Saudi Arabia has declined to recognize Israel, in part over the Saudis' allegiance with the Palestinians. The kingdom and Iran agreed to mend ties in March, under a Chinese-brokered deal.

The Iran-Palestinian talks coincided with Israeli forces launching a raid on Jenin in the West Bank on Monday. The raid left five Palestinians martyred and saw eight Zionist soldiers injured.

Haniyeh, who arrived earlier Monday in Iran at the head of a large delegation, according to state news agency IRNA, was due to hold talks with Ayatollah Khamenei, Raisi and other officials.

Iran is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and does not recognize Israel.

(Continued on Page 7)

Russia Sees Free Trade Pact With Iran by Year-End

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- A free trade zone agreement between Iran, Russia and several countries that cover the vast Eurasian region spreading from the borders of Eastern Europe to Western China is possible by the end of the year, Russia's TASS news agency reported on Monday.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk told the state TASS agency in an interview that talks between the Eurasian Economic Union - which comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia - and Iran

are in their final stages.

"We are moving forward," Overchuk said. "We very much hope that such an agreement can be signed by the end of the year."

Both the region and Iran have taken on additional significance for the Kremlin after Western sanctions limited Russia's foreign trade routes and forced it to look for markets outside Europe.

Russian-Iranian commodity turnover rose 20% in 2022, according to government data.

The regional agreement with Iran would replace and expand an

interim pact that already provides a reduction in customs duties on hundreds of categories of goods.

In November 2022, Russia started swapping oil products with Iran and in March, Tehran said it counts on "huge volumes" of both oil and gas swaps with Moscow.

Overchuk also told TASS, without providing much detail, that negotiations among the Eurasian Economic Union countries on creating a common gas market continue.

An evolution in Iran's foreign relations under the current ad-

ministration has occurred with Russia.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Moscow in January 2022 resulted in a leap in trade between the two countries and ushered in bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, energy. Last month, the two countries signed of a deal to finance and build an Iranian railway line as part of the international North-South Transport Corridor.

With both countries under Western sanctions, Iran and Russia are working on establishing new

(Continued on Page 7)