

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia learning ...

"You see the Russians beginning to pick up on some of the tactics perfected by the Iranians, as well as continue to deepen their political, economic, and security ties with Tehran," said Behnam Ben Taleblu, a security expert. "Iran has a masterclass in sanctions-busting, helping to teach the Russian Federation at the moment." Iran's largest source of revenue is from oil exports. Since the US re-imposed economic sanctions, Iran's output has hit a new high despite the additional pressure. "While these sanctions remain on the books, the problem here is that they're not being actively enforced. This lack of active enforcement, coupled with a very public desire for diplomacy and de-escalation with Iran, is encouraging more risk-tolerant actors to buy more Iranian oil," Taleblu said. "Iran continues to thumb its nose at US sanctions," US Congressman Mike Lawler said.

Portuguese parl. recognizes Palestinian Nakba Day

PRESS TV - The Portuguese parliament has overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution recognizing Nakba Day or "Day of Catastrophe," when Israel was created at the expense of the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland. At the same time, the Portuguese resolution condemned the Israeli regime's expansionist and annexation policies, emphasizing the practices are in blatant violation of international laws.

North Korea fires cruise missiles: S Korean military



REUTERS - North Korea fired several cruise missiles toward the sea to the west of the Korean Peninsula, the South Korean military said on Saturday. This would be North Korea's latest missile launch since it fired two ballistic missiles on Wednesday, as Pyongyang and Washington step up displays of military force in a standoff over the country's nuclear weapons and missile programs. A number of cruise missiles launched since around 4 a.m. Saturday local time were detected, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Leader demands maximum punishment for Qur'an desecrator

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

called a recent desecration of the Muslims' holy book in Sweden as a bitter, conspiratorial and dangerous incident, calling for the maximum punishment for the perpetrator.

Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message on Saturday that there is a consensus among all Islamic scholars that the perpetrator of the crime should face the maximum punishment.

On Thursday, Salwan Momika, a Sweden-based Iraqi refugee, desecrated the Muslim holy book during a demonstration outside the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm amid strict protection provided by the Swedish police. This was the second time Momika was disrespecting the holy book amid the approval of Sweden's authorities. He set a copy of the Qur'an on fire on June 28. Also, members of an Islamophobic group called Danske Patriotier burned the Muslim holy book in front of Iraq's Embassy in the Danish capital city of Copenhagen on Friday. Ayatollah Khamenei said

that the Swedish government should hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries.

"The Swedish government should also know that by supporting a criminal, it has taken a battle formation against the Islamic world and attracted the hatred and enmity of Muslim nations and many of their governments," he said.

The sacrilegious move prompted protests across the Muslim world. People in many countries staged massive rallies to condemn the blasphemous act.

On Thursday, demonstrators in Baghdad broke into the Swedish Embassy and set part of it on fire to show their anger at the sacrilegious act.

Iranians also took to the streets across the country after Friday prayers to voice their strong condemnation of the recent desecration of the Holy Qur'an.

People in Lebanon and Pakistan staged similar rallies on Friday.

The Iraqi government has ordered the Swedish ambassador to leave the Arab country and decided to withdraw its envoy from Stockholm.

Sweden's envoys summoned

On Thursday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the Swedish ambassador to Tehran and conveyed Iran's strong condemnation of the sacrilegious act.

The Danish ambassador was also summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday. Earlier in the day, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Denmark must prevent the desecration of the Qur'an and other Muslim sanctities and prosecute those who commit such acts.

Iran has said it will not accept a new Swedish ambassador until Stockholm takes a serious and effective measure to deal with the continuous violation of Islamic sanctities.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Friday called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in a phone call with the group's Secretary General Houssein Ibrahim Taha.

The UAE Foreign Ministry also called in Sweden's chargé d'affaires in Abu Dhabi and conveyed its strong objection to the sacrilegious move.



"Sweden has disregarded its international responsibilities and demonstrated a lack of respect for social values in this regard," the Emirati Foreign Ministry said. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the countries' governments must fulfill their responsibilities to deal with such crimes, prevent their repetition, and punish the perpetrators.

"Egypt's Foreign Ministry strongly condemns the action of the Swedish authorities in granting permission

to an extremist person to repeat the insult to the Holy Qur'an," the statement added. The Kingdom of Jordan condemned the desecration "as a reckless act that fuels hatred, and a manifestation of Islamophobia that incites violence and insult to religions".

The Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Swedish authorities should take "all the necessary measures to stop these shameful acts".

Saudi Arabia summoned the Swedish charge d'affaires in



A demonstrator holds a copy of the Muslims' holy book, Qur'an, during a rally after the weekly Friday prayers denouncing the burning of the book in Sweden in Iraq's central city of Kufa on July 21, 2023.

● QASSEM AL-KAABI/AFP

Riyadh and handed him a note of protest.

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, called on Arab and Muslim countries to follow Iraq's steps and expel Swedish ambassadors from their countries.

High flight of dollar in Pakistan to top ₹300 this fiscal year



Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The worsening economic situation of Pakistan is not being managed that has affected the national currency devaluation for two years.

According to the latest estimates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the exchange rate of the dollar during Pakistan's current fiscal year may be as high as 305 rupees, which is much higher than the rate used in the current budget of Pakistan. Ac-

ording to the sources, the latest estimate of IMF is lower than the rate of State Bank of Pakistan. State Bank is working at the rate of 308 rupees to the dollar. Basic estimates are used to estimate the current account deficit. However, the federal government has made the current budget at an exchange rate of 290 rupees to the dollar. If the dollar exceeds 300 rupees during the fiscal year, the impact will be evident on the defense budget, foreign debt repayments.

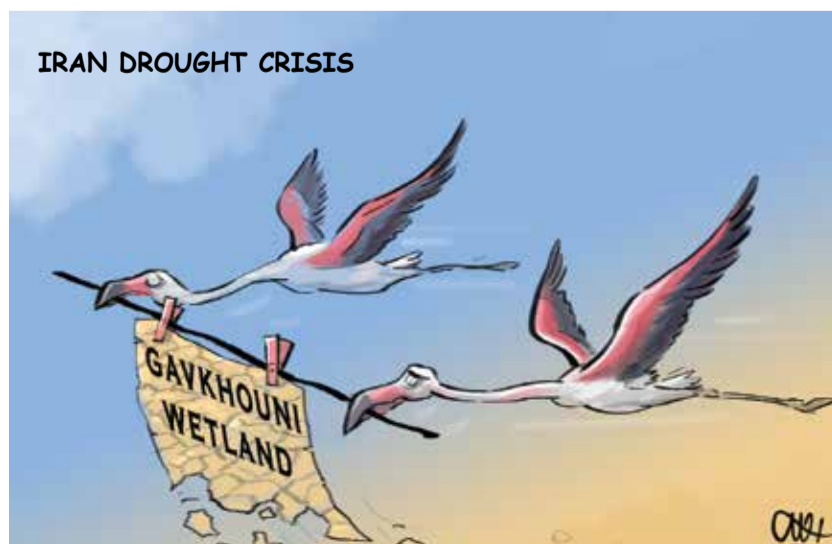
According to the interim data of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, during

the last fiscal year 2022-23, Pakistan received 10 billion 800 million dollars in external debt, while the government of Pakistan estimated the receipt of external debt of 22 billion 600 million dollars during the last financial year, that is, during the last financial year, Pakistan received 11 billion 800 million dollars or 53% less external debt.

All the economists of Pakistan agree that the country needs a stable government and until this happens there will be no economic stability and the value of the rupee cannot remain stable.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Drone hits Crimean ammunition depot as Russia attacks 11 regions in Ukraine



A plume of smoke rises over an ammunition depot where explosions occurred at the facility in Kirovsky district in Crimea, Russia, on July 19, 2023.

● VIKTOR KOROTAYEV/
Kommersant Publishing House via AP

A Ukrainian drone hit an ammunition depot in central Crimea on Saturday, sparking an explosion, less than a week after a pre-dawn strike on a key bridge linking the peninsula to Russia.

Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-appointed head of the territory said in a Telegram post that there were no immediate reports of casualties but that authorities were evacuating civilians within a five-kilometer (three-radius) of the blast site, AP reported.

The Ukrainian military appeared to confirm it had launched the drone strike, claiming through its press service that it had destroyed an oil depot and Russian arms warehouses in the Krasnohvardiiske area, although without specifying what weapons were used.

Social media posts circulating on Saturday had earlier referenced unconfirmed reports of "several" drones targeting an oil depot and airstrip, as well as a loud blast resembling the sound of detonating shells. The explosion in Krasnohvardiiske came less than a week after a Ukrainian strike Monday on the crucial Kerch bridge linking Crimea with Russia, which killed two people and left a section of the roadway

hanging perilously.

Moscow on the same day ended its participation in a wartime deal that allowed Ukrainian grain to be exported through the Black Sea and later pounded Ukraine's seaports with drones and missiles after vowing "retribution" for the attack on the bridge, a key supply route for Russian forces in Ukraine.

On Wednesday, a fire broke out within military training grounds in eastern Crimea that forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 people and the closure of a nearby highway, according to Aksyonov. Neither Moscow nor local Kremlin-appointed authorities gave reasons for the blaze, and Ukraine did not comment.

The Russian company operating the Kerch bridge announced on Saturday morning that it was temporarily halting all traffic across it, without giving reasons. Traffic was later allowed to resume crossing. Also on Saturday, Ukrainian authorities reported that Russian attacks on 11 regions across the country over the previous day killed at least eight civilians and wounded others, as fierce fighting continues in Kyiv's attempts to dislodge Russian forces from territory.