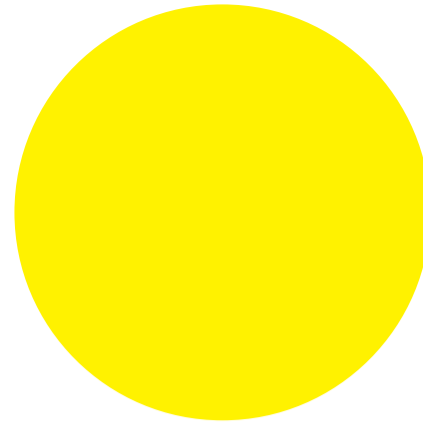




Iran's jobless rate drops 1% to 8.2% in Q1 6 >



Loneliness is everywhere 7 >



Iran Daily

Iran's Regional Music Festival underway 8 >



Iranian musicians perform during the 16th Iran's Regional Music Festival in northwestern city of Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, on July 6, 2023. ifmj.ir



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E3 on a lose-lose path with Iran



By **Aliakbar Farazi**
Former Iranian ambassador to European countries

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

During the recent United Nations Security Council meeting, which convened to assess the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Resolution 2231, representatives from European nations and the United States adopted a firm stance against Iran. They made unfounded allegations, claiming

that Iran fails to comply with the JCPOA and deviates from Resolution 2231, which was passed to endorse the multilateral nuclear deal in 2015. Echoing these assertions, the European Troika (consisting of Britain, France, and Germany) issued a joint statement reiterating the same claims. They further demanded the extension of missile sanctions against Iran, which are set to expire in October, as stipulated by Resolution 2231. In recent months there has been a notable shift in Europe's approach. Previously, Europe sought to mediate between Iran and the United States; however, their current positions have become even more confrontational than those of the Americans. [Page 2 >](#)

Iran wins gold medal in 2023 Sitting Volleyball Asian Zone

Sports Desk

Iran's men's sitting volleyball team emerged victorious in a commanding performance against Kazakhstan, securing the gold medal at the 2023 WPV Sitting Volleyball Asian Zone Championship. In a series of three consecutive sets, Iran triumphed over the host nation with scores of 25-21, 25-14, and 25-17, as reported by IRNA. Having already secured their qualification for the upcoming Paralympic Games, Iran's win

ensures that Kazakhstan, as the highest placed non-qualified team in the Asian Zonal Championship, has now solidified their ticket to Paris 2024. This showdown between Iran and Kazakhstan mirrored their encounter in the 2017 Asian Zone finale held in Hangzhou, China, where Iran showcased their prowess once again, posting a resounding 3-0 victory and ascending to the top of the podium. In the battle for the bronze medal, China defeated Iraq with a score of 3-1 (16-25, 25-15, 25-22, and 25-13).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian president to visit Africa next week

TASNIM – Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi will start a three-nation tour of Africa on Tuesday. Heading a delegation, the Iranian president will embark on a tour of Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Heatwave warning

IRNA – Iran's Meteorological Organization on Saturday issued a yellow level warning due to a drastic temperature rise. The southwest region faces temperatures exceeding 49 degrees until Friday. Additionally, the northern provinces including Tehran, Qazvin and Alborz will experience a significant temperature rise. This brings the risk of heatstroke, heightened energy consumption, fire hazards in pastures and fields, and potential damage to agriculture, animal husbandry, and bee breeding.

China to continue work on bringing JCPOA back on track

PRESS TV – China's Foreign Ministry said the country will continue its efforts to restore the US-abandoned 2015 nuclear agreement "at an early date." Speaking at a regular press conference on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the nuclear deal, formally known as the JCPOA, and its so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran are the cruxes of the current situation vis-à-vis the agreement. The official said Beijing would safeguard the "authority and efficacy" of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA. China will "promote the political and diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue," the diplomat said.

Iran, Algeria agree on cancellation of political visas**National Desk**

Iran and Algeria have agreed on the cancellation of political visas between the two countries, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said. Amir-Abdollahian met on Saturday with his visiting Algerian counterpart Ahmed Attaf, saying the relations between the two countries proceed on the right track. In a joint press conference after the meeting, the foreign minister said the two sides agreed on the cancellation of political visas as the first step, which will be followed by the cancellation of regular visas as the second step. Amir-Abdollahian met Attaf earlier in the day in Tehran, where the two

discussed the expansion of ties between Tehran and Algiers, among other issues of mutual interest. In the joint press conference, the chief Iranian diplomat said they agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology, knowledge-based companies, agriculture, medicine and medical equipment, industry, and mining. He noted that the two sides agreed on holding a joint follow-up commission between Iran's first vice president and Algeria's prime minister, and the foreign ministries of both countries would be in charge of the follow-up. Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi also met the Algerian official later in the day, when he emphasized the



will of the Islamic Republic to expand cooperation and improve the level of relations with "the brother country," IRNA reported. Referring to Iran's significant scientific and technological achievements and announcing his coun-

try's readiness to share the achievements with Algeria, Raeisi considered the strengthening of interactions between Muslim states as a basis for forming a strong group of Islamic-aligned countries.

"If other Islamic countries had the position that Iran and Algeria have in supporting Palestine, today we would not have witnessed many atrocities of the ruling system against Muslims in the region and the world," he said.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) meets Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf in Tehran on July 8, 2023.

[president.ir](#)

ISA: Khayyam satellite starts monitoring, mapping land use changes

A Soyuz-2.1b rocket booster with the Iranian satellite "Khayyam" blasts off from the launch pad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on August 9, 2022, in this image taken from a video.

[ROSCOSMOS](#)

The spokesman for the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) said the country's Khayyam satellite has started remote sensing for monitoring and mapping land use changes. Hossein Daliriyan said on Saturday that the ISA and the Information Technology Organization of Iran (ITO) are exploring legal channels in order to prepare and present the first batch of satellite images to judicial authorities combating land expropriation, Press TV reported. He said a memorandum of understanding has already been signed between ISA and ITO after the latter requested more

accurate data and observation of land surface by means of the satellite to resolve legal disputes between ordinary citizens and state bodies. While data are being collected and analyzed under the agreement, the two organizations are exploring the necessary legal channels so as to arrive at favorable goals and provide the first batch of satellite images to help deal with various cases of land grab and monitor land use changes. "We are ready to offer the necessary data to other Iranian state agencies and help them solve problems in various fields, including environmental monitoring, water resources, soil erosion and land subsidence," Daliriyan added. The Khayyam satellite was launched into orbit from the Moscow-operated Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in August, marking the beginning of a "strategic" aerospace cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

E3 on a lose-lose path with Iran

It appears that the Europeans have seized upon the **Page 1** > allegation of military cooperation between Iran and Russia in the Ukraine war as a pretext to impede Iran's rights under the JCPOA and Resolution 2213. Simultaneously, they accuse Iran of violating Resolution 2231 and failing to fulfill its commitments under the JCPOA, while the primary factor contributing to the current state is the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018. Contrary to expectations, the Europeans either could not or chose not to honor their obligations under the JCPOA, leaving Iran without any substantial benefits from the nuclear agreement. Consequently, after one year, Tehran began reducing its commitments and announced that it would resume its JCPOA obligations once the US rejoins the agreement, or when the other parties uphold their commitments. Hence, the claim that Iran has completely withdrawn

from the JCPOA is inconsistent with the actual circumstances. It appears that the Europeans are primarily using concerns over military cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in relation to Ukraine as their main justification. However, it should be noted that Iran and Russia have been engaging in normal arms exchanges for some time now. Tehran has denied allegations of selling drones to Russia for use in Ukraine and has repeatedly stated that if Ukraine or the European nations possess evidence, Iran is willing to study it. Tehran consistently emphasizes its neutral stance in the Ukraine conflict and advocates for a resolution through dialogue. Based on these circumstances, the Europeans aim to deprive Iran of the removal of arms and missile restrictions outlined in Resolution 2231, using the pretext of military cooperation between Tehran and Russia. Such unproductive efforts will undoubtedly strain relations between

Iran and Europe, which is not in the best interest of any party involved. Europe's haste to implement this demand, which falls outside the scope of the JCPOA, will lead to a lose-lose situation for both Iran and Europe, despite the potential for mutually beneficial collaboration. Iran's diplomatic apparatus should take note that until October, when the Europeans plan to take steps to extend Iran's missile sanctions, more substantial discussions should be pursued with the European parties, directly within the European countries themselves. During the Security Council meeting, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Amir-Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the UN, emphasized that the JCPOA remains the most effective means to address the differences between Iran and the West. This is the correct approach, and the parties involved should not miss this opportunity. As time goes by, the risk of interference from opponents of the JCPOA and the further widening of the gap between Iran and the JCPOA parties becomes increasingly likely.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

**Assault on Zahedan police station leaves two policemen, four gunmen dead****National Desk**

Four gunmen were killed in an attack on a police station in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, in southeastern Iran on Saturday. Four unidentified armed men attacked a police station in Zahedan, triggering deadly clashes with the officers, during which two policemen were killed. In a statement, the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said "four terror-

ists" were involved in the attack, all of whom were killed in the operation. According to Tasnim news agency, the Jeish-ul-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist group allegedly operates from across the border in Pakistan. The attack began after armed men used grenades to open their way into the police station. Ali Reza Marhamati, the province's deputy gover-

nor for security affairs, said that the attack began at 07:15 local time (03:45 GMT). Security forces managed to take control of the situation by their timely presence at the scene of the attack, IRIB quoted him as saying. A security official refused reports suggesting that the incident was a suicide attack. Earlier reports suggested that the attackers were wearing suicide vests and two of them have blown themselves up.

US to supply Ukraine with cluster bombs for first time

The US will supply Ukraine with cluster munitions for the first time after President Joe Biden approved the transfer despite the controversial bombs being banned by most countries. US officials familiar with the decision said cluster munitions would be included in a new military aid package to be unveiled as Washington and western allies try to boost Ukraine's counteroffensive and help its forces regain territory captured by Russia.

The support is set to be announced ahead of next week's NATO summit in Lithuania, but immediately drew criticism from human rights groups as well as from some Democrats in Washington.

While the US has never joined an international convention banning the use of cluster bombs, signed by around 120 countries, it has placed certain internal constraints on the use and transfer of the munitions. Under previous administrations, Washington has also criticized countries such as Syria for

deploying the bombs.

Cluster munitions are weapons that break apart in the air and spread smaller bomblets across an area the size of a football pitch. They are often fired from artillery but can also be dropped from the air.

The bomblets are designed to explode on impact, spraying high-velocity pieces of shrapnel. But a high percentage of the submunitions — between 10 percent and 40 percent, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross — often fail to detonate, in effect turning them into landmines that can pose a threat for years after their initial use.

This has made them a highly contentious form of weaponry, which the United Nations has long urged countries to avoid using in war. Marta Hurtado, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on Friday urged Russia and Ukraine not to deploy them. "The use of such munitions should stop immediately and not be used in any place," she said.



Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday Washington's decision is an "act of desperation" that will have no effect on Moscow's campaign in Ukraine. "It is an act of desperation and shows weakness

against the backdrop of the failure of the much-touted Ukrainian counteroffensive," ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

"The latest 'miracle weapon' which Washington

and Kyiv are betting on, without thinking about the grave consequences, will have no effect on the special military operation," she said, using Russia's official term for its campaign in Ukraine.

Dutch government collapses over bitter migration row



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's coalition government collapsed Friday over "insurmountable" differences on how to tackle migration, with

elections expected in November. Rutte, 56, the Netherlands' longest-serving leader and one of Europe's most experienced

politicians, said days of crisis talks between the four parties failed to produce a deal, according to AFP.

They fell out over Rutte's plans to tighten curbs on reuniting families of asylum seekers, a bid to curb numbers following a scandal last year over overcrowded migration centres.

"It is no secret that the coalition partners have very different views on migration policy," Rutte, the leader of the centre-right VVD party, told a press conference after talks broke down.

"This evening, we have unfortunately reached the conclusion that the differences are insurmountable. For this reason, I will shortly present my written resignation to the king in the name of the whole government."

The coalition was Rutte's fourth since he took office in 2010. But it had only taken office in January 2022 after a record 271 days of negotiations and was deeply divided on many issues.

Rutte -- dubbed "Teflon Mark" after the non-stick pan coating for his ability to avoid political ca-

tastrophe -- added that he had the "energy" to stand for a fifth term but that he had to "reflect" first.

The earliest that elections can be held is in mid-November, the Dutch election commission said. Rutte said he would lead a caretaker government until then that would focus on tasks including support for Ukraine.

The sudden collapse sparked bitter recriminations between the four parties in the year-and-a-half-old coalition, which had been dubbed "Rutte IV".



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte delivers a press conference following a cabinet meeting after the collapse of the Rutte IV cabinet in The Hague on July 7, 2023.

PHIL NIJHUIS/ANP/AFP

EU envoy blasts Israel over deadly Jenin raid

A European envoy blasted Israel Saturday over the "proportionality" of the force it uses, as international envoys toured Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank following this week's deadly raid. His remarks echoed UN chief Antonio Guterres who on Thursday told reporters "there was an excessive force used by Israeli forces" in its 48-hour operation, the largest Israel has staged in the Palestinian territory for years, according to AFP.

It included air strikes and armoured bulldozers ripping up streets.

Jenin is a centre for multiple resistance Palestinian groups.

European Union representative to the Palestinian territories Sven Kuehn von Burgsdorff made his comments as he led a delegation of UN officials and diplomats from 25 countries to the camp in the northern West Bank.

"We are concerned about the deployment of weaponry and weapons systems which question the proportionality of the military during the operation," Kuehn von Burgsdorff said of the operation in which 12 Palestinians

and one Israeli soldier were killed.

"This cycle of violence has to end, it cannot continue. If there is no political solution to the conflict, we are going to stand here in a week's time, in a month's time, in a year's time, with nothing changed," he added.

Jenin camp has been the site of several large-scale raids by the Israeli military this year, but this week's was the biggest such operation in the West Bank since the second Palestinian "intifada" or uprising of the early 2000s.



The camp's infrastructure was severely damaged during the raid, which Israel claimed was targeting Palestinian fighters.



European Union representative to the Palestinian territories Sven Kuehn von Burgsdorff gestures during a visit to the Jenin camp for Palestinian refugees in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on July 8, 2023.

ZAIN JAAFAR/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bosnians mark 1995 Srebrenica genocide

AP - A solemn peace march started on Saturday through forests in eastern Bosnia in memory of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Europe's only acknowledged genocide since World War II.

The annual 100-kilometer (60-mile) march retraces a route taken by thousands of men and boys from the Bosniak ethnic group, made up primarily of Muslims, who were slaughtered as they tried to flee Srebrenica after it was captured by Bosnian Serb forces late in the 1992-95 war. Nearly 4,000 people joined this year's march, according to organizers. The event comes as ethnic tensions in Bosnia still persist with Bosnian Serbs continuing to push for more independence and their open calls for separation.

Japan marks a year since Shinzo Abe assassination



REUTERS - Japan on Saturday marked one year since former prime minister Shinzo Abe was gunned down during an election speech by a man angry at his links to the Unification Church.

The death of Japan's longest serving prime minister, which was caught on video, rattled a nation unused to gun violence.

France protesters rally against police violence

AFP - More than 1,000 people defied a ban and on Saturday gathered in central Paris for a memorial rally, with dozens of marches planned throughout France to denounce police brutality and racial profiling.

Seven years after the death of Adama Traore, his sister had planned to lead a commemorative march north of Paris in Persan and Beaumont-sur-Oise.

But with tensions running high following the riots that were sparked by the June 27 police killing of 17-year-old Nahel M. of Algerian origin at a traffic stop near Paris, a court ruled the chance of public disturbance was too high to allow the march to proceed.

Around the world, there exist breads created and modified to the taste of all races, ethnic groups, or peoples. Each of these types of bread, depending on the available resources and traditions, has its own recipe.

For instance, in colder regions of the world the use of warming spices such as ginger or even pepper is common for baking bread. Or in tropical climates, people use dates in their flour and water mixture, cheetah-adventures.com wrote.

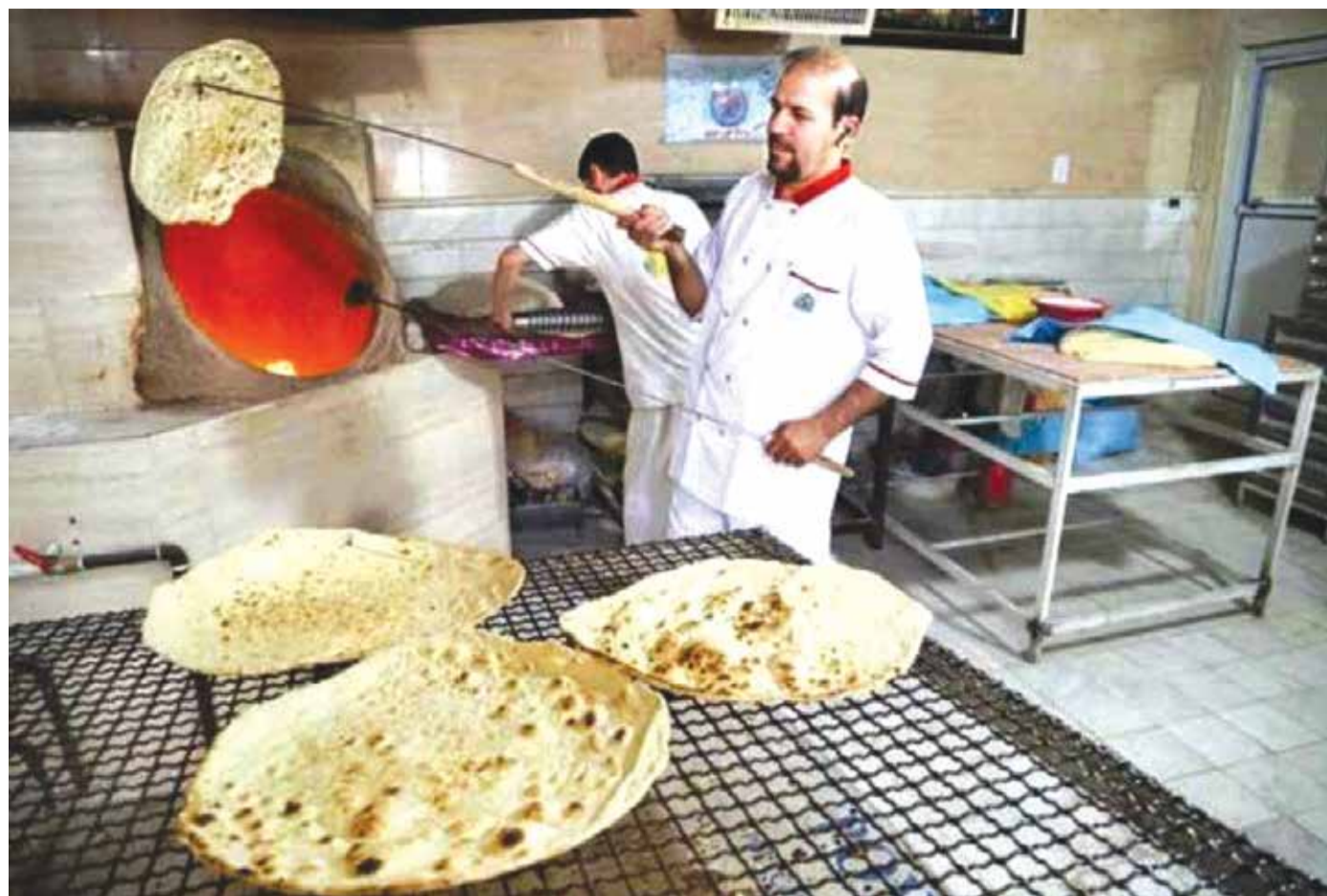
Bread is a type of sustenance prepared by baking, steaming, or frying. In addition to grain flour, water, yeast, and salt, some recipes call for milk, oil, and a variety of spices. The variety of spices and methods of preparation have resulted in the creation of many different kinds of bread. Bread is known as a staple food all over the world. The basic way of baking bread is to prepare dough with flour and starter, and subsequently put to rest so it would rise, and then baked in an oven or hearth.

The flour is often made of wheat due to its high gluten, which is what gives bread a spongy, tender texture. Sometimes black wheat flour, oat flour, barley or corn flour can be used.

Iran has a wide variety of breads compared to other countries of the world; it also has a high per capita bread consumption compared to others.

The steps of baking bread in an Iranian bakery

To watch the process of bread baking in Iran is an experience we recommend. The beauty of



chabokonline.com

Iran's most popular breads

bread baking in Iran is that you can stand and watch the line of skilled workers prepare your loaf. You can usually watch most steps. It used to be done all by hand, but of course in the industrialized cities of today some of the steps can now be relegated

to machines. First, they make the dough. Someone forms the dough into a sphere, that is called "*chaneh*" in Persian. The person responsible for this task has to pay attention to the size of the bread, so that everyone receives a fair share.

The next worker in line uses a rolling pin to flatten the *chaneh*, and sprinkles sesame seeds on its surface. They may also add in other seeds, such as poppy, but sesame is the most common. Then they place the bread inside the hearth, usually by making it

adhere to an interior wall of the furnace, or placing it flat inside the hearth.

The last worker taking part in bread making watches the bread loaves, grabs hold of them, and brings them out when they're ready. They place the hot, fresh

loaves of bread on the table in front of the customers.

Traditions of bread buying in Iran

In Iran, you must wait in a line to buy bread. These lines are usually long early in the morning, and in the evening, at approximately 5-8 p.m.

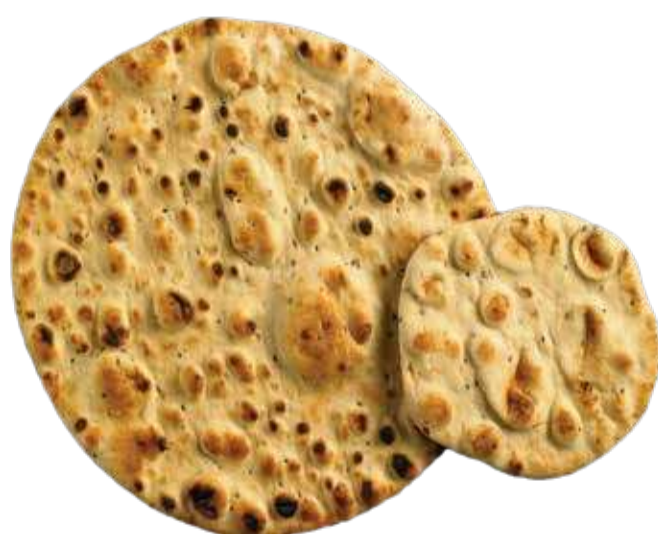
Instead of a single-use plastic bag, most customers bring a piece of cloth in which they will wrap the bread in order to carry it home. They will acquire their loaves and then let them rest on a wired table provided for this purpose so that the bread can cool. Iranians hold bread in high regard. They recognize a lot of care and tenacity goes into growing, harvesting, and milling wheat, as well as baking the bread, and that is something to hold sacred. They ensure that no piece of bread would fall to the ground; if they see such a thing occur, they might pick it up, devotedly kiss it, and place it on a ledge or shelf, well above ground.

In some cities in Iran you can purchase bread online.

The most popular Iranian breads

The most common and popular Iranian breads include: Lavash, Barbari, Sangak, Taftoon, Naan-e Jo, Naan-e Gandom, Naan-e Sabzidar, Naan-e Khoshke Tanoor, etc. In every region, on top of the breads mentioned above, breads are baked that are specifically suited to the climate, such as spicy or sweet breads.

In the following, we look at four of the most famous breads of Iran.



Taftoon Bread

Taftoon, especially popular in villages, is a round bread baked at 5mm thickness. This type of bread is rather easy to prepare, so it is frequently made in every city of Iran. Taftoon dates back centuries, and as it has a medium thickness, it appeals to most tastes.



Sangak Bread

Sangak is possibly the most popular and healthy bread of Iran. Sangak has a thickness of 9mm, popular in large cities. Sangak is not only tastier, but also healthier than other breads. Sangak is baked in a hearth covered with pebbles (*sang*).

Barbari Bread

Barbari is a well-loved Iranian bread. It makes an exceptional breakfast when enjoyed with Tabriz cheese. Barbari is a rather crispy bread, 10mm thick, whose dough has to rest well - just like Sangak. But this bread is more brittle compared to Sangak and Lavash. Some believe the recipe for Barbari belongs to a nomad tribe called Barbar, who settled in Iran during the Qajar era some time during the past century.



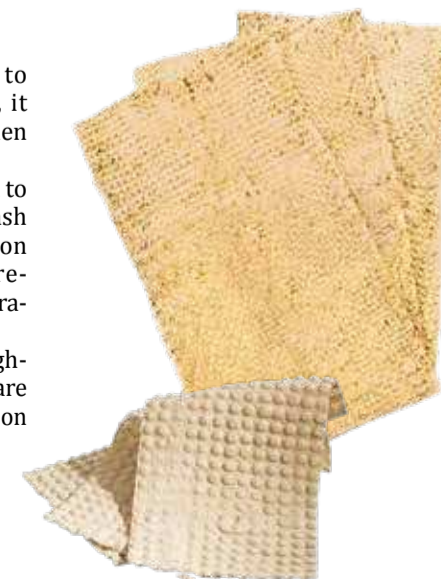
Lavash Bread

Naan-e Lavash is the thinnest, whitest bread that Iranians consume. Due to their small weight and thickness (2mm), Iranians usually purchase this bread in ready-made packets at the bakery. This is a very thin, flat bread comprising all-purpose flour, water, yeast, and salt. When freshly baked,

Lavash is similar to tortillas. However, it dries up quickly when left out.

Although it is quick to become crisp, Lavash has a long expiration date; thus, it is frequently bought by Iranians.

Iran and some neighboring countries share Lavash as a heritage on UNESCO's list.



Iranian MMA fighter Aliakbari eyeing a shot at ONE heavyweight title



● onefc.com

Sports Desk

Iranian mixed martial arts fighter Amir Aliakbari will be chasing a third successive victory in ONE Championship when he takes on Canadian Dustin Joynson at Fight Night 12 event in Bangkok on Friday.

After going undefeated in 2022, the 35-year-old Iranian hopes a win will put him in pole position for a shot at the ONE heavyweight title against reigning world

champion Anatoly Malykhin. Malykhin took out Arjan Bhullar in a unification bout at ONE Friday Fights 22 this past June and now is looking for a challenger for his heavyweight crown. Having joined ONE Championship in 2020, Aliakbari got off to a shaky start to life in the organization, suffering back-to-back defeats against South Korean Kang Ji Won and Russian Malykhin.

The Iranian, who is on a 12-3 record – including nine knockouts – bounced back last year to come out on top against Italy's Mauro Cerilli before outmuscling former ONE heavyweight world champion Brandon Vera in December.

In an article on the ONE Championships website, combat sports writer Ben Coate recently described Aliakbari as "one of the division's most intriguing – and dangerous – contenders."

"The former Greco-Roman wrestling world champion is a suffocating and powerful grappler of the highest degree, capable of putting practically any opponent on the canvas whenever he wants. "The Tehran native is competing not just with the goal of winning a ONE world title – but also to prove he's a better fighter than what he showed against Malykhin in their first bout." Alakbari's Friday opponent, meanwhile, steps into the

fight on the back of a victory via split decision over then-unbeaten Brazilian Hugo Cunha in February last year, which saw him elevate his record to 7-1. Like Aliakbari, Joynson didn't have an ideal start to his tenure in the organ as he was beaten by former ONE world title challenger Kirill Grishenko in October 2021. "Yeah, he's a good wrestler. Everyone seems to be a wrestler in ONE. I think if I can just tag him and put

pressure on him, make sure he doesn't grab me, I think I can probably drop him," Joynson said of Aliakbari recently. "Best-case scenario, he walks right into my right fist or to my head kick." With Malykhin now living in Phuket, Thailand, perhaps he will make the short trip to Bangkok's Lumpinee Boxing Stadium to closely watch Friday's bout and find out who his next opponent will probably be.

After going undefeated in 2022, the 35-year-old Iranian hopes a win against Joynson will put him in pole position for a shot at the ONE heavyweight title against reigning world champion Anatoly Malykhin.

Mes Rafsanjan signs Iraqi international Adnan



Sports Desk

Iraqi international full-back Ali Adnan joined Persian Gulf Pro League club Mes Rafsanjan as a free agent.

Adnan, 29, spent last season at Russian top-flight club Rubin Kazan, where he made eight appearances.

The former Vancouver Whitecaps and Vejle BK player has eight goals in 85 international outings under belt.

He was an integral part of the Iraqi under-20 team which made it to the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey, before suffering a shootout defeat against Uruguay.

Having started his overseas career with Turkish club Çaykur Rizespor in 2013, Adnan joined Serie A club Udinese in 2015, where he scored once in 65 games either side of a loan spell at Atalanta.

The Iraqi will join up with his new teammates in a training camp in Armenia. Mes enjoyed an impressive run under ex-manager Mohammad Rabiei last season – finishing fifth in the Iranian league – but will have Saket Elhami as the new head coach for the start of the upcoming campaign.

Sheikh Talal elected head of OCA



● OCA

REUTERS – Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al-Sabah of Kuwait became the third member of his influential family to become the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), edging out Husain Al-Musallam in Saturday's General Assembly in Bangkok.

The 54-year-old, son of the first OCA president Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, beat OCA Director General Al-Musallam 24-20, the OCA said in a statement.

Sheikh Talal succeeds his brother Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the organisation from 1991 to 2021 before stepping down following a guilty verdict against him in a Swiss forgery trial.

Former secretary general Randhir Singh of India had led the OCA as its acting president since 2021.

Murray unsure of Wimbledon return after Tsitsipas loss

THE GUARDIAN – Andy Murray was unable to hide his crushing disappointment after his painful second-round loss to Stefanos Tsitsipas at Wimbledon and could not guarantee he will play again in the tournament.

After leading by two sets to one in a match postponed on Thursday night due to Wimbledon's 11pm curfew, Murray conceded the final two sets on Friday to Tsitsipas, the fifth seed, losing 7-6 (3), 6-7 (2), 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

"Ultimately this was an opportunity for me," said Murray. "I had a good chance of having a proper run for the first time in a long time at a slam. I didn't take it. Regardless of the atmosphere and those things, it's still very, very disappointing to be sitting here right now."

Murray said he had no immediate plans to retire but could not be certain about his future. Asked how confident he is that he will return next year, Murray said: "I don't know. Motivation is obviously a big thing. Continuing having early losses in tournaments like this doesn't necessarily help with that. Yeah, it's similar to

I guess last year. I had a long think about things, spoke to my family, decided to keep on going. I don't plan to stop right now. But, yeah, this one will take a little while to get over. Hopefully I find the motivation again to keep training, keep pushing, try and keep getting better.

"Obviously, you never know how many opportunities you're going to get to play here. The defeats maybe feel a bit tougher."

During his post-match press conference, which was conducted minutes after his defeat, the 36-year-old appeared close to tears as he digested another bitter, close defeat in a major tournament.

"I certainly can [beat top players]," said Murray. "It's clear based on how the match went. I mean, there's only a few points in it today. Like, it's not just about winning the odd match against them really. To have a run at these tournaments, you need multiple, multiple wins in a row. Yeah, I've obviously not done that."

Djoko through

Elsewhere, reigning champion Novak Djokovic defeat-



Andy Murray leaves the court after a Wimbledon second-round defeat against Stefanos Tsitsipas in London, Britain, on July 7, 2023.

● ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

ed old rival Stan Wawrinka to reach the last 16 and move closer to an eighth men's singles Wimbledon title.

Djokovic won 6-3 6-1 7-6 (7-5) in a match that finished 14 minutes before the 23:00 BST cut-off on Friday night, BBC reported.

Wawrinka, 38, is a three-time Grand Slam winner, beating Djokovic in two of those finals – the 2015 French Open and 2016

US Open – but had said he had zero hopes of winning the tournament and "no chance" of beating 36-year-old Djokovic.

The Serb dominated the opening two sets, winning them in a total of 67 minutes, dropping only four games while doing so, but Wawrinka produced a better performance in the third set. But Djokovic, who is aiming to equal Roger Federer's

men's record of eight titles, ensured his match would not go into extra time as he fought back from 5-3 down in the tie-break to advance into the last 16.

"We are two old guys fighting with the young guns," said Djokovic. "We have had some amazing battles on the biggest courts. I respect him as a player and he is a really nice guy so I wish him all the best for the rest of the season."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senegal backs African Union seat at G20



AFP - Granting the African Union a permanent seat at the G20 group of wealthy nations would undo an "injustice", Senegalese President Macky Sall said on Friday.

"Africa together is eighth in the world in terms of gross domestic product," Sall told an economic forum.

South Africa is the continent's sole permanent member of the club that brings together the European Union and 19 other advanced economies and represents more than 80 percent of the world's GDP.

Turkey wants grain deal further extended



AP

BLOOMBERG - Turkey wants the safe-transit deal for Ukrainian grain exports from Black Sea ports extended for three months instead of two, said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"I'm hopeful for an extension," Erdogan said in Istanbul early Saturday in a joint appearance with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The shipping deal is set to expire on July 17. Its termination — which Russia has repeatedly threatened — may lift global food prices given Ukraine's importance as an exporter of grains.

Fire engulfs Mexican oil platform



REUTERS - Two workers died and another remained missing after a raging fire broke out early on Friday morning at an offshore platform run by Mexican state oil company Pemex just off the southern edge of the Gulf of Mexico.

In posts on Twitter, Pemex said it had accounted for all other workers and said oil production had taken a major hit from the blaze. The platform operates in the company's Cantarell Field, once one of the world's most productive.

Iran's jobless rate drops 1% to 8.2% in Q1



Economy Desk

According to a new report by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), the unemployment rate in the country fell by 1% to 8.2% year-on-year in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21).

Tied with the jobless rate that was recorded in the third quarter of the previous Iranian calendar year (June 22–September 23), the 8.2% year-on-year unemployment rate is the lowest figure that the country has seen in the past two decades, IRNA reported.

The latest SCI report, published on Saturday, also showed that 728,000 new jobs were created in the past 12 months.

During the period, employment in services accounted for 51.3% of

total employment, while employment in industry was 33.1%. The share of agricultural employment was the lowest at 15.5%. The report indicated that some 24,306,000 people from the active population of 15 years old and above in Iran were employed in June this year.

A look at the unemployment rate of those between the ages of 15 and 24 years shows that 21.6% of this age bracket were jobless from March 21 to June 21, registering a 2.4% decrease compared to the same period last Iranian year.

Meanwhile, only 15.5% of Iranians aged 18 to 35 years old were out of job during the first quarter, a 1.1% increase from the 14.4% in the corresponding figure for the same quarter of the previous year.

Crude output in Abouzar Oilfield to raise by 10,000 bpd



Chief executive of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) Alireza Mehdizadeh on Saturday announced that the daily oil production of the company will increase by about 10,000 barrels of oil per day with the installation of a deck of Platforms A20 and A21 of Abouzar Oilfield in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 21–March 19).

The construction of A20 and A21 platforms of Abouzar Oilfield
marinypress.ir

Speaking during a visit to the workshop that constructs the platforms in Khorramshahr, he said that the construction of these oil platforms has progressed by about 85%, according to Tasnim news agency. Each of these platforms weighs about 1,200 tons, Mehdizadeh pointed out, saying that the infrastructure of these platforms had earlier been installed at the desired location.

He added that the drilling operation of the eight oil wells at the platform has had 90% progress.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the CEO of the IOOC announced that the pre-commissioning stage of this giant project would begin one month later.

Mining exports in past three months top \$3.3b

Iranian Mine and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), in its latest report, announced that \$3.3 billion worth of mining and mineral products were exported from the country in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

IMIDRO added that mining and mineral companies exported 15,812,000 tons of various products, valued at \$3.32 billion, from March 21 to June 22, Tasnim news agency reported.

Of the total mining and mineral products exported during this period, the steel and steel products sector accounts for over \$1 billion of the total amount.

In addition, Iran exported ceramics, tiles, alumina powder, antimony, titan, nickel, mica, precious metals, and stones in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year.

In comparison, the country exported 13,717,000 tons of mining and mineral products in the first quarter, from March 21 to June 22, 2022.



Iran aims for \$500m furniture exports in two years



Economy Desk

Iran's Union of Furniture Manufacturers and Exporters has set an ambitious target of achieving \$500 million in furniture exports within the next two years, according to union president Hassan Ahmadian.

Speaking to ISNA on Saturday, Ahmadian highlighted Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, Qa-

tar, the United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and various African countries as the primary markets for Iranian furniture exports in the past year, during which Iran's overall furniture exports hit a total value of \$70 million.

These countries, predominantly consumers, represent a sizable consumer market of around 400 million people.

Ahmadian emphasized the untapped potential and capacity within Iran's furniture production sector. However, he noted that reaching the export targets and expanding exports would require a strong foundation, government support, stable exchange rates, reliable raw material supply, and modernized machinery.

In the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, furniture exports exceeded \$15 million. However, Ahmadian acknowledged that export capacity and expectations were even higher as challenges related to exchange rates and material supply have hindered the pace of export growth. Iran's furniture industry is a significant contributor to employment opportunities in the country, boasting a turnover surpassing \$8 billion. It accounts for approximately eight percent of Iran's workforce.

Subject of the Call for Mining Equipment Suppliers:

A distinguished mining corporation aims to identify and assess both domestic and international suppliers, along with trading enterprises, specialized in fulfilling the procurement needs of mining machinery. The company is seeking the following mining equipment capabilities for preliminary tender evaluation:

- 1 Various drilling rigs endowed with the capacity to excavate with a diameter ranging from 8 to 10 inches and achieve depths of up to 20 meters.
- 2 Diverse drilling rigs proficient in excavating with a diameter ranging from 6 to 8 inches, reaching depths of up to 20 meters, while possessing the ability to perform inclined drilling.
- 3 Assorted loaders featuring bucket volumes ranging from 10 to 24 cubic meters.
- 4 Varied mining trucks exhibiting impressive load-bearing capacities ranging from 100 to 220 tons.
- 5 Different categories of bulldozers equipped with blades holding a volume of 10 cubic meters.

All machines must be unused and zero kilometers.

Procedure for Acquiring Evaluation Documents:

All interested parties are kindly requested to submit a formal written expression of their readiness no later than 03 August 2023 to the following email address: ironoremine53@gmail.com. Upon receipt, applicants will receive an initial evaluation form for further consideration.

Participants are obliged to provide a comprehensive list of mining machinery they can supply within the time frames of three months, six months, and one year, distinctly indicating the delivery schedule.

Specific models, the precise location and estimated delivery time communicated by each applicant should be announced.

Leisure is a teenager's informal education

Social Desk

The Director of Tehran's Student Psychological Services and Counseling Center, Zahra Mostadam, has emphasized the importance of optimizing the use of leisure time for teenagers.

She stressed that all institutions and organizations working in the youth sector should collaborate to ensure this, IRNA reported.

Mostadam highlighted that the concept of leisure has become a significant concern in contemporary society. Today's teenagers and young adults, she noted, are selective about how they spend their free time, often viewing it as an opportunity to invest in personal life. This shift has led to a decline in deep emotional-family relationships and participation in extended family gatherings, as young people increasingly lean towards individualism and cultural transformation.

The proliferation of virtual spaces and media facilities, Mostadam explained, has diminished direct communication between teenagers and their families. As reliance on these devices grows, life has become more passive for these young individuals.

The official warned that certain behavioral approaches, such as the passive confrontational approach, could expose teenagers and young adults to social harm. This could lead them to adopt harmful thought systems, competing with both healthy and unhealthy lifestyles.

She further elaborated that these choices for spending free time come with a mix of positive and negative information, transforming the teenager into a shaper. This could potentially rob adolescents of their agency - their independent ability to act based on personal will. Mostadam cited expert psychological research

to argue for the provision of active free time conditions for teenagers and young adults, as opposed to passivity.

"Being active in free time," she said, "will foster creativity and dynamism in teenagers and young adults. Society today needs to nurture a generation with positive self-esteem and should provide an active structure for identity and personality development, particularly in children, teenagers, and young adults."

Mostadam underscored that leisure time is, in essence, an informal education period for teenagers. She urged for the identification of the open windows of adolescent life in this area, and the development of programs for each psychological opening. This would bolster personal growth, social skills development, frustration tolerance, resilience, and psychological well-being.

She stressed that the optimal use of teenagers' and young adults' free time, as the future generation of society, necessitates the consensus of all organizations active in the youth sector, as well as fundamental and interdisciplinary thinking and decisions.

Mostadam reminded that many of today's new phenomena, such as unplanned leisure or passive leisure, are the result of industrial developments and the increasing complexity of human life. Therefore, she concluded, how this opportunity of free time is utilized will significantly impact the growth, creativity, and initiative of teenagers and young adults.



● IRNA

Iran's serum production surges as country produces 16m units per month



● IRNA

blood factor for several months. "This was due to complications with raw materials for the production of factor eight and recombinant," he said, and further assured that these materials have now been imported, resolving the issue.

Mohammadi also highlighted a previous issue with currency exchange for raw materials, which had contributed to the scarcity of transplant drugs. He stated that this problem has been rectified, and production for the next three months is underway, with distribution set to commence next week. The Director of the Food and Drug Organization further noted that a lack of medicinal stock for a period of 3 to 6 months is deemed a shortage. This serves as a caution for pharmaceutical industries to either boost their production or increase imports.

Mohammadi also projected a significant growth in pharmaceutical exports this year, following the removal of preferential currency in the pharmaceutical sector. He emphasized the need for continuous monitoring by the industries, collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the representative offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad to establish and strengthen markets for Iranian medicines.

In conclusion, Mohammadi expressed optimism about achieving the annual drug export target of 2 billion euros as outlined in the 7th Development Plan bill, with the cooperation of the pharmaceutical industry.

Social Desk

Heydar Mohammadi, the director of the Food and Drug Organization of Iran, revealed that domestic serum production has surged to 16 million units per month due to increased consumption. He also indicated that this figure is set to rise further.

Mohammadi explained that in addition to domestic production, the country imports 6 million serums monthly. He noted that the demand for serums typically escalates during the summer season due to the heat, which will likely necessitate an increase in imports, according to IRNA.

The director also announced the establishment of a new serum factory in Tabriz, which is poised to commence production soon. Despite the uptick in production and imports, Mohammadi acknowledged that the country has yet to achieve a stable serum reserve. He attributed this to a shift towards higher consumption patterns among the populace.

Addressing the issue of drug shortages, Mohammadi confirmed that there had been a deficit in transplant drugs and

Loneliness is everywhere



● brainandlife.org



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

Loneliness has permeated our human societies, casting its shadow on individuals from all walks of life. In an effort to understand the profound effects of loneliness on general and mental health, we sat down with Mohsen Qasemi, a psychology researcher who has gained authority on the subject through years of research. Qasemi sheds light on the true nature of loneliness, its impact, and offers strategies to combat this pervasive issue.

According to him, loneliness is not merely the absence of social interaction; it is a subjective feeling of isolation and disconnection, even when surrounded by others. This feeling can persist regardless of the number of social connections a person possesses. It is a deeply rooted sensation that resonates within an individual's psyche. Recent studies, Qasemi states, have unveiled the alarming prevalence of loneliness in our society.

"In a 2022 survey conducted in the United States, it was revealed that nearly 60 percent of adults reported experiencing loneliness at least some of the time," he said, adding, "This staggering figure serves as an urgent wake-up call, demanding our attention and action." Various factors contribute to the rise of loneliness. Qasemi highlights the impact of social media, which, although connecting individuals virtually, lacks the depth and intimacy of face-to-face interactions. Moreover, urbanization, decreased community engagement, and evolving family structures have played significant roles in isolating individuals and fostering a sense of

disconnection.

Chronic loneliness not only impacts mental health but physical well-being as well. The loneliness expert stresses that isolated individuals face a higher risk of developing conditions such as cardiovascular problems, weakened immune systems, and sleep disturbances. Unhealthy habits, such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and sedentary lifestyles, are more prevalent among the lonely population.

Loneliness takes a significant toll on mental well-being of people. Qasemi warns that it is intricately linked to an increased risk of mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Preexisting conditions can worsen, and new challenges may emerge from the burden of loneliness.

"Low self-esteem, decreased self-worth, and a pervasive sense of isolation from society are common experiences faced by the lonely," he noted.

In a bid to combat loneliness, he urges individuals to take proactive steps.

"Acknowledging and recognizing your loneliness is the vital first move. Engaging in activities that foster genuine connections, such as joining community groups, helping others in need, taking up hobbies or participating in sports can provide valuable opportunities for social engagement," he advised.

He further pointed out that seeking professional help from psychologists or therapists is also encouraged, particularly for those facing severe loneliness or struggling with mental health challenges.

But what to do with loneliness on a collective level?

"It is important to foster a culture of connectedness. Inclusivity, face-to-face interactions, and support systems for vulnerable individuals are crucial," he suggested.

"Governments and organizations must implement programs that tackle loneliness head-on, forge mental health awareness, and allocate resources for community activities and initiatives that promote social connections."

The effects of loneliness on general and mental health are undeniable, but with awareness, empathy, and collective action, we can reshape our society into a more compassionate and connected place. "Only through understanding the true nature of loneliness we can start to devise strategies to combat it," he said.

Standard Chinese added to Iranian school curriculum



IRNA – Iran has expanded its foreign language offerings in schools by adding Standard Chinese to the curriculum.

The Education Ministry's Supreme Council, with the approval of the president, has introduced this change in order to diversify educational programs and fulfill public demands. The new law allows schools to select Arabic, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Standard Chinese, in addition to English, as languages to be taught. It is important to note that Farsi is recognized as the official language of Iran according to Article 15 of the constitution, while Article 16 mandates the teaching of Arabic in all subjects and grade levels. The inclusion of Arabic is attributed to its significance as the language of the Holy Qur'an and Islamic teachings, which are deeply intertwined with Persian literature.

Iran to produce 'The Survivor 2'



IRNA – Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation announced plans to produce 'The Survivor 2,' a sequel to the film 'The Survivor' made approximately thirty years ago.

The late Seifollah Daad directed the original film, which was produced by Manouchehr Mohammadi and depicted the Arab-Israeli conflict in Haifa. Daad once revealed that 'The Survivor' was inspired by Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani's novella 'Return to Haifa.' Currently, the film script for 'The Survivor 2' is in its final phase, and details regarding the director and cast will be unveiled shortly.



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Iran's Regional Music Festival underway

Arts & Culture Desk

The 16th Iran's Regional Music Festival is currently being held in a national scope from June 27 to July 14.

The festival, organized by the Iranian Music Association in collaboration with the Cultural and Islamic Guidance Departments of various provinces nationwide, is non-competitive in nature, according to IRNA. The event, hosted by five provinces, namely Golestan (June 27 to 29), Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari (July 1 to 3), East Azarbaijan (July 5 to 7), Kermanshah (July 8 to 10), and Kerman (July 12 to 14), is overseen by Mohammad-Ali Mer'aati as the secretary and is carried out under the auspices of the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

In Golestan province, the festival came to an end on June 29 after showcasing four captivating folk music

performances of different styles.

For a span of three days at the city's Varna venue, various musical groups hailing from the provinces of Golestan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Qazvin, North Khorasan, and Alborz entertained the crowd with their distinctive folk and local music in a non-competitive festival, the report added.

Although the festival was traditionally held annually in Kerman, southern Iran, last year the organizers decided to move it to Gorgan, reportedly due to a lack of technical infrastructure at the central hall of the city that was supposed to accommodate the participating musicians.

The 15th festival concluded with the introduction of the Lotfi Medal by the organizers. The medal is named after Mohammadreza Lotfi, the late master of stringed



Iranian instruments and composer, who worked with great musicians such as vocalist Mohammadreza

Shajarian. The decoration will be awarded biennially to musicians with outstanding

works. In the previous year, the festival welcomed four musical groups from Turkey, Tajikistan, Uz-

bekistan, and Afghanistan alongside various ensembles originating from diverse regions of Iran.



Arts & Culture Desk

Homayoun Shajarian, the renowned Iranian traditional music vocalist, is set to commence his European concert tour in the month of Shahrivar (August-September) this year, starting from

Istanbul. According to IRNA, Shajarian plans to hold his concerts abroad after a one-year hiatus. Accompanied by the Siavash Orchestra, he will grace the stage on August 30 in Istanbul, Turkey, and on September 1

Homayoun Shajarian's European concert tour to start in Istanbul

in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Furthermore, Shajarian's concert will be held on September 2 in Frankfurt, Germany, on September 3 in Berlin, Germany, and on September 8 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Sweden's Gothenburg and Denmark's Copenhagen will be the next destinations for Shajarian's concert on September 9 and 10, respectively. Last summer, Shajarian successfully performed the 'In Color of Voice' concert with the leadership of Arash Gouran and the Siavash Orchestra at the

Ministry of Interior Hall. Due to its overwhelming reception, the concert was extended for three additional performances, increasing the number of performances from five to 30, setting an unprecedented record in the country's music history after four years.

Following this success, the 'In Color of Voice' concert was scheduled to be held on September 2 and 3 in Toronto, September 4 and 5 in Montreal, September 9 and 10 in Vancouver, and on September 11 last year in Calgary, Canada. However, due to the delayed

issuance of visas for some members of the orchestra, the Toronto and Montreal concerts were postponed until January, and only the Vancouver and Calgary shows took place as scheduled.

Moreover, the concert tour of 'In Color of Voice' was intended to be held in the autumn of last year in certain European cities such as London, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Milan, and Vienna. However, it was canceled due to Shajarian's personal decision. Now, after a year, the concerts of this renowned vocalist are set to take place.

1,200-year-old 'Viking graffiti', the oldest drawing ever discovered in Iceland

Archaeologists in Iceland unearthed the country's oldest known drawing: a scratched-out piece of "Viking graffiti" that looks like a partly drawn boat.

The researchers found the graffiti in the remains of a longhouse, said Bjarni F. Einarsson, an archaeologist and manager at his private company Fornleifafraedistofan (The Archaeological Office) and the project's excavation leader. The scribble was engraved on a 1-inch-wide reddish clay stone and dates to shortly

after A.D. 800, Live Science reported.

The ship isn't complete, which is typical of Viking boat graffiti, Einarsson said. But the carving shows a sail with vertical lines, a rope from the sail to the front of the ship and a partly drawn hull. "It's very common that the ships are not drawn [fully] in their hull," Einarsson told Live Science.

Viking Age ship graffiti — both depictions of lone boats and carvings of fleets — are common

in Scandinavia and are often found on fragments of bone, stone and timber, he noted.

The clay stone is just one of many artifacts discovered in the longhouse, which Einarsson uncovered in Stöð, east Iceland, in 2007 while doing an archaeological survey for a company that planned to lay down fiber-optic cable in the area.

Einarsson found the ship graffiti while excavating a wall from the middle settlement phase, when



the hall was about 141 feet (43 m) long. There are a few contenders for the second-youngest carving in the country, but one

shows an engraving of a walrus face from a Viking Age farm in western Iceland that dates to the 10th century, he said.