

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi departed for New Delhi on Wednesday evening, leading a diplomatic delegation to meet with high-ranking Indian officials and discuss bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

During his visit, Araqchi will hold consultations with senior Indian officials on matters of mutual interest. Additionally, the Iran-India Joint Economic Commission will convene, co-chaired by Araghchi and his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

TEHRAN -- Iran’s Foreign Ministry on Wednesday dismissed “fabricated and baseless” media reports that it had proposed direct talks with Washington and that a meeting between the presidents of the two countries was to happen soon. Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said all updates on Iran’s diplomatic activities, including indirect talks with the U.S., are communicated transparently, professionally, and in a timely manner by the Foreign Ministry. His remarks came after claims that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had asked President Donald Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff to conduct direct negotiations.

Viewpoint

Iranian FM’s India Visit at Sensitive Juncture

Tehran International Book Fair Opens



Iran Edge Philippines in Women’s Futsal Asian Cup



Report: Thousands of Unexploded Israeli Bombs Have Become Key Resource for Hamas



Keys to Salvation

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“Imaan (faith) is a superior grade than Islam; piety (“taqwa”) is a degree higher than faith; while certitude/certainty (“iqaan”/“yaqeen”) are a step above piety. Nothing more elegant and excellent than certitude has been bestowed upon the children of Adam.”

Today on the eve of the 11th of Zi'l-Qa'dah marking culmination of the “Dah-e Karamat” (Ten Days of Munificence) we are basking in the blessings of the birthday of the person who defined for us the above-mentioned formula of salvation.

All roads these days lead to the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, where he reposes in eternal peace in a sprawling mausoleum in the centre of which is his golden-domed shrine.

Imam Reza (AS) needs no introduction. As the Eighth Infallible Heir of the Almighty’s Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), he continues to hold a magnificent court every day. Pilgrims coming from all over the world who pay homage to him include uelma, scholars, heads of state, politicians, medics, poets, entrepreneurs, office staff, and scientists – the last named discovering a bit of the mysteries of the universe, many of which he unraveled during his imamate of twenty years.

Born in the Prophet’s city Medina in 148 AH (765 AD) – a fortnight after the martyrdom of his grandfather, Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS) – to the then 20-year old Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), he was 35-years old when the mantle of Divinely-decreed authority came to rest on his broad shoulders.

In those suffocating days of the tyrannical rule of Haroun Rashid (the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime), he continued the path of his father and forefathers by holding aloft the torch of the genuine teachings of Islam, inherited from his forbear, the Seal of Prophets – a legacy no caliph could snatch from the Ahl al-Bayt.

Soon Haroun (killer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Imam) slipped into the bowels of the eternal inferno while in distant Khorasan where he had gone to suppress the uprising of the people of Kabul in what is now Afghanistan. The next five years saw Haroun’s sons Amin and Mamoun quarrel with each other over the caliphate, to which neither had any legal or Islamic claim, until the latter triumphed, killed the former, and seized control of the Muslim realm from North Africa to Central Asia.

This crafty tyrant sensed danger from Imam Reza (AS) to his illegal rule, but he dare not do open harm to him for fear of strong reaction from the Muslim Ummah, who hailed the 8th Imam as “Alem-e Aal-e Muhammad” (the Most Learned of the Prophet’s Household). He thus devised a plan to drive a wedge between the Imam and the Ummah, by forcing the Prophet’s righteous heir to leave Medina and come to his court in Marv in Khorasan in the hope of tainting him with political power by declaring him his Heir Apparent.

What happened during the Imam’s almost three-year stay in Khorasan is well documented and need not be repeated, including his words of wisdom, his political acumen, his miracles and his debates with scholars of various religions and schools of thought that confirmed the truth of Islam and the Holy Qur’an, to the chagrin of the so-called caliph. To be brief, when all his plots failed, the exasperated Mamoun had the Prophet’s Heir martyred through forced eating of poisoned grapes, and then feigned innocence by joining the funeral procession, clad in black.

He had Imam Reza (AS) laid to rest near the grave of the despicable Haroun, but soon all traces of the tyrant’s grave vanished. Ever since, curses have been the lot of the Abbasids, whether in Khorasan or whether in Baghdad, as pilgrims to the shrines of the Prophet’s Heirs, imprecate the usurpers of the political rights of the Immaculate Ahl al-Bayt.

A brief newspaper column cannot do justice to Imam Reza (AS) who possessed excellent traits and has bequeathed a lasting legacy for the guidance of the seekers of truth. For instance, the Iranian scholar, Shaikh Sadouq, who lived over a millennium ago, writes in his famous book “Uyoun Akhbar ar-Reza”:

“In the words of Ibrahim ibn Abbas: I never saw Ali ar-Reza (AS) committing excess over anyone in talking and interrupting anybody’s speech before its coming to the end. He did not stretch his legs in the presence of others. At the serving of the daily meals, he called the servants to join him and took his meals with them. During the nights, after taking rest he would get up and make himself busy with the prayers to Allah. Like his forefathers in the midst of night he (incognito) would carry food to the houses of the afflicted ones.”

These flawless characteristics are an indication of not just the unsullied personalities of the Ahl al-Bayt, but indicate the Infallibility of their Immaculate Ancestor, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) – the Exemplar par-excellence for all mankind.

To end the column, here is an admonition from the eighth Imam to his erring brother Zayd that shows it is not lineage or family connections but virtue (“amal khayr”), faith (“imaan”), piety (“taqwa”) and certitude (“iqaan”) which exalts a person in the sight of God.

Once when Imam Reza (AS) was delivering a speech in a grand assembly, he heard Zayd praising himself before the people, saying I am so and so. The Imam admonished him:

“O Zayd, do you trust the words of the grocers of Kufa and are conveying these to the people? What kind of things are you saying? The offspring of Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) and Fatema Zahra (SA) are worthy and outstanding only when they obey the commandments of Allah and keep themselves away from sin and blunder. Do you think you are like Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), Imam Ali ibn Husayn (AS), and other Imams? Whereas, they took pains and bore hardships in the path of Allah and prayed to Allah day and night. What will you gain without enduring hardships on this path? Beware, that if a member of us, the Ahl al-Bayt, performs a good deed, he gets twice the reward, because not only he performed good deeds like others but also maintained the honour of Muhammad (SAWA). If he does something bad and commits a sin, he has actually indulged in two sins. One, that he committed a wrong as others are liable to do, and Two, he negated the honour of Muhammad (SAWA). O’ brother! The one who obeys Allah is from us the Ahl al-Bayt and the one who is a sinner is not ours. Allah said about the son of Prophet Noah who cut the spiritual bond with his father, “O’ Noah! He is indeed not of your family. He is indeed [personification of] unrighteous conduct... (11:42)”

Bezels of Wisdom indeed for us to ponder upon while saluting Imam Reza (AS) from near and far with supplication to the Almighty Creator to grant us the keys of salvation listed by the Prophet’s Eighth Infallible Heir.

Second \$67 Million F-18 Jet Falls Into Red Sea U.S. Raises White Flag After Defeat in Yemen

Ansarullah: Deal Will Not Stop Strikes on Israel



Photo on the left shows Yemen’s military spokesman Yahya Saree addressing a rally in support of Gazans in the capital Sanaa on May 2, 2025. Photo on the right shows boys shouting slogans with protesters at the same rally.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Washington will put a stop to its illegal war against Yemen, claiming that the Ansarallah-led Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) “don’t want to fight anymore.”

When pressed by reporters on the terms of the agreement with Sanaa, Trump claimed Yemeni officials “said please don’t bomb us anymore.” Asked where he got that information, Trump said, “It doesn’t matter where I heard it – a very good source.”

Nevertheless, the Omani Foreign Ministry announced later that Muscat successfully brokered a ceasefire agreement between Washington and Sanaa that will see both sides end hostilities.

“The understanding between the U.S. and the Houthis not to attack each other is aimed at building momentum for Iran nuclear deal talks,” CNN reported, citing people familiar with the agreement. However, the agreement reportedly does not call for an end to Yemeni operations against Israel.

According to the report, U.S. special envoy to West Asia Steve Witkoff brokered the ceasefire over the past week.

Trump made the announcement a few hours after Israel violently bombed the Yemeni capital, destroying large parts of Sanaa International Airport and several power stations around the city.

According to reports in Hebrew media, Israeli authorities were caught unaware by Trump’s capitulation to Yemen. “[Authorities] were surprised by his words,

and do not understand the implications of his statement,” Yedioth Ahronoth revealed.

On Sunday, the Israeli military failed to intercept a Yemeni missile that successfully struck the heavily fortified Ben Gurion airport. Following the attack, the Yemeni Armed Forces vowed to impose a complete “aerial blockade” on Israel, especially Ben Gurion.

Following the truce announcement, the chairman of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat, confirmed that despite the Israeli aggression, “there will be no retreat from supporting Gaza, no matter the cost.”

“The Israeli aggression proves to our people the correctness of their movement and struggle, and reassures them even more when they see that they are facing the vilest enemy humanity has ever known. Our response, Allah willing, will be devastating, painful, and at a level that will not be bearable for the Israeli enemy,” Mashat added.

He also called on Israeli settlers to “stay in shelters or leave immediately to your homelands, for your failed government will no longer be able to protect you.”

Ansarullah’s spokesman Muhammad Abdul-Salam stressed that Yemen’s Armed Forces will

(Continued on Page 7)

Dozens Killed in Worst India-Pakistan Clashes in Decades

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan/NEW DELHI (Dispatches) -- India hit Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir with missiles on Wednesday and Pakistan said it had shot down five Indian aircraft and vowed to retaliate, in the worst clash in more than two decades between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

India told more than a dozen foreign envoys in New Delhi that “if Pakistan responds, India will respond”, fuelling fears of a larger military conflict in one of the world’s most dangerous - and most populated - nuclear flash-point regions.

India said it struck nine “terrorist infrastructure” sites, some of them linked to an attack by militants that killed 25 Hindu tourists and one local in Indian Kashmir last month.

Pakistan said at least 26 of its civilians had been killed and that India “had ignited an inferno in the region”.

Islamabad pledged to respond “at a time, place and manner of its

choosing to avenge the loss of innocent Pakistani lives and blatant violation of its sovereignty”, emphatically rejecting Indian allegations it had terrorist camps on its territory.

The Indian strikes included Punjab, Pakistan’s most populous province, for the first time since the last full-scale war between the old enemies more than half a century ago.

Islamabad said none of the six locations targeted in Pakistan were militant camps. At least 26 civilians were killed and 46 wounded, a Pakistan military spokesperson said.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, the Indian strike had badly damaged a mosque-seminary in the heart of the city. Five missiles killed three people in the two storey structure, which also had residential quarters, locals said.

Hindu-majority India and Islamic Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence

(Continued on Page 7)

Nearly 100 Gazans Martyred in Ferocious Israeli Massacres

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 92 people, including women, children and a local journalist, officials said Wednesday, as the Zionist regime prepared to ramp up its genocide in the strip, with the devastating war now entering its 20th month.

Two Israeli airstrikes on Wednesday in central Gaza killed at least 33 people and wounded 86, including several children, though the actual death toll is likely higher, according to health officials.

The new massacre comes days after Israel approved a plan to intensify its onslaught on the Palestinian enclave, which would include seizing Gaza, holding on to occupied territories, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza and taking control of aid distribution along with private security companies.

Israel is also calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the invasion. The oc-

cupying regime says the plan will be gradual and will not be implemented until after U.S. President Donald Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Any escalation of onslaught would likely drive up the death toll. And with Israel already controlling some 50% of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory, for an indefinite amount of time, could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed, especially at a time when it is considering how to implement Trump’s vision to take over Gaza.

The Israeli invasion has so far killed more than 52,500 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials.

Wednesday’s strikes included two attacks on a crowded market area in Gaza City, health officials said.

Footage posted online reportedly

(Continued on Page 7)