

'Iran Capable of Building Advanced Vessels'

TEHRAN – Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said Tuesday Iran is now capable of manufacturing advanced vessels domestically, thanks to the expertise of its local specialists.

Speaking at a signing ceremony for marine equipment production at the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Tangsiri said Iran relied on the U.S. for maritime construction before the 1979 Islamic Revolution but it is now building vessels from aluminum. The IRGC Navy's Shahid Mahalati Institute, he said, has built 17 vessels which are ready to be added to the country's naval fleet.

Kayhan International

Pakistan, Iran Discuss Security Cooperation

TEHRAN – The interior minister of Iran has called for serious efforts to implement a security agreement with Pakistan.


In a meeting with Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Communications Muhammad Khurram Agha here, Es-kandar Momeni stressed the need to pursue and implement the security agreement between the two countries. The Pakistani official described the common border as the frontier of friendship, peace and security.

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Viewpoint

Christmas Ought to Jolt Pro-Zionist Christian Conscience

Qom Seminary Adds Cyberspace Studies to Curriculum



Children's Corner



Iranian Weightlifters Win Six Medals at Asian Championships



Jesus (AS) – A Great Prophet of Islam

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“When the angels said, ‘O Mary, Allah gives you the good news of a Word from Him whose name is Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, distinguished in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near [to Allah].’ (Holy Qur’an 3:45)

“Indeed the case of Jesus with Allah is like the case of Adam: He created him from dust then said to him, ‘Be,’ and he was.” (Holy Qur’an 3:59)

People in the West, after a night of revelry or attending the midnight mass at the churches, are celebrating December 25 as Christmas or the day on which they have made to believe that Jesus (peace upon him) was born.

Although no version of the various versions of the Gospels, whether canonical or non-canonical are in circulation among the different sects of Christianity, these books do not mention the date of the Virgin-born Messiah.

The Gospels are also rather vague on the exact place of the birth of Jesus, with some saying that it took place in Bethlehem in Palestine where a group of wise Iranian men (Magi) arrived following the bright star that appeared in the sky.

Anyway, irrespective of the fact that the Israelites among whom Jesus was born had a lunar calendar like their Ishmaelite cousins, the Arabs, and did not follow the solar calendar of their detested Roman overlords, the important point is the reason for revelation of the Ayahs cited at the beginning of this column.

The occasion was an inter-religious dialogue in Medina in 9 AH (630 AD) between Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and the visiting delegation of Christian priest of Najran (in Yemen) concerning Islam's view of Jesus.

As is clear, this and other Ayahs of the Holy Qur'an hold Jesus in high esteem, confirm his miraculous birth without the association of any male with his chaste mother, and verify his healing powers including his restoration of the dead to life, but reject his alleged divinity as well as the myth of his crucifixion.

“O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes in your creed, and do not say of Allah but the Truth. Certainly, the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, is only a Prophet of Allah and His Word He conveyed unto Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So have faith in Allah and His prophets, and do not say, ‘[God is] a trinity.’ Relinquish [such a creed]! That is better for you. Allah is but the One God. He is far too immaculate to have any son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth, and Allah suffices as Trustee.” (Holy Qur’an 4:171)

It is out of context to focus on the event of 'Mubahala' that challenged the Christians priests for invoking Divine Curse on liars, and how they backed off when they saw Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) accompanied by none except his dearest and nearest ones – daughter Fatema Zahra (SA), son-in-law Imam Ali, and grandsons Imam Hasan and Imam Husain (AS).

Thus, as is clear, the Qur'an calls Jesus a “Word of God” and a “Spirit of God”. For the Christians, according to the Gospel of John, the Word was God and the Word became flesh.

For the Muslims, however, the Word is a creation of God and definitely not God, for it is God's expression of the word “Be” that all creation takes place, including the miraculous birth of Jesus.

In other words, Jesus's designation as “Word of Allah” and Spirit of Allah” does not deify him, but verifies his high status as a Prophet who conveys the message of God and is thus a Messenger of God, since the Almighty Creator is far too glorious to have the human characteristics of the need of son or children.

If the Jews rejected him and slandered his chaste mother, those calling themselves Christians distorted his monotheistic teachings by calling him “Son of God”, when he never made any such blasphemous claim.

To sum up, I draw the attention of readers to the prophecy of Jesus concerning the mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

Jesus in his native Semitic language referred to the last Prophet as “Hmda”, a word translated as “Paracletos” in the Greek version of the Bible or “Comforter” in the English translation of St. John's Gospel, while in Arabic this word means “Ahmad” or the “Highly Praised One”.

The Holy Qur'an has preserved the original words of the Messiah in Ayah 6 of Surah Saff as follows:

“O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the Prophet of Allah to you, to confirm what is before me of the Torah, and to give the tidings of the Prophet to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.”

Yemeni Missiles Disrupt U.S., Israeli Calculations



TEHRAN/SANAA (Dispatches) – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tuesday the precision of Yemeni missiles has significantly disrupted the strategic calculations of the Israeli-U.S. alliance.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Araghchi praised Yemen's pro-Palestine operations, including recent hypersonic missile strikes deep inside the occupied territories.

“The people of Yemen, relying on their indigenous missiles and defensive equipment, have played an unprecedented role in defending the Palestinian people since the onset of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood,” Araghchi said.

“Even under the heaviest bombardments from the American-Israeli coalition, they target the heart of the occupied territories with their homemade missiles.”

Araghchi reaffirmed Tehran's unwavering support for all members of the resistance front, but singled out Yemen's resistance for its self-reliance.

“The Yemenis have proven they need no external assistance. De-

spite dire economic and military conditions, they have stood firm and resisted,” he said.

Israel has intensified attacks on Yemen's civilian infrastructure, targeting power stations, ports, and other critical facilities. On Monday, foreign minister Israel Katz vowed to escalate these attacks and issued threats against Yemeni leaders.

Israel will “damage their strategic infrastructure, and we will behead their leaders – just as we did to [Hamas leader Ismail] Haniyeh, [Hamas leader Yahya]

Sinwar, and [Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan] Nasrallah in Tehran, Gaza, and Lebanon – we will do it in Hodeidah and Sana'a,” Katz said.

Yemen's armed forces said Tuesday they successfully carried out an operation against an Israeli military target within the occupied territories.

A statement issued by the Yemeni military said its forces struck an Israeli military site in the occupied area of Yaffa, using a Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic

(Continued on Page 7)

Syrian Christians Revolt as Chaos Spreads

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in Christian areas of Damascus early Tuesday to protest the burning of a Christmas tree near Hama in central Syria.

“We demand the rights of Christians,” protesters chanted as they marched through the Syrian capital towards the headquarters of the Orthodox Patriarchate in the Bab Sharqi neighborhood.

The protests come a little more than two weeks after an armed coalition led by takfiri militants toppled the government of Bashar al-Assad, who had protected minorities in the Muslim-majority country.

A demonstrator who gave his name as Georges told AFP he was protesting “injustice against Christians”.

“If we're not allowed to live our Christian faith in our country, as we used to, then we don't belong here anymore,” he said.

The protests erupted after a video spread on social media showing hooded militants setting fire to a Christmas tree in the Christian-majority town of Suqaylabiyah, near Hama.

According to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the militants were foreigners from the takfiri group Ansar al-Tawhid.

In another video posted to social media, a religious leader from Syria's victorious militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) addressed residents, claiming those who torched the tree were “not Syrian” and promising they would be punished.

The HTS administration, rooted in Al-Qaeda and supported by Turkey, has faced numerous bouts of unrest since its lightning onslaught toppled Assad this month.

On Monday, UN envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen warned of “dramatic consequences” of escalating hostilities between Kurdish-led militants and Turkish-backed groups in Syria's northeast.

“If the situation in the northeast is not handled correctly, it could be

(Continued on Page 7)

Israeli Soldiers Killed, Injured While Trying to Steal Plasma Screens

TEL AVIV/GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- Israeli media attributed the death of a number of Israeli occupation soldiers in Gaza to a military commander's desire to seize a house equipped with plasma screens.

A Channel 13 correspondent revealed that an internal military investigation found Colonel Ami Biton, commander of the Paratroopers Brigade, had ordered soldiers to vacate a secure house and search for another location after discovering plasma screens in the house, which he intended to claim for himself.

The correspondent added that, despite arguments and resistance, the brigade commander insisted that the troops move during daylight hours. The decision exposed the soldiers to Palestinian resistance fire, resulting in the death of one soldier and injuries to others.

Later that evening, the brigade commander allegedly attempted to cover up the incident by fabricating a story that the soldiers had been on an offensive mission.

Meanwhile, a Channel 13 poll highlighted a significant decline in Israeli public trust in their leadership. The regime received just 22 percent approval.

Public confidence in prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu fell to 29 percent, and war minister Israel Katz garnered only 24 percent support.

Gaza's health ministry said Tuesday the Israeli military forced the evacuation of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, and many patients, some of them on foot, arrived at another hospital miles away in Gaza City.

The Indonesian Hospital is one of the few still partially functioning hospitals left in Gaza, on its northern edge, which has been under intense Israeli military pressure for almost three months.

The catastrophic human toll has pushed Gaza's medical facilities to the brink of collapse. With supplies exhausted, hospitals are

(Continued on Page 7)