

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Muslims  
duty-bound  
to oppose  
sacrilege of  
Qur'an

**MEHR** – The Iranian president, in a phone conversation with his Algerian counterpart, said that Muslim nations are duty-bound to actively oppose the sacrilege of Islamic sanctities, especially the Holy Qur'an.

Ebrahim Raisi reiterated his government's will to expand relations with Muslim and friendly countries and expressed hope that given the two sides' considerable capacities, Iran-Algeria relations will further expand in the trade and economic fields.

US Congress  
demands  
details of  
probe into  
Malley

**CNN** – Michael McCaul, GOP chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is requesting that the State Department provide a detailed description of the allegations against Iran envoy Rob Malley that led to his security clearance being revoked.

"These reports raise serious concerns both regarding Malley's conduct and whether the State Department misled Congress and the American public," McCaul wrote. "While the suspension of Malley's clearance is independently troubling, our concern is compounded by the State Department's failure to respond to the Committee's efforts to conduct oversight of its negotiations with and policy toward Iran."

Iran leads  
UN meeting  
on role of  
religions

**IRNA** – A meeting on the role of religions in promoting human rights has been held at the initiative of Iran on the sidelines of the 53rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC53) in Geneva. The Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, chaired the meeting, arguing that many human rights values are rooted in divine religions.

MP: Iran, neighbors can form  
strong regional bloc

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

An Iranian lawmaker said the development of ties between Iran and countries in West Asia will lead to establishing a strong regional coalition.

"The normalization and expansion of ties between Iran and big countries in the region is a win-win situation," Mahmoud Abbas-Zadeh Meshkini told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview. The incumbent Iranian government has placed boosting the Islamic Republic's relations with regional countries on its agenda. Accordingly, Tehran has been seeking ways to strengthen ties with Riyadh since the two reached a China-brokered reconciliation agreement in March.

Noting that the restoration of ties will serve the mutual interests of the two neighbors, Abbas-Zadeh said, "Saudi Arabia is aware that it can further pursue its interests if it promotes ties with Iran." The member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee added that Saudis will get closer to Iran when they realize that Iran can solve their problems in the region.

He also touched upon Iran's pivotal role in West Asia. "Western countries have

acknowledged that Iran is a major power in the region and has a decisive role in regional issues," the MP stated. "Iran has made remarkable progress in the military field. The unveiling of a hypersonic missile by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is a perfect example of this."

The IRGC Aerospace Force unveiled a hypersonic missile named Fattah in June. It has a range of 1,400 kilometers, hits speeds of Mach 13-15, and can breach and destroy all anti-missile shields.



## JCPOA fate

Abbas-Zadeh also referred to diplomatic efforts aimed at the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, commonly known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We try not to turn the JCPOA revival talks into a serious issue for the country. It should be regarded as a secondary issue. This is because it is not appropriate for Iran to link its fate to the JCPOA given its vast resources and potential," he said.



The JCPOA was signed between Iran and six major world powers including the US in 2015. But former US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew Washington from the accord in 2018.

The administration of Joe Biden expressed willingness to restore the deal. Thus, negotiations to revive the agreement started in April 2021. The talks have, however, stalled amid Washing-

ton's refusal to offer guarantees that it would not exit the agreement again.

Abbas-Zadeh explained why the revival of the JCPOA should not be linked to the country's fate.

"Americans sought to bring Iran under their control through the JCPOA. We are not opposed to the JCPOA, but we should have a strategy and a roadmap for its revival. We should not allow the JCPOA to turn into the country's most important

issue," he said.

The lawmaker called for boosting the country's capabilities in the face of US hostility.

"There are contradictions between Iran's principles and interests with those of the US," Abbas-Zadeh pointed out, adding that the US regards the Islamic Republic as a super challenge. "That is why it seizes every opportunity to deal blows to Iran." Urging Iran to become stronger in the face of the



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi arrives in Uzbekistan to take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit on September 14, 2022.  
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US enmity, the MP concluded that national power, first and foremost, comes from relying on the country's own people and domestic capabilities.

## OIC plans emergency meeting over Qur'an desecration



capital of Stockholm. The intergovernmental body's Executive Committee is to convene in Jeddah next week "under the invitation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the President of the [OIC's] Islamic Summit" to discuss the act of sacrilege, Mehr news agency reported.

The meeting next week is scheduled to discuss the measures to be taken against the heinous act and to adopt a collective position on the necessary course of action.

The decision by the OIC followed a phone call between Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha, during which the Iranian top diplomat proposed that the OIC's foreign ministers hold an emergency meeting at the earliest opportunity to address the desecration. The OIC chief, for his part, hailed Iran's leading role in the organization and the attention it gives to the condemnation of the blas-

phemous act. In a repeated and state-authorized act of sacrilege against the Muslim holy book, two men stood outside the Stockholm Central Mosque on Wednesday and burned a copy of the Qur'an. The move was made to coincide with the Muslim festivity of Eid al-Adha, which marks the conclusion of the annual Hajj pilgrimage that is attended by millions of Muslims from across the world. The act of desecration has

opened the floodgates of protest across the Muslim world.

On Friday, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said the Muslim world would never overlook the recent act of sacrilege against "the most valuable divine book" in a Western country that claims to defend free expression.

"An insult to our beloved Qur'an is an insult to all divine religions, humanity, and all divine values, which the Islamic society will not tolerate," he said.

## International Desk

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has

decided to hold an emergency meeting over the recent desecration of the Holy Qur'an in the Swedish



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

SNSC authorizes Iranian women  
to attend football matches

GETTYIMAGES

## National Desk

Head of the Iranian Football Federation Mehdi Taj said that Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has made a decision to let women watch football matches in person by attending stadiums. "It's not about whether or not they can enter the stadiums now," Taj said on Friday, according to IRNA. He added that a working group responsible for the implementation of the project has been appointed.

Iran's Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Sports and Youth Policy, football federation, and the two information institutions of the country are in the process of developing a plan for implementing the job, Taj stated.

He noted that some Iranian stadiums are not currently equipped with necessary facilities such as separate bathrooms for accommodating women, concluding that some stadiums may be prepared sooner than others.