



Global outcry over desecration of Qur'an in Sweden

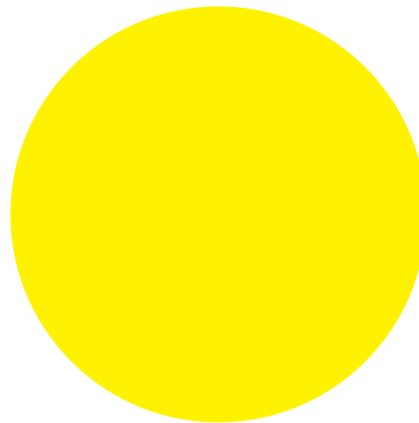
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EXCLUSIVE

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Hundreds arrested in third night of France riots

International Desk

Violence swept across major French cities a third night in a row after police shot dead a 17-year-old who has only been named as 'Nahel M', a teenager of Algerian and Moroccan descent.

Media reports citing French officials say hundreds of people were arrested, Reuters reported.

Emmanuel Macron urged parents to keep teenagers at home to quell rioting spreading across the country and said social media is fuelling copycat violence.



STEPHANE ROUPPERT/REUTERS

After a second crisis meeting with senior ministers, the French president said that social networks are playing a "considerable role" in the spreading unrest triggered by the deadly police shooting of the 17-year-old boy.

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Iran-Saudi Arabia thaw might favour regional integration



By Silvia Boltuc
Managing director of SpecialEurasia

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In March 2023, China aided Iran and Saudi Arabia in re-establishing diplomatic relations and embassies. Although Riyadh and Tehran have a long way to go, the rapprochement was a major turning point for the region. With this agreement, Saudi Arabia is aiming for stability and security to achieve its Saudi Vision 2030 proj-

ects, while Iran is seeking economic recovery and regional integration. Tehran has been awaiting decades to be able to trade with the West. Because of the impossibility of lifting sanctions, Iran has pushed regionalism, aiming to be a logistics and energy hub and build relationships with Eurasian countries. Tehran's government has focused on new port infrastructures, the establishment of Free Economic Zones and including Iran within the main regional multimodal corridors, as well as increasing cooperation with Eurasian organisations such as the SCO, the EAEU and the BRICS.

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