

## Iranian Father, Son Trapped in Syria Back Home

TEHRAN – Iranian citizen Ali Akbar Aboutaleb Esfahani and his son have safely left Syria and were on their way back, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said.

He said Esfahani had traveled to Syria for a pilgrimage to the holy sites but was unable to leave due to the developments in the country. With the cooperation of relevant parties in Syria and efforts by the foreign ministry, the Iranian national and his child were able to depart Syria for Iran on Friday, he said.

# Kayhan International



## Swiss National Held for Spying Commits Suicide

TEHRAN – The chief justice of Semnan province in Iran has announced that a Swiss national who had been arrested for espionage had committed suicide in Semnan prison.

Muhammad Sadeq Akbari said Thursday that efforts to revive the prisoner were unsuccessful. The Iranian judicial official noted that all evidence from the place where the prisoner was held has been thoroughly reviewed and it has been determined that the death was a suicide.

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## Iran Condemns U.S., UK, Israeli Aggression on Yemen



## Fajr Festival Announces Iran Cinema Competition Lineup



## Iran 7th in FIFA Futsal Ranking



## Lancet Study Estimates Gaza Death Toll 40% Higher Than Recorded



## The Deliverer from Oppression

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

*"The one who hears about oppression, and the one who aids oppression, and the one who smiles on hearing about oppression; all of them are partners of the oppressor."*

This gem of a saying, though reflecting the present situation of our world, are not the words of any contemporary thinker – sick of the state terrorism of the US around the globe, the crimes of the Zionists against humanity, the betrayal of Muslims by supposedly Muslim regimes, and the impotency of the United Nations towards worldwide oppression.

In fact, these beacons of wisdom were expressed by the person who was born in the holy city of Medina this day in 195 AH (811 AD), over a millennium and two centuries ago when the usurper Abbasid regime was the Great Satan of those days.

He was Ninth Infallible Heir of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all humanity, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), and the namesake of his great ancestor as well.

He was the repository of wisdom and knowledge. He continues to rule the hearts, minds, and souls of the seekers of truth all over the world, while the powerful rulers of his time have vanished into oblivion.

We salute him as "at-Taqi" or the "Most Pious" and "al-Jawad" or the "Most Generous". Since he was not just the embodiment of knowledge and wisdom, but set practical precedents for all humanity in this regard, we strive to follow the spectacular trail of faith, sincerity, self-dignity, justice, and welfare of humanity, blazed by him. No less a person than his illustrious father, Imam Reza (AS), hailed his birth as "the greatest honour for the Ahl al-Bayt and our followers".

Not that Imam Reza (AS) had become a father late in life at the age of 45, but because of the crucial role Imam Muhammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS) was to play in the moulding of the society and of the School of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, by becoming the Imam of his time at the tender age of eight years.

Ibn Qulawayh, the Iranian scholar who flourished a millennium ago, has cited on the authority of the famous Shaikh Kulayni, who in turn quoting the trustworthy Hussain bin Muhammad, has narrated an eyewitness account by Khayrani and his father:

"I (i.e. Khayrani's father) was standing in front of Abu'l-Hasan Imam ar-Reza (AS), in Khorasan, when someone asked him: My master, if something happens (to you), to whom will authority belong? The Imam said: "To Abu Ja'far (that is, his young son the future Imam Muhammad al-Jawad)".

The questioner indicated that the age of the boy was too young. In reply, Imam Reza (AS) said: "Allah, may He be praised, sent Jesus, son of Mary, to be a messenger, a prophet, the bringer of a revealed law (Shari'a), to begin (his mission) when his age was younger than that of (my son) Abu Ja'far."

In view of this statement the Eighth Imam of his son's Divinely-decreed authority it would be repetitive to prove the imamate of the Ninth Infallible Imam by citing Ayahs of the holy Qur'an, especially from Surah al-Maryam, where God says He entrusted the Boy-Prophet Yahya (John the Baptist) with Book and Wisdom. The Almighty Creator also made the Virgin-Born Prophet Jesus (AS), while still an infant in the cradle, to speak to the Israelites, vouching the chastity of his mother Mary (SA), and announcing his prophethood and the heavenly scripture entrusted to him.

The 17-year mission of Imam Jawad (AS) that ended in 220 AH because of his martyrdom through poisoning in the prime of youth at 25 years of age was instrumental in enlightening the seekers of truth with sciences no scholar of the age could impart. He was fully acquainted with the correct meaning and purpose of revelation of the Divine Ayahs of the holy Qur'an.

He was not just well versed in the Prophet's "Sunnah wa Seerah" (practice & behaviour) but showed practicability in this regard to the Muslims when the rulers lived a life of debauchery, while the people mired in poverty were confounded and misled by pseudo scholars pretending to possess the knowledge of the ancient Greek philosophers, but in fact knowing nothing.

There are several momentous scenes, whether in Baghdad or in Medina, when during his 17-year mission, the young Imam Jawad (AS) expounded to grey-bearded scholars and simplified for them as well as for the public, jurisprudential issues.

An instance in this regard his lively debate as a beardless boy in the court of the self-styled caliph, Mamoun, with the Mu'tazilite ideologue, Yayha bin Aktham – on the rules of the Hajj pilgrimage, on the laws of hunting birds or animals, and the precepts of lawful and healthy relations between husband and wife.

Volumes are required to go into details of such encounters, including, his steadfastness against Abbasid oppression; his transmission to the Ummah of the Prophet's genuine teachings; his expounding of the meanings of the Revealed Word of God; and his elaboration of the shari'ah, ranging from social norms to the correct form of punishment for habitual thieves.

This particular offense requires the cutting of four fingers after due warning and proper probing of the case and not the entire hand as some misconstrue. The culprit, after all, is a creature of God, in need of Divine Mercy and has the right to perform the ritual prayer in the correct manner, which requires the placing of both the palms on the ground during prostration.

It is outside the scope of a brief newspaper column to go into details of the life and times of Imam Jawad (AS). To be brief, it is worth recalling one of the vivid scenes from his eventful life that is further proof of the divine trust he shouldered.

The place was the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. A serious discussion on religious issues was in progress. The centre of the gathering was a venerable old man. He was Ali ibn Ja'far, the son of the Prophet's Sixth Infallible Successor, Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS). At that moment, a lad entered the mosque. To the astonishment of the gathering of scholars, the elderly gentleman instantly stood to his feet, and without bothering to put the cloak on his shoulders as is customary, he came forward barefoot and kissed the lad on his forehead. He then addressed him in the most respectful manner and escorted him to his own seat in the centre of the academic gathering.

When the scholars and students questioned the motives of Ali ibn Ja'far for behaving in such a humble way towards the young grandson of his late brother Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), the venerable old man rebuked them, saying:

"How can I not respect this boy, when it is God Almighty, Who has placed Divine Trust in him?"

# IRGC Unveils Rezvan, to Test Anti-Ballistic System



This combo shows the IRGC's unveiling of the Rezvan drone, the 110,000-strong Basij mobilization in Tehran as well as the Great Prophet 19 exercise held in western Iran.

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Thursday unveiled its latest loitering munitions drone, the Rezvan, during the ongoing military drills codenamed Great Prophet 19.

The drone, with a range of 20 kilometers and an operating time of 20 minutes, is designed for rapid deployment and targeted attacks, particularly in complex terrain, according to the IRGC.

"Our drones carried out several rounds of firing and drone operations, and in our scenario, we suc-

cessfully destroyed hypothetical enemies and terrorists attacking Iranian bases," said Muhammad Pakpour, the commander of the IRGC Ground Forces, on the sidelines of the exercise in the Azgeleh region in the western Kermanshah province.

The suicide drone is fired from a cylindrical launcher and transmits live video to the operator, allowing for precise target selection and engagement, Tasnim reported.

A senior commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force said a

new homegrown anti-ballistic defense system will be tested in the near future.

"In the near future, we will witness the testing of the Islamic Republic's indigenous anti-ballistic defense system, which will undoubtedly create significant equations in the military domain and the perceptions of countries hostile to the Islamic Republic," Brigadier General Davoud Sheikhiyan said on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, the Iranian Army announced that it will incorporate 1,000 new drones into

its combat forces in the coming days. The drones were designed and manufactured jointly by the Iranian Army and the Ministry of Defense, it said.

Commander of the Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari said that the new military equipment joining the Army has capabilities like maneuverability, precision, and smartness.

Iran has been conducting multiple military exercises in the past few weeks, including air defense drills near nuclear sites like Natanz and a 110,000-strong Basij mobilization in Tehran.

IRGC commander-in-chief Hussein Salami said Thursday that the ongoing military exercises aim to make the enemies refine their assessments of Iran's defense capabilities and demonstrate that the country's deterrence is unaffected by external events.

He discussed what he characterized as enemy attempts to depict Iran's defense capabilities as diminished, particularly in the wake of developments in Syria.

"The enemy has invested heavily in psychological and media operations, especially after recent events in Syria, to foster the perception that the defensive and deterrent power of the Islamic Republic of Iran has weakened and that Iran has lost its regional deterrent assets," he said.

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## Yemeni Forces Target USS Truman, Town Near Tel Aviv U.S., UK, Israel Target Yemen in First Joint Aggression

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel, the U.S. and Britain on Friday carried out their first coordinated attack on Yemen, the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Yemen's Al-Masirah TV also reported that a series of airstrikes targeted the vicinity of the Al-Sabeen Square in the Yemeni capital.

The aggression coincided with a rally in support of Palestine amid Israel's 16-month-old continuing genocidal war on Gaza.

Additionally, Yemeni sources

reported six airstrikes on the port city of Hudaydah in western Yemen.

Yemen's armed forces said they targeted American aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman in the northern part of the Red Sea over the previous 48 hours, using cruise missiles and explosive-laden drones.

"The operation .. succeeded in thwarting a new aerial attack launched against our nation from the carrier," said the statement.

"The attack forced the carrier and

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## Curfew Declared Amid Looting, Lawlessness 'Like Atomic Bomb Dropped', Fires Devour Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) -- Major wildfires around Los Angeles raged for a fourth straight day on Friday, as firefighters battled to control the raging blazes that have killed at least 10 people and destroyed nearly 10,000 structures.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna told a news conference he expected the number to grow.

"It looks like an atomic bomb dropped in these areas. I don't expect good news, and we're not looking forward to those num-

bers," Luna said.

All around Los Angeles, scenes of flames were everywhere, as many areas continued to burn all but unabated.

Nearly 180,000 people are under evacuation orders due to the fire, with another 200,000 residents subject to evacuation warnings, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

More than 285,000 residents are without electricity in Southern California, according to

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## Lebanon Parliament Elects Joseph Aoun as President

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- After more than two years of political deadlock and economic crises and an Israeli aggression, Lebanon's parliament on Thursday finally elected former army chief as president of the Lebanese republic.

Lawmakers chose Joseph Aoun after two rounds of voting in the 128-member parliament.

The small Mediterranean country had been without a president

since the end of the tenure of former president Michel Aoun, who is not associated with the newly-elected president, in October 2022.

Hezbollah had previously supported Suleiman Frangieh, the leader of a small Christian party in northern Lebanon, as its preferred candidate.

However, Frangieh announced his withdrawal from the race on

Wednesday and threw his support behind Aoun, seemingly paving the way for the army commander.

Aoun secured 99 out of 128 votes in Lebanon's deeply divided parliament, with support from across the political spectrum, including Hezbollah legislators and their rivals.

Aoun, who had served as the 14th commander of the Lebanese armed forces since 2017, formal-

ly stepped down from his military role and took the oath of office in parliament, dressed in civilian attire.

He will need to oversee the implementation of the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon and establish a new government capable of addressing post-war reconstruction.

In November, the World Bank

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