



WEDNESDAY: PROCESS STARTS TO REJOIN IRAN N-DEAL Order to end travel curbs on Muslims

Opinion

Brotherhood starts and ends in Tunisia

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WHEN the Tunisian uprising kicked off towards the end of 2010, it was cheered by the Muslim Brotherhood Group, the Mullah regime and the US Obama administration, which out of joy called it "The Arab Spring". However, soon it came clear that the trio were marking their territory and had distributed their roles in the new game of nations.

While the White House was pressuring the Arab countries to preserve what it called "freedom of opinion and expression" and allow demonstrations, the Muslim Brotherhood Group worked on urging its branches in Egypt, Syria, Libya, Morocco and the Gulf states to organize more protests. The role of the Mullah regime was to dispatch its gangs to some countries where it has an organized network of agents, in order to destabilize those countries and carry out terrorist and sabotage operations.

This is how the threads of the conspiracy were woven. The choice of Egypt was not a second stop for the saboteurs, as it is the bastion of Arab regional security. In other words, if it falls, it becomes easy to reach the rest of the Arab countries, especially the Gulf countries, which the Muslim Brotherhood Group and the Iranians considered as the grand prize for whoever manages to control them.

That is why the cadres of the Muslim Brotherhood Group in Kuwait chanted slogans for the immediate overthrow of the regime, and claimed that it will be the second after Egypt from where the Arab Spring will be launched to the Arabian Gulf states.

All observers know how the American intervention in the Egyptian movement helped the Muslim Brotherhood Group to come to power through a planned rigging of the elections at the time. We saw the implementation of its plan from the very first moment of its control over institutions.

Internally, the group started talking about cutting off part of Sinai and making it a haven for the terrorist group, as said by the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Regionally, the group interfered in the internal affairs of Arab countries, taking the color of its historical ally the Mullahs regime.

Also at that time, the goal of the two parties was to dismantle the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in preparation for the acquisition of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Subsequently, Iran worked to create chaos and sabotage in Bahrain through its puppets, while the Muslim Brotherhood Group of Tunisia tried to move their tools in Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, and even in Mali, as it was seeking to control some African countries.

All this scheme began to collapse with the uprising of the Egyptian people in 2013 over the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood Group. It was indeed a blessed and peaceful popular uprising, and was the largest in the history of Egypt and the Arab world, as 33 million citizens took to the streets. With the protection of the army, which aligned with its people, Egypt managed to resolve the battle quickly, and began cleaning itself from the terrorist group.

On the other hand, the punitive measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf countries to confront these gangs led to the reduction of the terrorist group, and with it the collapse of the American-Iranian-Muslim Brotherhood Group project.

Therefore, just as the beginning was in Tunisia, the end of this project will also be in Tunisia. It is returning to its source through the new popular uprising that will undoubtedly lead to knocking the last nail into the coffin of subversive groups, either the Muslim Brotherhood Group or Iranian sectarianism, as it was in Egypt.

Undoubtedly, there will be another Abdul Fattah el-Sisi to save Tunisia the way the actual Abdul Fattah el-Sisi rescued Egypt from the jaws of the Muslim Brotherhood Group.

All this is taking place while the US administration, whether in the Trump era or now in the Biden era, has realized that Obama's plan would have led to the loss of its allies in the region, which means that it will lose an ally strategic force that it can never overlook.

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NewsWatch

CAIRO: A "tragic" shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea off Libya's coast killed at least 43 migrants bound for Europe, the UN migration agency said Wednesday.

The International Organization for Migration said the shipwreck that took place a day earlier was the first maritime disaster in 2021 involving migrants seeking better lives in Europe.

The IOM said coastal security in Libya's western town of Zuwara rescued 10 migrants and brought them to shore. It said the dead were all men from Western African nations, according to survivors. (AP)

JERUSALEM: President Donald Trump on Wednesday granted a full pardon to Aviem Sella, the handler of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, as part of the outgoing president's spree of clemency actions in his last hours in office.

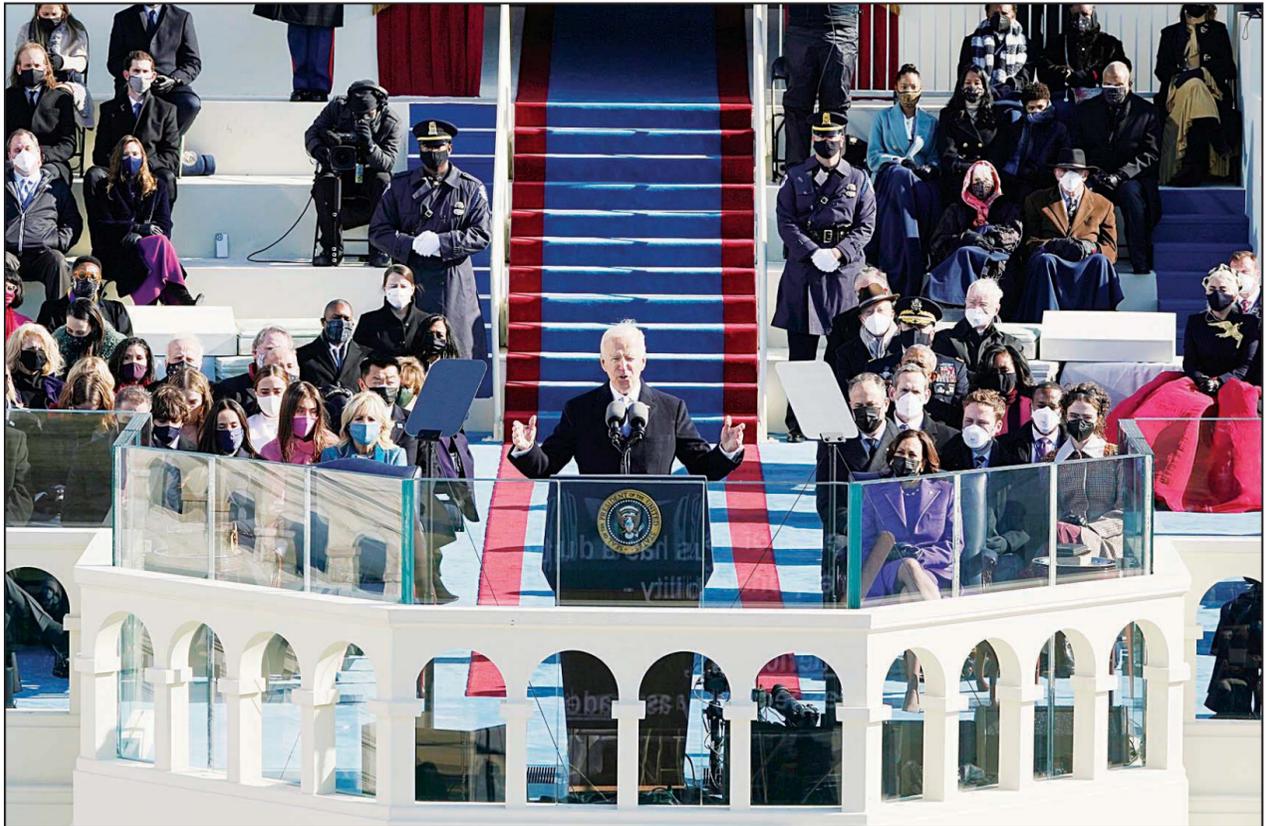
Pollard, a former Navy intelligence analyst, sold military secrets to Israel while working at the Pentagon in the 1980s. Sella, a retired Israeli air force officer, enlisted Pollard to spy for Israel and fled the United States after Pollard was arrested in 1985. Sella was charged in absentia on three espionage counts, but was not extradited to the US from Israel. (AP)

CAIRO: Both Egypt and Qatar will resume diplomatic relations after agreeing the move, Egypt's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

The agreement came as Cairo and Doha "exchanged two official memoranda," the ministry said in a statement.

It follows Saudi Arabia-hosted talks earlier this month, which resulted in the Al-Ula Declaration, struck between Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, on the one hand, and Qatar, on the other.

Egypt recently announced the reopening of its airspace to Qatari flights and the lifting of an air embargo on the Gulf country. (KUNA)



President Joe Biden speaks during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the US Capitol in Washington, Jan 20, 2021. (AP)



President-elect Joe Biden, his wife Jill Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff arrive at the steps of the US Capitol for the start of the official inauguration ceremonies, in Washington, Jan 20, 2021. (AP)

Biden takes helm; not of power, but possibilities

WASHINGTON, Jan 20, (AP): Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday, declaring that "democracy has prevailed" as he took the helm of a deeply divided nation and inherited a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

Biden's inauguration came at a time of national tumult and uncertainty, a ceremony of resilience as the hallowed American democratic rite unfurled at a U.S. Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks ago. The chilly Washington morning was dotted with snow flurries, but the sun emerged just before Biden took the oath of office, the quadrennial ceremony persevering even though it was encircled by security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed," Biden said. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

And then he pivoted to challenges ahead, acknowledging the surging virus that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the United States. Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic's deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation's renewed reckoning on racial injustice.

"We have much to do in this winter of peril, and significant possibilities: much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain," Biden said. "Few people in our nation's history have more challenged, or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we're in now."

His predecessor's absence underscored the healing that is needed.

Flouting tradition, Donald Trump departed Washington on Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the Capitol. Though three other former presidents - Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama - gathered to watch the ceremonial transfer of power, Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, instead flew to Florida after

stoking grievance among his supporters with the lie that Biden's win was illegitimate.

Joe Biden has given himself an imposing to-do list for his earliest days as president and many promises to keep over the longer haul.

Overshadowing everything at the very start is Biden's effort to win congressional approval of a \$1.9 trillion plan to combat the coronavirus and the economic misery it has caused.

But climate change, immigration, health care and more will be competing for attention - and dollars. Altogether Biden has laid out an ambitious if not always detailed set of plans and promises across the range of public policy.

Drawn from a review of his campaign statements and a recent memo from Ron Klain, who'll be his chief of staff, here's a sampling of measures to expect right away, around the corner and beyond:

Wednesday, after the inauguration, mostly by executive action:

■ Declaration that the US is rejoining Paris climate accord.

■ Declaration that the US is rejoining World Health Organization.

■ Ethical standards for his administration and an order prohibiting interference in the operations of the Justice Department from other parts of government.

■ Start of a process to restore 100 public health and environmental rules that the Obama administration created and President Donald Trump eliminated or weakened.

■ Start of a process to rejoin the deal restraining Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

■ Executive action to end travel restrictions on people from a variety of Muslim-majority countries.

■ Executive action to protect from deportation people who came to the country illegally as children.

■ Executive action to make masks mandatory on federal property and when travelling out of state. Others will be asked to wear masks for 100 days.

■ Steps to extend pandemic-era restrictions on evictions and foreclosures.

■ Legislation to go to Congress proposing to repeal liability protections for gun manufacturers and tightening some other aspects of gun control.

■ Immigration legislation to go to Congress as part of an effort to offer a path to citizenship for 11 million people in the US illegally and to codify protections for people who came illegally as children.

■ Education Department to be asked to extend the existing pause on student loan payments and interest for millions with student debt.

Thursday

■ Executive action laying out new steps to expand virus testing, protect workers and set new public health standards.

Friday

■ Directive to agencies to take unspecified immediate action to deliver economic relief from the pandemic.

By Feb 1

■ Executive actions to strengthen "buy American" provisions.

■ Executive actions to address climate change.

■ First steps to expand access to health care, for low-income women, women of color and other segments of the population.

■ First steps to reunite families still separated at the Mexican border.

Beyond (some may be tried sooner)

■ Ensure 100 million vaccines have been given before the end of his first 100 days.

■ Ensure 100 federally supported vaccination centers are up and running in his first month.

■ Expand use of the Defense Production Act to direct the manufacture of critical pandemic supplies.

■ Win passage of a \$2 trillion climate package to get the US to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

■ Seek passage of a "Medicare-like public option" to compete alongside private insurance markets for working-age Americans; increase existing premium subsidies.

■ Eliminate certain corporate tax cuts where possible, by executive action, while doubling the levies US firms pay on foreign profits.

■ Make a plan within 100 days to end homelessness.

■ Expand legal immigration slots.

■ Freeze deportations for 100 days, then restore the Obama-era principle of deporting foreigners who are seen as posing a national security threat or who have committed crimes in addition to the crime of illegal entry, thereby pulling back the broad deportation policy of the Trump years.

■ Halt financing of further construction of the wall along the Mexican border.

■ Within 100 days, establish a police oversight commission to combat institutional racism by then.

■ Reinstate federal guidance, issued by Obama and revoked by Trump, to protect transgender students' access to sports, bathrooms and locker rooms in accordance with their gender identity.

■ Ensure taxes are not raised on anyone making under \$400,000.