

IRGC Chief: Coast-to-Sea Missiles Stored in Safe Tunnels

TEHRAN -- IRGC Commander Major General Hussein Salami said here Sunday an underground "missile city" unveiled a day before allows Iran to store all its coast-to-sea missile systems inside safe and robust constructions in tunnels.

Each of the facilities located in various areas such as coastlines and inland regions, he said, contains a large number of systems and missiles. The new missiles have ranges above 1,000 kilometers, Salami said, adding the IRGC Navy can now accurately hit various targets in the sea and on the ground.

Aide to Azerbaijani President Holds Key Talks in Tehran

TEHRAN -- Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan Hikmet Hajiyev met with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian to discuss improving fraught relations between the two neighbors. Ahmadian said the two countries are duty-bound to improve mutual relations and remove obstacles in this regard, saying their authorities should not allow enemies to harm their cordial ties. Hajiyev said Azerbaijan regards itself as a friend of Iran and remains committed to strengthening ties with Tehran, emphasizing that no foreign country can disrupt mutual relations.

VOL NO: LV 12459 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, February 3, 2025, Bahman 15, 1403, Sha'ban 4, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Washington's Whitewashing of Terrorism

Kish Book Fair Offers Miscellaneous Services

Esteghlal to Face Al Shorta in Must-Win Game

Israel Destroys Neighborhood in Jenin, Damaging Hospital

Loyalty Personified

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Those who die for God live forever; those who fight against God perish forever." These words spoken by a God-fearing warrior in the heat of battle when a mortal enemy tried to tempt him with offers of wealth and posts if he switched sides and joined the service of the unjust regime, continue to ring in the ears of the believers, despite the passing of over a millennium and three-and-a-half centuries. He was not an ordinary person, or else we would not have been celebrating his birth anniversary today on the fourth of Sha'ban.

He was a multisided genius, excelling in various spheres of life. For instance, his remarkable horsemanship had earned him the title of **"Seyyed al-Forsa'an"** (Chief of Horsemen).

His administrative qualities in mobilizing courageous people had won him the epithet **"Raees ash-Shuja'aan"** (Leader of the Valiant).

His utmost care in ensuring that potable water, the elixir of life, ought to be available all the times, especially for children, and his personal efforts in procuring it on several occasions, even at the cost of life, brought him the appellation of **"as-Saqqa"** (Quencher of Thirst).

His chivalrous command of troops by leading them from the front, with himself carrying the banner has immortalized him as **"Hameel ar-Raya"** (Standard-Bearer -- **"Alamdar"** in Persian, Turkish and Urdu).

His tall stature and exceptionally handsome features has eternalized him as **"Qamar Bani Hashem"** (Moon of the Hashemite Clan).

The identity of the radiant baby born this day should now be clear to the readers of this column.

He was none other than the valiant standard-bearer of the immortal epic of Karbala, Abu'l-Fazl al-Abbas (AS).

It was the year 26 AH (647 AD), while the Prophet of Islam's First Infallible Heir, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Taleb (AS), was praying in the Prophet's Mosque in Medina that his loyal servant, Qanbar, hurriedly approached him, beaming with joy. He informed him of the birth of a son to Fatema bint Hezam al-Kelabiya, whom Imam Ali (AS) had married over a dozen years after the passing away of the Noblest Lady of All Times, the Prophet's Immaculate Daughter, Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (SA).

The Commander of the Faithful, whose mother Fatema bint Asad had called him **"Haider"** or Valourous Lion and one of whose epithets was **"Asad-Allah"** or the Lion of God, named the son **"Abbas"**, which also means a Valiant Lion.

The Imam hastened to his house and felt doubly rejoiced on seeing the Prophet's younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS), holding his newborn brother in his arms and reciting the **"Azaan"** in the right ear and the **"Egamah"** in the left ear.

Tears flowed from the father's eyes on beholding the two brothers, separated by an age-gap of 22 years but smiling at each other as the newborn opened his eyes and the first thing he saw was the radiant visage of Imam Husain (AS).

Imam Ali (AS) recalled his own first sight in the world on emerging from his birthplace the holy Ka'ba in his mother's arms, and seeing the glowing eyes of his 30-year old cousin Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

At the same time the Imam's God-given vision pierced the veils of the future. It saw the heartrending sight 35 years later in 61 AH besides the River Euphrates in Karbala, where Abbas would lie on the ground, soaked in blood, head smashed, an arrow in one of the eyes, and both arms severed from the body, having a last look at Imam Husain (AS), with the words **"Farewell O Master"**.

Salutations to Hazrat Abbas (AS) on his auspicious birthday that incidentally falls a day after the blessed third of Sha'ban when Imam Husain (AS) was born 22 years earlier.

His birth had a purpose behind, since his father whom the Prophet had foretold of the tragic martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) in order to salvage Islam and all humanitarian values, had longed for a son who would play the role of the loyal lieutenant, as he himself had served the Seal of Messengers.

Thus, Hazrat Abbas (AS), groomed from childhood for the lofty task ahead, used to address Imam Hasan (AS) as **"Ya Seyyedi"** (O my Lord), and Imam Husain (AS) as **"Ya Mowlati"** (O my Master), since he was fully aware of their Divinely-decreed positions as **"Leaders of the Youths of Paradise"**.

This was indeed a form of respect for Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA).

He grew into a brave youth. On entering teenage, he displayed his future greatness in one of the battle of the War of Siffeen by routing a body of Omayyad warriors, and winning accolades from the Commander of the Faithful.

After his father's martyrdom and seizure of the caliphate through deceit by the rebellious governor of Syria, Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, he stood steadfast beside Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) as the righteous leader of the Islamic Ummah. He was in charge of public welfare projects.

Ten years later in 50 AH, when Mu'awiyah treacherously martyred the Prophet's elder grandson through poisoning, he loyally followed the path of Imam Husain (AS).

Throughout the next decade, he accompanied Imam Husain (AS) like a shadow to ensure no harm befalls the Prophet's Infallible Heir.

To be brief, in Karbala, Hazrat Abbas (AS) readied himself for immortal martyrdom and would often say, **"Death under swords is glorifying when Paradise is the fruit."**

When Jareer bin Abdullah, a distant cousin of his mother, sent a letter to him to desert Imam Husain (AS) with promises of favours from the Omayyad regime, Hazrat Abbas (AS) rejected the offer with utter disdain.

His words to the despicable Omayyad commander Shimr Ziljowshan, are recorded in books of history:

"If I die in defending my Master, Husain, I shall consider myself most fortunate. O coward, remember that valiant die but once. Nobody is born to live eternally. By betraying my master, you have betrayed the Prophet, whose religion you profess to follow. On the Day of Judgement you will be doomed to eternal perdition."

Today, the shrine of Hazrat Abbas (AS) stands like a sentinel to the shrine of Imam Husain (AS) in Karbala, as testimony of his faith and loyalty, although the **"Saqqa"** could not fetch water to the thirsty camp of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

Leader: Iran Has Progressed in Every Aspect

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday praised Iran's progress in various domains, saying the country has grown in all directions over the past 40 years.

"The Iranian nation has shown patience and perseverance for over 40 years, while all the arrogant world powers stood against it, working and plotting against it," he told a group of scholars, reciters, and memorizers of the Qur'an.

"Yet, not only has the Iranian nation not been harmed, but it has also advanced and grown. Today's Iran is not the Iran of 40 years ago—we have progressed in every aspect," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader made the remarks here in an address to participants of the 41st International Qur'an Competition held in the holy city of Mashhad.

The Leader cited the training of thousands of young and teenage Quran reciters and memorizers across the country as an example of the nation's spiritual advancements.

In material aspects, the country has also developed, with various major achievements carried out by the youth, he said.

"These advancements, with reliance on God, will continue until the nation reaches its peak and desired position."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the words, structure, concepts, and divine traditions of the Qur'an are all a miracle. "If this great miracle is utilized, all of humanity's problems will be resolved, and the lives of human societies will be organized."

The Leader said the continuous miracles of the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) are an immense blessing for humanity and the universe.

'Etemad' Ballistic Missile, Three Satellites Unveiled



President Pezeshkian tours the exhibition of Iran's new aerospace achievements, including a new ballistic missile and three satellites in Tehran on Sunday.

TEHRAN -- Iran on Sunday unveiled a new ballistic missile capable of travelling 1,700 kilometers, unveiling it in a Tehran ceremony attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian.

National television broadcast images of the missile, dubbed Etemad, or "trust" in Persian, saying it is "the most recent ballistic missile" built by the Iranian defense ministry.

Iran's missiles, including this

newest design, are capable of reaching the Israeli occupied territories.

"The development of defense capabilities and space technologies... aims to ensure that no country dares to attack Iranian territory," Pezeshkian said in a televised address.

The ceremony took place on Iran's national aerospace day coinciding with Ten-Day Dawn celebrations marking the 46th an-

niversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Since the return of U.S. President Donald Trump -- who pursued a "maximum pressure" approach against Iran in his first term -- Tehran has made multiple shows of force, including large-scale military exercises and the presentation of underground military bases.

Iran, which sourced the majority (Continued on Page 7)

When engaging with and reciting the Qur'an, he said, individuals should fully acknowledge that they are encountering the miracle of the Final Messenger.

Ayatollah Khamenei touched

the Qur'anic concept of tawakkul or trust in God, saying that "according to the Holy Qur'an, whoever puts their trust in God, He is sufficient for them".

"Therefore, if the conditions of

tawakkul are fulfilled, this divine promise will certainly be fulfilled."

The Leader described trust in God's true promises as the mental (Continued on Page 7)

Resistance Group Announces Formation in Syria

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- A new resistance group has emerged in Syria, pledging to stage "surprise" strikes against Israeli forces and "terrorist gangs" of the country's self-proclaimed "president" Abu Muhammad al-Julani.

The Islamic Resistance Front in Syria (IRFS) passed the remarks in a statement, noting that it had already staged one such strike against Israeli troops in the province of Quneitra in the country's extreme southwest in late January.

The operation, it said, served to mark the start of its retaliation "against the Israeli enemy alongside our operations against the terrorist gangs of Julani," it

stated.

The development verified the predictions that have been made by many regional officials and resistance figures concerning imminent emergence of resistance fighters in the Arab country.

Less than two months into Syria's takeover by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, Israel has ramped up its deadly aggression against the country under the pretext of preventing spillover of violence into the Israeli occupied territories.

Despite the heavy toll Israeli attacks have taken on Syria's civilian and military infrastructures, Julani has said he did not seek any conflict with Tel Aviv.

The new Syrian resistance fac-

tion described the circumstances surrounding its January 31 anti-Israeli strike, saying the operation forced Israeli troops to "retreat and withdraw."

"We will not allow the Israeli regime to occupy our land, and we will be on the lookout for you and the Julani gangs with our precise ambushes and surprise attacks," it said.

On Friday, Israeli Army Radio reported that armed men had opened fire on Israeli forces in the Quneitra countryside.

Israeli correspondent Doron Kadosh described the development as a "particularly unusual incident," marking the first time in two months that armed men

had reached "the area of operation of our forces and opened fire on them."

"A group calling itself the Islamic Resistance Front in Syria claimed responsibility for firing at our forces...and it is too early to know whether this is the beginning of organized armed resistance" to Israeli activity in Syria, he said.

The IRFS is reportedly largely made up of Syria's Shia Muslims, and previously used to call itself the "Southern Liberation Front."

According to a statement, the group was established to "protect the Syrian people and push Israel out of Syrian territory."

(Continued on Page 7)