

Leader Names Bagheri Kani to Top Council

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday appointed Ali Bagheri Kani as a member of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations.

Bagheri is a veteran diplomat who served as Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs and chief nuclear negotiator under the administration of former president Ebrahim Raisi. He took over as the interim foreign minister after Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian lost his life in a helicopter accident in May.

Kayhan International

Jaish al-Adl Terrorists Captured

TEHRAN -- A Jaish al-Adl terrorist was captured in Pishin region of Sistan and Baluchistan province, the Quds base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Saturday.

The terrorist sought to commit suicide after being rounded by Iran's security forces, but was captured and taken to hospital where he was being treated, it added.

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Viewpoint

Syria, Turkiyeh Rapprochement Augurs Well for Islamic Unity

German Scholar: Iran Far Ahead in Science



Iranian Athletes Secure More Medals at 2024 Paralympics



Zionist Settlers Step Up Assault Against Palestinians



Triple Grief Marks End of Mourning Season

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"It is He Who sent to the unlettered [people] the Messenger from among themselves, to recite to them His signs, to purify them, and to teach them the Book and wisdom, and earlier they had indeed been in manifest error." (Holy Qur'an 62:2)

Heartfelt condolences to all our readers on the eve of a very tragic day. It is the day the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger who had been sent to purify and deliver mankind from manifest error, departed from the mortal world at the age of 63 after moulding many human beings into monotheists during his 23-year universal mission.

The 28th of Safar is a day of double grief, since on the 39th anniversary of this tragedy, the Prophet's elder grandson Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS) attained martyrdom after a fatal dose of poison given on the orders of the charlatan Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan.

The last day of Safar, in fact, is the martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet's 8th Infallible Heir, Imam Reza (AS), making the closing days of this month as climax to the two-month mourning season for the Immortal Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), that starts every year on the advent of Muharram.

The path of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was not paved with roses. It was strewn with thorns, at times poisonous and fatal, as is evident by his sufferings at the hands of the pagan Arabs, especially of Mecca, who refused to listen to his words of wisdom, mocked at him, derided him as insane, pelted him with stones, clamped a socio-economic boycott upon him, and plotted to murder him.

When, by the Grace of God, he safely migrated from his hometown Mecca to Yathreb (Medina), where the people welcomed him and helped him establish the first instance of the ideal state of social justice; these hard-core pagans imposed war after war upon him, but with no success. Then these pagan Arabs ganged up with the equally treacherous Israelites to try to extinguish his mission through armed battles and conspiracies, but were soundly defeated.

Finally in 8 AH on the total failure of all their murderous plots following the peaceful surrender of Mecca to him, two years before his passing away, they resorted to hypocrisy by paying lip service to Islam and claiming to be Muslims in order to save their skins, although at heart, most of them had no faith in his mission.

Nonetheless, as the Prophet of Peace, he overlooked their faults and strove to guide them towards monotheism and the best of morals, being certain that the universal mission of Islam will stand the test of time and one day in the future, as God has promised, Islam will prevail peacefully over all creeds.

Let us focus on a wonderful debate that Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) had with the atheists to show them the rationality of Islam.

The Prophet, when confronted by a group of atheists, who mocked at God and divine messengers, asked them: "Now, tell me what reasons you have behind your claims that the objects [for whatever is] in this Universe, have no beginning and they have been there forever and will exist forever."

The atheists answered: "We are simply stating what we observe. We have not seen "hudooth" or contingency, coming into existence in objects [for whatever exists] of the universe, so we say that this Universe has been there forever and when we did not observe destruction and annihilation, we postulated that whatever exists in this Universe is not transient [or will never annihilate]."

The Prophet asked them: "Did you find this Universe "qadeem" or eternally pre-existent, without a beginning, or did you find it eternal? If you say so, then explain whether you yourself are in the same physical and intellectual state as you are now and that you will remain like this forever. If you will answer positively, then undoubtedly, you will deny your own observation and reject the observation of the observers [in other words, you yourself were not in the same physical and intellectual state]."

The atheists said: "No, we do not find this Universe pre-existent or everlasting."

The Prophet answered: "Then how come you said the objects in this Universe are eternally pre-existent and eternal? When you did not observe in the Universe "hudooth" [contingency, coming into being] or for that matter "inqadha" [perishing or transient], you called it pre-existent and eternal; while it was better for you, when you did not find eternal pre-existence and eternity in this Universe, to claim that this Universe is "haadeth" [that is came into existence] and is perishable.

The Prophet continuing his debate with the atheists asked them: "Alright, have you seen how the day and night come one after another?"

The atheists answered in the affirmative. When the Prophet asked "Do you think of the night and the day to be eternal?", the atheists again replied in the affirmative, to which the Prophet said: "In your opinion, can the night and the day coexist?"

The atheists said: "No." The Prophet continued: "Doesn't one of them separate from the other and come forward and the other one follow it?"

The atheists said: "Yes, this is how it works."

The Prophet said: "So, through your affirmation, you have said that the night and the day that have passed display "hudooth" [coming into existence], while you have not observed it directly. Now, tell me you say the Universe is eternally pre-existent and not "haadeth" [for created]. Do you know what are the things that you will have to admit to and reject, based on your proposition?"

The atheists were speechless. The Prophet pointed out: "You have definitely observed that in this Universe, one thing is dependent over another because existence of anything in this Universe is impossible without its contact [or connection] with another thing. You may have seen how some parts of a building are dependent over others or else, the building would be unstable and not be able to stand as a unit [will fall] and this is true for everything [in this Universe]. The same is true for all other objects. So, when these objects, while being eternally pre-existent, require other objects for their strength and completeness, so now tell me, what would have been their situation and characteristics had they been "haadeth" [having a beginning]?"

Present at these lively debates was the Prophet's Divinely-Designated Vicegerent, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), who narrates that the Prophet's question baffled the atheists. They understood that it is impossible to acquire a new characteristic for a "haadeth" object [a thing with a beginning] that is different from the characteristics of the objects called "qadeem" (eternally pre-existent).

The atheists stopped their discussion, saying they need time to contemplate upon such matters. Soon many of them were convinced of the truth of Islam and became Muslims.

This was Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), who came to enlighten humanity, and did not leave the world without showing clear ways of guidance, including whom God has chosen to be his Vicegerent and Successors or Imams after him.

In 50 AH, those who claimed to be Muslims, not only poisoned to death his elder grandson, Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), but also riddled the coffin and the corpse of his victim with arrows.

In 61 AH, the tragedy befalling the Prophet's Household (Ahl al-Bayt) was more heartrending when in Karbala, these so-called Muslims cruelly martyred his younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS), and massacred almost all males accompanying him, including his 6-month infant son, Ali Asghar (AS).

In 203 AH on the last day of Safar, the hypocrites who masqueraded as caliphs poisoned to death the Prophet's 8th Infallible Heir, Imam Reza (AS), who reposes in eternal peace in Mashhad, northeast Iran, where pilgrims from all over the world flock.

'Heroic Operation' in West Bank Shakes Zionists



Smoke rises above buildings during an Israeli military raid in Jenin in the occupied-West Bank on Saturday.

JENIN, Occupied West Bank (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel pressed on with a large-scale military onslaught in the occupied West Bank for a fourth day on Saturday, as fierce fighting raged in the nearly 11-month Gaza war.

As clashes and explosions persisted in the northern city of Jenin, two Palestinians were martyred while carrying out a retaliatory operation overnight in the south of the West Bank.

Palestinian resistance group

Hamas hailed a "heroic operation" at what it called a "sensitive time" during the Israeli invasion of the north.

The operations, it said, send a clear message that the resistance front will remain firm, strong and resilient as long as Israel continues its brutalities and acts of aggression against the Palestinian nation and occupied territories.

"These operations remind the Zionist regime of the fact that it cannot partition any part of our homeland, and that our people

and heroic resistance fighters will surprise Israel anywhere and anytime," the Hamas statement read.

The coordinated car bomb explosions, it said, represent a new blow to the Israeli security apparatus, and highlights that illegal settlers cannot enjoy security on occupied Palestinian lands and will continue to receive more painful strikes from Palestinian resistance fighters.

Hamas ally Islamic Jihad, which has a strong presence in the northern West Bank, similarly said it

"congratulates" those behind the "coordinated attack".

The Zionist military described a vehicle explosion at a petrol station in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc as "an attempted car bombing".

An army officer "was moderately injured, and a reservist officer responsible for the security in a nearby community sustained minor injuries," it said in a statement.

In the second incident, the head of security in the Israeli settlement of Karmeit Zur engaged in a car chase with a Palestinian who had infiltrated the settlement compound, leading to a collision, the statement said.

At least 21 Palestinians have been martyred by Israeli forces since Wednesday in a series of raids in several cities in the northern West Bank. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees said that among the dead were several children and a disabled person.

Since Friday, troops have concentrated their aggression on the city of Jenin and its refugee camps.

On Saturday morning, clashes continued in Jenin, where the streets were mostly empty save for armored vehicles, including one that blocked access to the government hospital.

"I think it's the worst day since (Continued on Page 7)

U.S. Campuses Brace for Return of Pro-Palestine Protests

WASHINGTON (WP) -- Two pro-Palestinian student groups at George Washington University say they have been suspended by the university. American University, the University of Maryland and the University of Virginia announced new policies for protesting. And student activists at Virginia Commonwealth University held a "dis-orientation" week to press for a cease-fire and drum up support for future actions.

Months after demonstrations over the war in Gaza scrambled the end of spring classes, leading to thousands of arrests nationwide, colleges across the D.C. region are bracing for a new round of protests this fall. And as they do, some students and faculty are renewing calls for institutions to cut ties with Israeli universities and divest from companies that may support the state.

Now, as ceasefire talks over the fighting in Gaza stall, and the U.S. presidential election draws more attention by the day, some are worried tensions could erupt. Already at the University of Michigan, police arrested four

pro-Palestinian protesters — none of whom were students — for refusing to disperse, according to a university spokesperson, as demonstrators vowed to return to Columbia University.

"I know the hurricane is out there and it's coming," said Jeff Hunt, a crisis communications consultant who works with universities across the country, including in the D.C. region. "I just don't know where and when."

Earlier this month, the GWU chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, another pro-Palestinian student organization, announced they'd been suspended for the semester for setting up an encampment at the D.C. university in the spring that led to 33 arrests.

University officials declined to comment on the alleged suspensions, adding that conduct violations would be disclosed once the entire disciplinary process, including appeals, concludes.

Student activists quickly organized a demonstration in response that drew about 100 protesters from schools across the region on

Aug. 22, including in a park near GWU. They marched to GWU President Ellen Granberg's house on campus, where they called for divestment — a rallying cry of the student protest movement that has meant everything from urging universities to divest from weapons manufacturers to cutting ties with tech companies that aid Israel. They held signs directing people's attention to Gaza.

A university spokesperson said GWU and city police worked together to ensure the protests occurred on public spaces but did not address whether students violated the groups' suspensions.

"Anything is on the table," said Lance Lokas, a fourth-year student who is on the leadership team of the GWU SJP. "And they should know that the community is prepared and willing to take action. We will continue to escalate until our demands are met."

As tense as the end-of-semester protests were at some D.C. area schools, administrators, faculty, students and outside consultants said the spring could have been worse. Graduation and summer

break helped to defuse tensions as students left campuses.

Universities across the country have reshaped free expression policies in two ways, according to Ryan Anslan of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression.

Many, such as James Madison University and Virginia Commonwealth University, solidified guidelines that Anslan said restrict free expression in favor of perceived campus safety, such as preventing students from protesting without prior approval. Other policies included a ban on tents, limitations on where demonstrators can set up posters (largely on approved bulletin boards) or a rule requiring that anyone wearing a mask on university property show a valid ID if asked.

Violating those rules could result in being barred from university property and possible penalties for criminal trespassing.

(Continued on Page 7)

Holiday Notice

As the next few days mark the anniversary of departures of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Reza (AS), our next issue will be published on Saturday, Sept. 7. Editor