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Iranians Bid Farewell to Martyrs of Terrorist Attack



Iranians hold a funeral procession for the martyrs of the terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz on Aug. 16, 2023.

TEHRAN -- Tens of thousands of Iranians on Wednesday bid farewell to the victims of Sunday's terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern city of Shiraz.

In a burial ceremony, people carried the bodies of Gholm Abbas Abbasi, a caretaker at the holy shrine, and Muhammad Jahnagiri, a member of its security personnel, from the city's Shohada (martyr) Square to the courtyard of the Shah Cheragh shrine.

The mourners carried posters

in condemnation of blind terrorist acts by Daesh-linked groups and their Western sponsors.

Chanting slogans such as "Down with the U.S." and "Down with Israel," they called for a decisive and regret-inducing response to all the perpetrators and masterminds of the deadly crime.

Wednesday had been designated as a day of public mourning in Iran's Fars province.

On Sunday, a terrorist from Tajikistan went on a shooting spree in the Shah Cheragh

shrine, martyring two and injuring seven people. He was immediately arrested and handed over to law-enforcement authorities.

The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the terrorist assault.

In a similar attack in October 2022, an armed terrorist martyred 13 pilgrims and worshippers at the same shrine, including women and children, and wounded more than 20 others before he was shot and injured by security forces.

FM Renews Iran's Call for Inclusive Afghan Government

TEHRAN -- On the anniversary of the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has renewed Iran's call for the formation of an inclusive government in the Central Asian country.

The top diplomat made the remarks here in a meeting with Tariq Ali Bakheet, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s special envoy on Afghanistan.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, which enjoys 900 kilometers (559 miles) of common border with Afghanistan, addresses the country's developments with diligence and sensitivity," Amir-Abdollahian said.

"Iran considers the means of Afghanistan's exit from the current situation to consist of the forma-

tion of an inclusive government that is joined by all of the country's ethnic and religious groups," he added.

The Taliban stormed back to power in August 2021 after making sweeping advances across the country, which triggered a messy withdrawal by the United States-led foreign forces as well as the rapid collapse of the country's security forces.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, despite the fact that no Afghan national was involved in the attacks. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans died in the U.S. war of aggression on the country.

Iran has, on repeated occasions, called for the formation of a repre-

sentative government in Afghanistan. Back in May, the Iranian foreign minister clarified that Tehran did not recognize the ruling faction in Kabul.

Adding to his Tuesday remarks, Amir-Abdollahian called for the intensification of efforts aimed at the resolution of existing livelihood and humanitarian problems that face the Afghan people.

He also called for the provision of international aid for the Afghan refugees in Iran, whose number amounts to millions.

The OIC official, for his part, considered the Islamic Republic's role in Afghanistan to be very important and constructive.

He also submitted a report detailing his efforts as the organization's representative for Afghanistan.

Envoy: India Seeks to Diversify Linkage With Iran

TEHRAN -- The Indian ambassador to Iran has called for efforts to boost economic interaction between Tehran and New Delhi, saying the current economic ties do not correspond to the depth of friendship between the two nations.

Speaking here during a ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of India's independence, Rudra Gaurav Shresth said the two countries have long been friends and maintained close high-level contacts throughout the years.

"All these interactions have served to reiterate the warmth of our relations, and the shared desire to broaden and deepen our cooperation," he said.

"Both our countries are aware of the fact that our economic exchanges have not kept pace with the warmth and depth of our political friendship. The reasons for this are also well-known. We continue to make efforts to maintain our economic linkage, and to diversify them further," the envoy said.

The Indian official said regional connectivity projects are a major area of cooperation between the two countries.

"India wishes to benefit from the strategically located and friendly territory of Iran for reaching the Eurasian and Central Asian markets. We are partners in the International North-South Transport Corridor, and in the Chabahar port. For India, these connectivity projects hold immense promise. In future, they can become the main pillars on which India-Iran friendship would rest," he said.

The ambassador said the two countries can also deepen their exchanges in the field of culture, education and people-to-people links.

"In diplomacy between countries, this soft aspect is often an after-thought, subordinate to political, security and economic considerations. However, when it comes to India and Iran, our cultural connection is perhaps the basis of everything else we do together," he said, hailing traditional links between the two cul-

tures and their mutual impact on each other.

"No matter what anyone may wish, India and Iran can never drift apart," Shresth concluded.

Also addressing the ceremony, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said cooperation between Iran and India, based on a long history of cultural commonalities, can help boost stability and security in the region.

"The broad and diverse interactions between Iran and India are not against any actor in the region, and the two countries' cooperation will lead to stability and security in the region," he said.

Bagheri Kani said bilateral transit cooperation, particularly the joint development of Iran's Chabahar port, has become a symbol of bilateral cooperation and created opportunity for closer collaboration.

The Iranian diplomat said Iran supports the presence of a powerful India at the international scene, which he said helps promote multilateralism.

He also noted that the rise of India to economic eminence is rooted in the country's independence, particularly in the foreign policy, hailing the country as among the world's fifth-largest economies.

Bagheri Kani expressed hope that efforts by the two governments will help flourish the relationship in all fields, particularly economy and trade.

Borrell Told: EU Sanctions Unfriendly Measure

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has criticized the European Union's continuation of its "ineffective" sanction policy towards the Islamic Republic.

The top diplomat made the remarks in a phone call with the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

"Sanctions are an unfriendly measure in the relations between the Islamic Republic and Europe," Amir-Abdollahian told the European official.

"Know this that Europe does not stand to benefit from the continuation of this situation (implementation of the sanction policy towards Iran)," the foreign minister added.

The United States returned its sanctions against Iran in 2018 after leaving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an agreement between the Islamic Republic and world countries that would keep the bans lifted in exchange for some voluntary changes in Tehran's nuclear

energy program.

Bowing under American pressure, the EU has been toeing the U.S.'s sanction line against Iran ever since Washington's departure from the deal.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Amir-Abdollahian hailed that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were on "the right track of cooperation."

He also addressed the West's accusations against the Islamic Republic of providing drones to Russia for applica-

tion in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

"The accusation of application of Iranian drones against Ukraine is completely baseless," the foreign minister said, adding, "Ukraine has not presented us with any reliable evidence for this claim either."

"The Islamic Republic does not stand on ceremony when it comes to its foreign policy positions," Amir-Abdollahian said. "In the same way that the Islamic Republic has clearly announced that it backs Pales-

tine, it similarly clarifies that it supports the political approach concerning the war in Ukraine," he added.

For his part, Borrell said he believed that some existing misunderstandings between Iran and the EU could be "resolved through dialog."

The European official further underlined the importance of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, adding that he would do his utmost to return all parties to the JCPOA.

The Holy Qur'an



If one amongst the Pagans ask thee for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah. And then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.

The Holy Qur'an (9:6)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:09
Evening (Maghreb)	19:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:25
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:53

Spokesman: 30 Launches Into Space Planned

TEHRAN -- The spokesperson for the Iranian Space Organization has announced plans for 30 launches into space during the seventh program.

MP Hussein Dalirian touched on the recent endorsement of the parliament's seventh development program for the space sector at the chamber's Integration Commission.

"The Integration Commission of the seventh program has approved the necessity for conducting 30 research and operational launches by the program's conclusion. Considering the existing capacities in satellite design and construction, launch vehicle design and construction, and ground infrastructure, achieving this integration commission's endorsement is feasible," he said.

Dalirian added, "The Iranian Space Organization, based on the 10-year space program and with the esteemed president (Ebrahim Raisi)'s support, is presently steering the country's space sector toward revitalizing and advancing programs. This course is being earnestly pursued."

The administration will accomplish more than 10 launches over a span of approximately two years, Dalirian said.