

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Muslims demand countering Israeli crimes: *Raeisi*

IRNA – Iran's President Ebrahim Raeisi said Sunday countering Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people is the demand of all Muslim nations.

He made the remarks after receiving the credentials of new Turkish Ambassador Hijabi Kirilangich in Tehran.

Raeisi said that more cooperation among the Islamic countries is needed to stop Israeli atrocities.

Over the past months, Israel has ramped up attacks on Palestinian towns and cities in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

Most of the raids have focused on Nablus and Jenin, where Israeli forces have been trying to stifle a growing Palestinian resistance against occupation. Since the start of the fasting month of Ramadan, Israeli has also imposed strict restrictions on the entry and exit of Palestinians to and from the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds.

Enemy 'can be defeated' despite apparent might: *Leader*

Ayatollah Khamenei also referred to the two wars that the

United States waged in the east and west of Iran about two decades ago, asserting that "Americans had interests in Iraq and Afghanistan, but their end goal was Islamic Iran, and, due to the unwavering foundations of the Islamic Revolution, they failed in these cases and in their ultimate goal." "Therefore, the enemy can be subdued despite its seemingly solid calculations and military power," he stated, cautioning, however, against underestimating the adversary. "One should never disregard the foe's machinations and stratagems at any stage." The Leader urged the intellectual centers of the Iranian Armed Forces to focus on inventive approaches in designing robust, logical, and efficacious strategies and tactics.

## Iran urges restraint, dialogue to end deadly violence in Sudan



Smoke billows above residential buildings in Khartoum on April 16, 2023, as fighting in Sudan raged for a second day in battles between rival generals.  
● AFP

Iran urged military rivals in Sudan to show restraint and engage in talks to end the deadly clashes in the African country.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, in a statement on Saturday, expressed Tehran's concern over the

situation in "the Muslim and brotherly country of Sudan".

The Iranian spokesman also expressed confidence that the Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue and internal consensus on a national initiative are the sole solutions to the current crisis.

His comments came after violent clashes broke out on Saturday between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary group.

The opposing sides battled for control of the chaos-stricken nation for a second day on Sunday, signaling they were unwilling to end hostilities despite mounting diplomatic pressure for a cease-fire, according to AP. Heavy fighting involving armored vehicles, truck-mounted machine-guns and war planes raged Sunday in the capital, Khartoum, the adjoining city of Omdurman, and in flashpoints across the country. The rival forces are believed to have tens of thousands of fighters each in the capital alone. At least 56 civilians were reported killed, including three employees of the UN food agency. The Sudan Doctors' Syndicate said it believed there were dozens of additional deaths among the rival forces. It said close to 600 people were wounded, including civilians and fighters.

The clashes are part of a power struggle between Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the commander of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the Rapid Support Forces. The two generals are former allies who jointly orchestrated an October 2021 military coup that derailed Sudan's short-lived transition to democracy. In recent months, internationally backed negotiations revived hopes for an orderly transition to democracy. However, growing tensions between Burhan and Dagalo eventually delayed a deal with political parties. In Khartoum and Omdurman, fighting was reported around the military headquarters, Khartoum International Airport and state television headquarters. A senior military official said RSF fighters clashed with troops at military headquarters early on Sunday and that a fire broke out at a facility for ground troops. The military and the RSF both claimed to be in

control of strategic locations in Khartoum and elsewhere in the county. Their claims couldn't be independently verified. Both sides signaled late Saturday that they were unwilling to negotiate.

Meanwhile, diplomatic pressure appeared to be mounting.

Top diplomats, including the UN secretary-general, the EU foreign policy chief, the head of the Arab League and the head of the African Union Commission urged the sides to stop fighting. Members of the UN Security Council, at odds over other crises around the world, called for an immediate end of the hostilities and a return to dialogue.

Arab states with stakes in Sudan – Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – made similar appeals.

Sudan, a country at the crossroads of the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, is known for its history of military coups and civil conflicts since it gained independence in the 1950s.

## Iran condemns desecration of Holy Qur'an in Denmark

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly condemned the latest instance of desecration of Muslims' holy book in Denmark.

Nasser Kanani made the remark after a Danish group burned a copy of the Holy Qur'an during a demonstration in the capital Copenhagen. According to media reports, the group also burned Turkey's flag during the same demonstration, Press TV reported.

"This act of desecration, which was done by an extremist group during the holy month of Ramadan ... is an insult to the divine religion of Islam and a blatant affront to all Muslims

of the world," Kanani said. Noting that this insulting measure was taken on Friday, which coincided with the International Quds Day, when all free-thinking people of the world were calling for the liberation of Al-Quds from the Zionist regime's occupation, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman added, "This is the most appalling way to demonstrate the claim that the West calls freedom of expression."

"Being free to insult sanctities of Muslims is another flip side of Takfiri extremism and violence, and deserves the same degree of global condemnation and inhibitory reaction," he added.

Kanani also asked the government of Denmark to take categorical steps to prevent repetition of such hateful measures.

Since last year, the frequency of insults against Islam and its holy book has been on the rise in Europe. Several European countries have been playing host to such despicable acts on their soils over the past months, drawing far-and-wide condemnation from the world's Muslim countries. In January, dual Danish and Swedish citizen Rasmus Paludan burned a copy of the Holy Qur'an in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, and later again in front of a



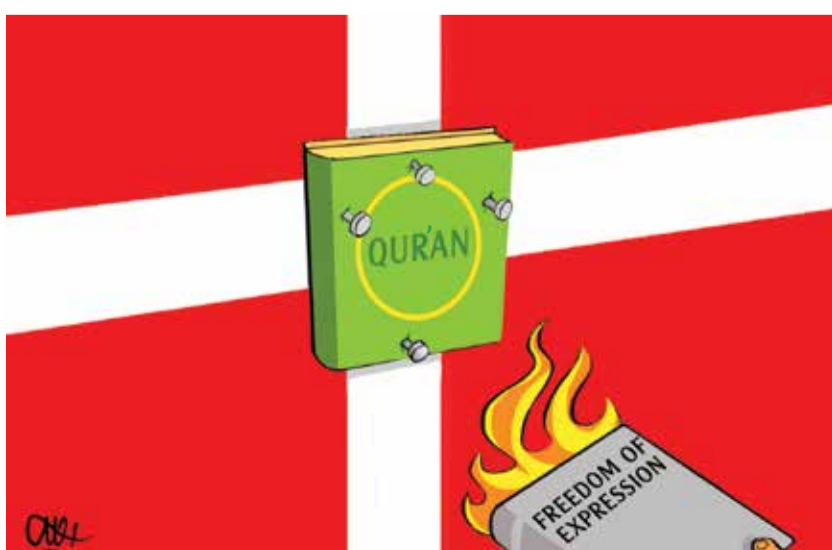
● IRNA

mosque. Days later in the Netherlands, far-right extremist, Edwin Wagensveld, who leads the anti-Muslim PEGIDA party, tore a copy of the Qur'an apart before setting it on fire. Muslim countries across the world, especially in the

West Asia region, have issued separate statements, condemning in the strongest terms desecration of the Holy Qur'an in Denmark. They asserted that such insulting acts hurt the feelings of the world Muslims during the fasting month of Ramadan.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran's Naval Forces seize vessel carrying smuggled fuel



Iran Press – A commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced the seizure of a foreign vessel carrying more than one million liters of smuggled fuel in the Persian Gulf. Brigadier General Ramezan Zirrahi, the commander of

IRGC Navy's second region, said round-the-clock monitoring of the Persian Gulf, using modern and advanced equipment, led to the seizure of a vessel carrying 1,450,000 liters of smuggled fuel. Zirrahi added that the destination of the vessel

was one of the countries of the Persian Gulf, adding that thanks to the coordination of the judicial organization, an order was issued to seize the aforementioned vessel and the fuel was delivered to the National Oil Products Distribution Company. Last year, 1,600,000 liters of smuggled fuel were discovered in the Persian Gulf. He said that the vessel's crew members were also arrested by the Iranian forces. Zirrahi noted that providing the security of the Persian Gulf is among the most important missions of the country's naval forces.