

UN Official Hails Iran's Services to Immigrants

TEHRAN – Lalini Veerasamy, who heads the UN International Organization for Migration's office in Tehran, hailed Iran's services to immigrants as exemplary.

She made the remarks during a meeting on Saturday with Behrang Qorbani, the director of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs of Iran's southern Fars Province. Veerasamy said that she and her colleagues have served the immigrants in different countries, but they have never seen the vastness of Iran's services to immigrants in any other country.

Kayhan International

Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Ends Mission

TEHRAN – The mission of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Abbas Mousavi, has ended.

Mousavi posted a message on his X account on Tuesday saying that on the last day of his mission, the joint Qiz Qalasi Dam was inaugurated. "I am proud that on the last day of my diplomatic mission, with the participation of the presidents of Iran and Azerbaijan, the 'Khudafarin' and 'Giz Galasi' hydroelectric complexes were commissioned as a successful example of water diplomacy," Mousavi said.

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Viewpoint

O' All-Merciful Lord Bring Home Our President

Iran to Reactivate Cancer Treatment Equipment in Venezuela



Nima Alamiyan, Neda Shahsavari Qualify for Paris Olympic Games



Nakba Day Demonstrations, Pro-Palestine Rallies Erupt Across World



The Divine Trust of Imamate

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"The Imam is a kind father, a helper brother, (could be likened to) a compassionate mother to a minor child, and a refuge for creatures of God in severe calamities."

The above statement is not of any theorist, since Imamate or Divinely-decreed authority is not a theory or an ideology of the fallible minds. The Imamate or leadership of the pious, as is evident by Ayah 124 of Surah al-Baqarah of the holy Qur'an is the exclusive trust of God reserved for the Chosen of God, and is not granted to the unjust:

"And when his Lord tested Abraham with certain words, and he fulfilled them, He said, 'I am making you the Imam of mankind.' Said he, 'And from among my descendants?' He said, 'My pledge does not extend to the unjust.'"

It was the Almighty Creator Who made Prophet Abraham (AS) an Imam of mankind, and told him in explicit words that this prestigious position will never be the prerogative of the perfidious. In other words, only the most virtuous and just from the progeny of Abraham will be conferred this authority of leadership of mankind.

Thus, the Last and the Greatest Messenger of God, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), who was a direct descendant of Abraham through his firstborn son, Ishmael, was rewarded by the Almighty with this prime position.

Imamate, however, in its exclusive sense, was reserved by God for a select group of the descendants of the Seal of Prophets and it was towards the end of his 23-year mission that Imamate reached its climax.

It was the last year of the Prophet's life. While he was returning to Medina from Mecca after having performed his Farewell Hajj pilgrimage, Archangel Gabriel descended with an urgent revelation that had to be proclaimed immediately to the Muslims. The Prophet halted then and there besides the pond (Ghadeer) of Khom, in the wilderness near Juhfa.

On revelation of Ayah 67 of Surah al-Ma'edah, addressing the huge gathering of 120,000 people, he entrusted the Imamate in the full limelight of history to his cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). He later specified that the Imams of his Blessed Household the Ahl al-Bayt, will number 12, with the last of them reappearing in the end times, after a prolonged occultation, as Qa'em al-Mahdi (AS), to cleanse the Planet of all vestiges of corruption and oppression by establishing the global government of peace, prosperity and justice.

Today, the 11th of the sacred month of Zi'l-Qa'dah, is the day when the 8th Infallible Successor of the Prophet of Islam was born in Medina in 148 AH, a fortnight after the passing away of his illustrious grandfather, the Reviver of the Prophet's genuine Shar'iah or code of jurisprudence, Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS).

He was the son of Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), while his mother was the most virtuous lady of her era, named Najmah. He was named Ali in honour of the One and Only Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), the First Infallible Imam. His knowledge, like that of the Prophet and other infallible members of the Ahl al-Bayt, was God-given.

He strode in the footsteps of his father and forefathers in enlightening the ummah in those critical days of the tyrannical rule of the usurper Abbasid regime. He earned the epithet of "Reza" or the one pleased with the Will of God Almighty, whatever the circumstances.

At the age of 50, fifteen years after being conferred the Imamate by God he was forced to leave his hometown Medina. He was brought to distant Khorasan in northeastern Iran, where the crafty self-styled caliph, Mamoun, had made the city of Marv, the capital of the Abbasid realm. After almost three years in Khorasan, where he demonstrated his qualities to guide the seekers of truth, Imam Reza (AS), was martyred through a fatal dose of poison by Mamoun in the city of Tous, which is known today as Mashhad or place of martyrdom. It is the most blessed spot in Iran.

Today when people from all over Iran and from the farthest parts of the globe (of different ethnicities) are in Mashhad to partake of the blessings of the birthday of Imam Reza (AS) at his holy shrine, by supplicating in their own native tongues, it will not be out of context to refer to an incident that is proof of the universality of the mission of the Prophet of Islam and the Infallible Imams of his household.

When a person from India named Ismail as-Sindhi enquired about the Prophet's rightful successor, he was guided to Imam Reza (AS). He says: "Since I did not know Arabic, I greeted him in Sindhi language, and (to my surprise), he answered my greeting in my own language. I talked to him in my language and he talked back to me in my language. I told him: 'I have come to see Allah's authority.' He answered: 'It is me (who is Allah's authority), ask whatever you like.' I asked my questions and the Imam answered me in my own language. When I wanted to leave, I told him, 'since I do not know Arabic, please beseech God to inspire me with the knowledge of Arabic language! He rubbed his blessed hand on my lips, and all of a sudden, I was able to speak Arabic!'"

This miracle is not something to be surprised about regarding the Chosen of God. A similar incident occurred in Basra, Iraq during the 8th Imam's journey to Khorasan. A certain Amr bin Haddab challenged Imam Reza (AS) to prove his claim of knowing any language, by speaking in their own language with the Romans, the Hindus, the Persians, and the Turks who were in the town.

"Call them in," said the Imam and several speakers of various languages were brought to his presence. He talked to all of them in such fluency that all admitted to his mastery in their native tongues. The Arabs were astonished, since Imam Reza (AS) had never had a teacher and had never learned any language with anyone, nor had he associated with such persons in Medina. The answer is simple. Imam Reza (AS) was giving a practical demonstration of God's Words in ayah 12 of Surah Yasin of the holy Qur'an:

"We have placed everything in the Manifest Imam."

Among the plans of Mamoun in bringing Imam Reza (AS) to Khorasan was to try to undermine the position of Imamate in the hope that political position and proximity to the Abbasid court will discredit the Ahl al-Bayt in the eyes of the Muslim masses. He, however, failed, as Imam Reza (AS) despite being declared Heir-Apparent against his will to the much younger caliph, refused to involve himself in political matters, especially the appointment or dismissal of officials.

As the Prophet's rightful heir, he made himself easily accessible to all persons, particularly the poor and downtrodden, without any court formalities, and this wise move increased his popularity. Mamoun was flabbergasted. He next ordered debates between the 8th Imam and the scholars from all over the world. He was hoping that maybe the scholars would be able to win the debates and defeat the Imam by posing scientific questions.

On the caliph's order, his prime minister, Fazl ibn Sahl, invited philosophers and learned men from all over the realm to debate with the Imam. These included Christian scholars, Jewish Rabbis, Priests of the Sabeian religion that follow Prophet Yahya (John the Baptist), prominent Zoroastrian mobads, and even atheists.

The Imam accepted the challenge and remarked: Mamoun will rue his decision, when he sees me disproving the claims of the Jews from the Torah itself, and that of the Christians from the Evangel. The Imam thus debated one by one with the scholars of various religions, including Zoroastrians in Persian language, and the Romans in Latin and Greek. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, he convinced them of the truth of Islam, and to the surprise of Mamoun, most of these scholars recited the two-fold testimony of Islam and became Muslims.

World in Prayer for President Raisi



TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday expressed sympathies to the Iranian nation after the helicopter carrying President Ebrahim Raisi went missing in a mountainous region in northwest Iran.

"We hope that the Almighty

God returns the respected and esteemed President and his companions to the embrace of the nation," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message.

The Leader urged all Iranians to pray for the health and safety of President Raisi and other public servants on the helicopter.

"The Iranian nation should not be worried or anxious, there will be no disruption to the work of the country," he said.

The helicopter carrying President Raisi and his foreign minister crashed while crossing mountainous terrain, and the rescue operation was being hampered by

thick fog and heavy rain.

The country's interior minister, Ahmed Vahidi, said that the aircraft had experienced a rough landing.

Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, East Azarbaijan Governor Malek Rahmati and Muhammad Ali Ale-Hashem, the representative of the Leader to the province, were in the same helicopter as Raisi.

The aircraft was in Iran's East Azarbaijan province at the time. The incident happened near the city of Jolfa, some 600km northwest of the Iranian capital.

President Raisi, 63, visited the East Azarbaijan province on Sunday to inaugurate a dam project with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliiev, on the border between the two countries.

Tasnim news agency reported that the crash area was in a difficult-to-access terrain, posing challenges for the rescue teams. Initial reports had said rescue teams were being hampered by difficult weather conditions.

As it got darker, the rescue operation had gotten increasingly difficult and risky, as crew were approaching the site on foot and

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Iran, Azerbaijan Inaugurate Major Joint Project

TEHRAN -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on Sunday inaugurated a dam built jointly by the two neighboring Muslim states on the Aras River at their common border.

The Qiz Qalasi dam, which represents the largest joint water project between Iran and Azerbaijan, was put into operation at a ceremony attended by the presidents.

The embankment dam is located in the Khoda Afarin region in Iran's northwestern province of East Azarbaijan.

The project, with a capacity of 62 million cubic meters, will reportedly supply water to the irri-

gation and drainage networks of Khoda Afarin county.

Known as the biggest water project in Iran's northwestern border areas, the Qiz Qalasi dam is estimated to regulate 2 billion cubic meters of water every year.

A hydroelectric power station coupled with the dam is projected to generate 270 megawatt hours of electricity per annum.

Iranian Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian described the Qiz Qalasi dam as a symbol of friendship between the people of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The dam has been constructed according to the latest and most

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Hezbollah Pounds Zionist Positions

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Hezbollah fighters separately targeted espionage equipment and gatherings of Zionist soldiers stationed at military outposts close to the border between the Arab country and the 1948 occupied territories.

Lebanon's Al-Manar television said the fighters carried out an operation Sunday afternoon against the Israeli Al-Malkia military outpost, and fired a salvo of artillery shells at the site. The strike left many casualties among the Israeli troops.

Hezbollah fighters also struck a gathering of Zionist soldiers in the Jal al-Alam military base with

artillery rounds.

Additionally, the resistance group hit surveillance devices at the Ramia military site and destroyed them.

The Israeli military Ramtha outpost was targeted with appropriate weapons as well.

Earlier in the day, Hezbollah had fired a barrage of artillery shells at the Al-Raheb military base.

The Israeli military has also been carrying out attacks against the Lebanese territory since then, prompting retaliatory strikes from Hezbollah in support of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

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U.S. Official in Al-Quds to Greenlight Rafah Invasion

CAIRO/AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- Israeli planes and tanks pounded areas across the Gaza Strip, residents said, as White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday amid the occupying regime's expanding invasion of Rafah.

Sullivan was expected to press for Israel to go after Hamas fighters in a targeted way, not with a full-scale assault on the southern

Gaza city of Rafah, the White House said before the discussions.

The occupying regime of Israel has been pushing into the city, forcing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee the area that was one of their few remaining places of refuge.

"Across the Gaza Strip, there is no safety," said Majid Omran who told Reuters his family had fled Rafah and just returned to

what was left of their home in the southern city of Khan Younis that they had fled nearly five months ago.

"We took our children, grandchildren, and daughters and we came and lived above the rubble of our home. Because there is no place to take refuge here," Omran told Reuters inside the wrecked property as a woman cooked over a fire.

Zionist forces also pushed deep-

er into the narrow alleyways of Jabalia in northern Gaza overnight and into Sunday, returning to an area that they said they had cleared earlier in the conflict, residents said.

The Zionist military has said its operations in Jabalia - the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps - are precise, but an airstrike around dawn on Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza martyred

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