

Iran Daily congratulates its readers on the auspicious occasion of Eid al-Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice which is celebrated by Muslims worldwide marking the peak of the Hajj pilgrimage.



President Rouhani inaugurates agricultural projects

## Leader urges Muslims to resist Western aggression in Hajj message

### International Desk

The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution on Monday urged all Muslims to resist the West's aggression and wickedness. In a message to Hajj pilgrims, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei described resistance as the key for the Islamic world to make up for the past when they were subject to arrogant powers' interference.

The Leader noted that resistance against the United States and other transgressing countries will pave the way for Muslims take their fate in their own hands.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the primary result of such struggle will be to prevent the US and other international aggressors from interfering in the affairs of Islamic countries.

The following is the full text of the Leader's message published on his website khamenei.ir:

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds, and peace and greetings be upon Muhammad, his pure Household, his chosen companions and those who follow them until the Day of Judgment.

Hajj has turned into a season of separation and regret. The tribulation of the pandemic and perhaps that of the policies dominating over the Holy Kaaba have deprived the eyes of the eager believers from seeing the Islamic nation's symbol of unity, greatness and spirituality. Thus, this glorious, honorable summit has been covered with clouds and dust.

This is another test, which like the other tests that have come to pass in the history of the Islamic nation, that will be followed by a bright future. What is important is that Hajj remain alive in its true home – in the hearts and souls of Muslims – so that now that its physical form is temporarily inaccessible, its exalted message not be diminished.

Hajj is an act of worship that is filled with mysteries and secrets. The exquisite formation and combination of movement and quietude in it builds the identity of the Muslims and the Muslim community and displays its beauties for the people of the world.

On the one hand, it helps the hearts of God's servants to spiritually ascend by remembering God, reciting supplications and being humble. And this brings them closer to God. On the other hand, it creates a bond between the Muslim brothers gathering together from the four cor-



leader.ir

humility, to supplicating Him and to asking for His forgiveness is possible. Being present in Arafah is not within our reach, but enlightening supplications are. It is not possible to stone Satan in Mina, but rejecting the power-seeking devils is possible everywhere. The harmonious gathering of individuals around the Kaaba is not attainable, but the harmonious gathering of hearts around the illuminating verses of the Holy Qur'an and holding fast to the rope which God stretches out [Qur'an, 3:103] is a perpetual duty.

We who are the followers of Islam – and who enjoy a large population, vast lands, countless natural resources and nations that are aware and awake – must build the future with our assets and resources. Over the last 150 years, Muslim nations have not had any role in deciding the fate of their countries and their governments. Apart from a few exceptions, they have all been led and governed by transgressing western governments while being subject to their greed, interference and malevolence. Scientific backwardness and political dependence in many countries is the product of that passivity and incompetence.

Today, our nations, our youth, our scientists, our religious scholars, our civic intellectuals, our politicians, our political parties and our people must make up for that dishonorable, embarrassing past. They must stand firm and resist the aggression, interference and wickedness of western powers.

All that the Islamic Republic of Iran is saying that has caused the world of Arrogance to become despondent and infuriated is actually an invitation to this kind of resistance. This is a resistance in the face of the interference and evil of America and other transgressing countries so as to take the fate of the world of Islam in one's own hands by relying on Islamic teachings.

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## Tehran Grand Bazaar, banks closed for six days to curb COVID pandemic

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MOHAMMAD NESAEI/MEHR

## Iraqi PM: US foreign combat forces 'not needed' in Iraq

### Kadhimi due in Tehran soon

Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said that his visit to Washington next week is aimed at regulating Iraq's relations with the United States and pushing for the withdrawal of foreign combat forces from his country.

In an interview with Saudi-owned al-Hadath television news network on Sunday, Kadhimi said there is no need for the presence of foreign combat forces on Iraqi soil and that he would not allow his country to be used to threaten its neighbors.

The White House said on Friday that US President Joe Biden will meet Kadhimi on July 26 to discuss "the strategic partnership" between the United States and Iraq, Press TV wrote.

Baghdad-Washington relations have been complicated since the US assassination of Iran's lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani along with Deputy Commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization United Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis at Baghdad International Airport in January 2020, in a

drone attack that was directly ordered by former US president Donald Trump.

The assassination sparked the Iraqi Parliament to vote for the expulsion of all US-led foreign forces from the country, followed by US positions in Iraq being repeatedly targeted.

Some 3,500 foreign troops, including 2,500 Americans, are still in Iraq, with the alleged aim of preventing the re-emergence of the Daesh terror group.

### Kadhimi to visit Tehran

Elsewhere in his Sunday interview, Kadhimi said he will visit Tehran after the inauguration of President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi, who will be sworn in early August.

He emphasized that Baghdad is in contact with Tehran because "we need stability."



AP

## US, allies leaving Afghanistan in humiliation: Leader's aide

### Iran warns against new plots after US withdrawal from Afghanistan

A senior advisor to Iran's Leader on Monday warned against new US plots for Afghanistan as US-led foreign forces are withdrawing from the war-torn country "in humiliation".

"The US has committed severe crimes and left behind big losses in Afghanistan instead of bringing development, and prosperity and now, the US is leaving the country in humiliation," said Ali Akbar Velayati, also the secretary-general of the Tehran-based World Assembly of Islamic Awakening.

He made the remarks in an address to a conference dubbed "Afghanistan, Sustainable Peace and Security" in the Iranian capital.

Various Afghan and international groups and parties who play an active role in promoting peace in Afghanistan took part in the event.

"Although they are still

trying to destroy the remaining prosperity and divide the honorable people of Afghanistan with evil provocations, the elites and intellectuals of Afghanistan will thwart these conspiracies as they know the US's sinister intentions," Velayati added, according to Fars News Agency.

He noted that the Afghan people have always stood against any aggression. The meeting comes more than a week after Tehran hosted a round of intra-Afghan talks, attended by four delegations, including representatives of the Afghan government, the Taliban militant group and prominent figures supporting the republic

system in Afghanistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the representatives of the delegations that the Islamic Republic stands ready to help the neighboring country resolve its conflicts and achieve lasting peace.

Foreign troops had been deployed in Afghanistan for nearly two decades following the US-led military invasion of the country launched in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. The foreign forces have largely withdrawn from the country after Washington announced plans to pull out its forces by the end of next month.

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AFF

Muslim pilgrims perform rituals at Kaaba in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia on July 17, 2021 during the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world,

This year too, the Islamic nation has been deprived of the great blessing of Hajj. Thus, eager hearts filled with sadness and sorrow were deprived of the banquet at the honorable House that God, the Wise and Merciful, built for people.

This is the second year that the season of happiness and spiritual exaltation associated with

ners of the world, and this bond manifests itself through their similar garments and harmonious moves.

It displays the most important symbol of the Islamic nation with all its meaningful, transcendent rituals, and it shows the determination and greatness of the Islamic nation to all ill-wishers.

This year, the Hajj ritual at the Great House of God is not possible, but paying attention to the God of the House, to remembering Him, to

## Palestinians, EU condemn raiding of Al-Aqsa by Israeli forces

Palestinians condemned the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on Sunday by Israeli police, which then launched tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets at worshippers at Islam's third holiest site in occupied East Al-Quds, according to Palestinian media.

Israeli police forcefully evacuated Muslim worshippers to clear the way for the Jewish visitors in one of the most sensitive venues in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, said Palestinian officials, Al Jazeera reported.

The Palestinian Authority (PA), which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in a statement said it held the Israeli regime fully responsible for the escalation resulting from the Israeli incursion in the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied Al-Quds.

The PA called the Jewish visits provocative and a "serious threat to "security and stability".

Israeli police monitor and regulate Jewish visits to the compound, which houses Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock shrine – Islam's holiest site after Mecca and Medina.

The site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque is known to Muslims as Al-Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, while Jews refer to the place of worship as the Temple Mount.

The incident took place two days before Eid al-Adha celebrated by Muslims, and on the eve of their annual Hajj pilgrimage.

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## Consul general: Three Iranian fishermen held in Pakistan freed, more to be freed soon

EXCLUSIVE

### International Desk

Pakistan has released three Iranian fishermen arrested by the Pakistani coast guard off the southern port city of Karachi, an Iranian diplomat told Iran Daily on Monday.



IRAN DAILY

Hassan Nourian, Iran's consul general in Karachi, said the fishermen, who are from Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province, were freed following calls between Iranian and Pakistani officials.

Nourian said the Iranian nationals had entered Pakistani waters "by mistake" because they did not have navigation equipment.

He added that more Iranian sailors and fishermen are expected to be set free by Pakistan in the near future.

The consul general also said Iran has planned training courses for local fishermen to help them stay away from other countries territorial waters.

IRNA reported on Monday that the released Iranians have flown to the capital Tehran.

According to Iran's official news agency, the trio had been in a prison in Karachi for months. The report did not say when they had been apprehended.

Last year, more than 60 Iranian nationals held in prisons across Pakistan's southern Sindh Province were released through diplomatic efforts and returned to Iran.