

President: Sanctions Failed to Stop Iran's Progress

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday anti-Iran sanctions have failed to stop Iran's progress, adding the factor behind the enemies' animosity towards Tehran is the ineffectiveness of their pressures.

In a meeting with a group of religious scholars in Qom, Raisi referred to the recent process of releasing the country's frozen funds in Iraq and South Korea, saying that the government would not link the country's economy to the JCPOA-related talks. He declared that his administration would advance the country's economic affairs despite all the pressures.

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Kayhan International



Top General: Russia Sees Iran as Strategic Partner

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Commander of the Ground Force of the Iranian Army Brigadier-General Kioumars Haydari said Monday his force is ready to expand military cooperation with the Russian ground forces.

He made the remarks at a meeting with Oleg Leonidovich Salyukov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian ground forces, here.

The two commanders agreed to increase military cooperation between the ground forces of Iran and Russia and execute projects that will enhance their combat readiness.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the key countries (Continued on Page 7)

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Viewpoint

US Terrorism Assumes Different Shapes

Algeria, Iran Discuss of Expansion Relations



Iran Wushu Fighters Runners-Up in Sanda Asian Championships



Zionist Settler Killed, Another Injured in Retaliatory Op in Al-Khalil



Tributes to the Little Martyr of Damascus

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

O' father, who cut off your head, why is your beard and cheeks blood-stained, who killed you, why are we being held as captives?

These wails of a little girl, as she clasped the severed head of her father to her bosom and incessantly kissed it, not just shook the walls of the dilapidated place and increased the lamentation of her aggrieved family members, but reverberated throughout the area, disturbing the sleep of the perpetrator of the heartrending tragedy of Karbala.

Damascus had drastically changed over the past few days since the entry on the 1st of Safar of the seemingly humiliated progeny of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) paraded through the bedecked streets to the palace of the tyrant Yazid, whose elation at the killing of Imam Husain (AS) proved to be short-lived.

The sermons of Hazrat Zainab (SA) and Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) – the sister and son of his victim – threw cold water on his plans as the conscience of many Syrians was awakened on learning of the identity of the martyrs and the captives.

The Omayyad infidel, in an act of sadistic desperation sent the head of Imam Husain (AS) to the captives on the assumption of at least calming four-year old Ruqa'iyya (SA) whose relentless wails had not just deprived him of any sleep but turned many of those near to him against him, including one of his wives named Hind who was a devotee of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

To his utter horror, Safar 5 made all his equations go awry, as little Ruqa'iyya (SA) suddenly felt silent. Some thought she had gone to sleep but this was not the case. She had gone into permanent sleep with lips attached to her father's severed head. Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) on checking her pulse found that her soul had flown to the ethereal heavens, and she had finally achieved martyrdom. She was laid to rest in the same place, which is now a grand mausoleum visited by pilgrims from all over the world, who beseech God Almighty on her behalf, and find their prayers answered.

It was peace at last for Ruqa'iyya (SA), who had lost her mother on entering the world and was thus deeply attached to her father, on whose chest she used to sleep. Although, she graced the mortal world for only four years, she has left an indelible impression on history and the minds and hearts of believers.

On 10th Muharram, the epic day of Ashura, she had given the goatskin water-carrier to her uncle Hazrat Abbas (AS) to fetch water for the thirsty encampment. When her valiant uncle departed for the besieged river bank, the children gathered around her with their earthenware cups, eager for tasting the elixir of life after three days of thirst. Alas, Hazrat Abbas (AS) never came back. While bringing water he was surrounded by the cowardly enemies, who riddled the goatskin water-carrier with arrows and eventually martyred him after cutting both his arms as he bravely defended himself.

On that fateful day, before Imam Husain (AS) marched out to the battlefield, she had requested him one last time to allow her to lie down on his chest as was her habit of sleeping. When her father's horse, Zu'l-Jenah returned riderless to the encampment and released a sorrowful neigh, she knew Imam Husain (AS) was also martyred.

Her agony, however, was unending as the heartless enemies burst on the now undefended camp to loot and burn. She huddled around her aunts, but Shemr, the dastardly assassin of her father, snatched away her earrings that caused her great pain as blood flowed from her earlobes. Despite her tender age, she was tied with ropes along with the rest of the noble members of the household and taken to Kufa and thence to Damascus, the capital of Yazid, where she saw the horrible sight of the head of her father placed before the tyrant in a tray. She used to cry silently and quickly wipe away her tears for fear of the scolding and whiplashing by her tormentors, who did not show the least mercy to the great granddaughter of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

Yet, despite her tender years and the sorrows she suffered, she was a picture of virtue, faith, piety, prudence, forbearance, and patience in the face of acute oppression, to the extent that even the elderly women held her in high esteem.

During imprisonment in Damascus she would stare at the flock of birds flying to their nests at sunset and once innocently ask her aunt, Hazrat Zainab (SA): Will we ever go home? Alas she was not destined to.

The sad and sorrowful, but fast paced events in the Syrian capital and the now defeated Yazid's decision to release the noble captives after some ten or a dozen days in Damascus, make us better understand the reason Imam Husain had travelled with all his family members, including ladies and children.

It means, if the ladies and children had not been there, Yazid's men would have narrated their own version of the events of Karbala, and Omayyad propagandists would have twisted the accounts of the battle to absolve the Omayyad regime.

These ladies and children were indeed the shield of Islam, and this was the reason Imam Husain (AS) had brought them from Medina, as living proof of his message and martyrdom at the hands of an ungodly ruler and his oppressive regime.

These ladies were entrusted with a crucial mission, and without them the lives of the men would have been lost in vain if the Muslim Ummah at large did not wake up. When the conscientious amongst the Syrians saw the mistreatment of the Ahl al-Bayt they realized the truth that Yazid had committed a most sacrilegious crime in martyring the Prophet's grandson Imam Husain (AS), and was now trying to humiliate the Prophet's progeny.

Yazid thus felt danger to his rule and immediately allowed the noble captives to return to Medina. The first thing Hazrat Zainab (SA) did was to hold a mourning ceremony for the martyrs of Karbala in Damascus – the first ever such gathering which she institutionalized, and which subsequently has become internationalized and universalized in the months of Muharram and Safar, with little Ruqa'iyya also playing a major part.

Empire of Sanctions Defanged

Iran's Oil Exports Hit 2.2 Million bpd



A gas condensate refinery in Bandar Abbas, Iran.

TEHRAN -- Iran's oil exports are surging this month, swelling global flows at a time when other

producers are cutting back, Bloomberg reported on Monday.

The boom is awkward for the

U.S., which officially still has sanctions in place that should restrict Iran's shipments, the eco-

nomics news provider said.

TankerTrackers.com Inc., which provides data on oil cargo shipments to governments, insurers and other institutions, estimates that the Persian Gulf state exported 2.2 million barrels a day of crude and condensates during the first 20 days of August. If maintained, it would far exceed any other month this year and is well above what other oil-shipping analytics firms say.

It was already known that Iran's shipments were surging, but the data for August would represent a marked leg higher if maintained for the remainder of the period, Bloomberg said. The flow rate for the past 28 days show shipments running at a rate of 2.1 million barrels a day.

None of the exported barrels came from floating storage, although it's possible some could have come from on-land tanks, TankerTrackers co-founder Samir Madani said.

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Leader Thanks U-20 Greco-Roman Wrestlers

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday extended a message of congratulation to the Iran national under-20 Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling teams for winning world championship titles in recent competitions in Jordan.

"The dear youths in the national Greco-Roman wrestling team did make the Iranian nation happy with their victory," the Leader wrote in his message.

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to extend his gratitude to young

Iranian wrestlers and sports officials for the successes they could achieve over the past two weeks.

Iranian U-20 Greco-Roman wrestlers claimed three gold medals, two silvers and one bronze to win the team title of the 2023 World Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jordan.

Ahmad Reza Mohsennezhad in the 63-kilogram, Alireza Abdevali in the 77-kilogram, and Fardin Hedayati in the 130-kilogram weight classes won three gold medals.

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Yonhap: Funds Moved to Swiss Bank for Transfer to Iran

TEHRAN -- Iranian funds blocked in South Korea were transferred to Switzerland's central bank last week for repatriation to Iran, South Korean media reported on Monday.

Yonhap Infomax cited an unnamed currency market source as saying that the Swiss National Bank plans to exchange its \$6 billion holdings in won for dollars and then euros in the currency market.

According to the report, the Swiss central bank will convert about 300 billion won (\$223.85 million) to 400 billion each day for the next five weeks.

An official at South Korea's finance ministry declined to confirm the report, citing the legal and diplomatic sensitivity of the matter.

The Iranian funds were illegally

blocked in South Korea under the pretext of U.S. sanctions.

The United States, under former president Donald Trump, abandoned the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and reinstated the sanctions that the agreement had lifted.

Recently, Iran and the U.S. reached an agreement, mediated by a third country, to resolve some issues. The deal includes an exchange of prisoners as a humanitarian issue and also the unfreezing of Iranian assets illegally blocked overseas.

Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said last week that there is no connection between a prisoner exchange agreement with the United States and the release of Tehran's assets.

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Iran Warns Sweden, Denmark Over Desecrations

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian here Monday denounced the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden and Denmark, warning the two Nordic countries to rethink their "wrong policies" before it is too late.

More acts of sacrilege against the Holy Qur'an have taken place in Sweden and Denmark even as the two countries have said they are exploring ways to legally limit such actions to deescalate growing tensions with Muslim countries.

In yet another act of desecration of the Holy Qur'an, a notorious Sweden-based refugee has burned a copy of the sacred Muslim book in front of the Iranian embassy in Stockholm.

In a joint press conference with his Malaysian counterpart Zambry Abdul Kadir here, Amir-Abdollahian said both sides "vehemently condemned the desecration of holy books, Abrahamic religions and the Holy Qur'an" in Sweden and Denmark.

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Three Killed, Six Injured in Seattle Shooting 'Seems Everybody is Carrying a Gun'

SEATTLE (Dispatches) -- Three people are dead and six others wounded after a shooting Sunday at a hookah lounge in south Seattle, authorities said.

City police didn't immediately release any information about a possible suspect or suspects in Sunday's early morning shooting in the Mount Baker neighborhood.

Officers responded to the scene around 4:30 a.m. Sunday after receiving multiple 911 calls, police said.

A 22-year-old man and a 33-year-old man died at the scene, and a 30-year-old woman died at Harborview Medical Center, officials said. The names of the victims weren't immediately released.

Of the six people wounded, a 23-year-old man was in critical condition and the other five were in satisfactory condition, police said. They ranged in age from 21 to 38, officials said.

Police are still investigating what led to the shooting. Five guns were recovered at the scene, police said.

Seattle Police Department Adrian Diaz said during a press conference that police was not only investigating the cause of the hookah lounge incident, but also, why so many shooting incidents took place, in general, and how to prevent them.

"That's really what we're also trying to figure out. How do we (Continued on Page 7)