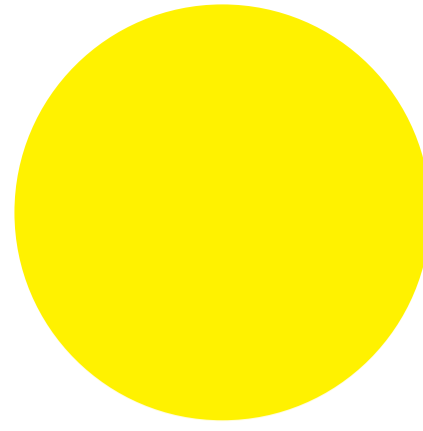


Official:
Foreign arrivals
in Iran
increased
40% in seven
months

8 >



Iran Daily



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OPEC: Iran's oil output keeps rising

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US Pleads with Axis of Resistance

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's \$10b financial resources in Iraq likely to be released

The US government is likely to agree with Iran's getting access to \$10 billion worth of its financial resources in Iraq and the transfer of these resources to the Sultanate of Oman and Europe, American sources said.

The Biden administration may approve a sanctions waiver that will allow Iran to access at least \$10 billion in previously frozen funds held in Iraq, Tasnim reported.

The waiver would extend the multibillion-dollar sanctions relief first issued in July that expires tomorrow. It allows Iraq to transfer frozen electricity payments into Iranian-owned bank accounts in Europe and Oman, the Free Beacon reported.

According to reports, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad Reza Farzin held talks with his Omani counterpart last month on the acceleration of Iran's access to its financial resources.

Iran fully self-sufficient in electricity industry: Official

The chairman of the Iran Electrical Industry Syndicate said the country's has attained full self-sufficiency in the electricity industry.

Payam Baqeri emphasized that Iran's electricity industry, which was once dependent on foreign countries, has now become self-sufficient, thanks to the unflinching and non-stop efforts of the domestic engineers and experts.

He termed the electricity industry as an influential industry that has played a leading role in the development of infrastructures of the country.

The electricity industry is a driving force for the economic growth and development of the country, Baqeri stressed. The electricity industry is a symbol of self-credence and reliance upon domestic construction and also a manifestation of a resilient economy that moves based on the world's most modern technologies and achievements, he underlined.

Baqeri pointed to fulfilling some giant electricity projects by competent Iranian companies in other countries and described it as a source of pride for Iran.

**Int'l electricity exhibition opened in Tehran****Economy Desk**

The 23rd Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2023) kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday. The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior energy officials including Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian along with the

energy ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan, IRNA reported. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mehrabian said the IEE is a good opportunity for participating foreign companies to visit the huge capacities of Iran as well as having the opportunity to sign contracts with Iranian companies.

The number of participants in IEE 2023 has grown by 63 percent compared to the figure for the previous edition of the exhibition, the energy minister noted. The four-day exhibition covers various areas including production, transmission, and distribution, as well as high-, medium-, and low-voltage electrical equip-

ment.

A sum of 474 domestic firms along with 110 foreign exhibitors from different countries, including Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, China, South Korea, Croatia, Turkey, Spain, India, Slovenia, Poland, and Japan, are showcasing their latest products and services at IEE 2023.

All kinds of electrical panels, lighting equipment, smart equipment, diesel generators and electric motors, batteries, and UPS; earthing and protection systems, transformers, wires and cables, industrial automation and precision instruments, and measuring equipment are being showcased at IEE 2023.

OPEC: Iran's oil output keeps rising

Iran's crude oil production continued its rise in October, the latest report of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) showed. According to OPEC's Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) - November 2023, Iran's crude output hit 3.115 million barrels per day (mbd) in October, showing a 46,000 bpd increase from a month earlier.

The MOMR statistics show Iran retaining its place as the third-largest producer of OPEC, standing after Saudi Arabia with 8.992m bpd output and Iraq with 4.329m bpd production.

According to secondary sources, OPEC crude oil production by its 13 members averaged 27.90m bpd in October 2023, 80,000 bpd higher than its September output. Crude oil output increased mainly in Angola, Iran and Nigeria, while production in Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait decreased.

Crude oil price movements

In October, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) fell by \$2.82, or 3.0%, m-o-m, to an average of \$91.78/b. The ICE Brent front-month contract fell by \$3.89, or 4.2%, m-o-m, to \$88.70/b, and the NYMEX WTI front-month contract fell by \$3.96, or 4.4%, m-o-m, to average \$85.47/b. The DME Oman front-month contract fell by \$4.06, or 4.3%, m-o-m, to settle at \$89.31/b. The front-month ICE Brent/NYMEX WTI spread widened in October by 7¢ to average \$3.23/b. The market structure strengthened further as the front end of futures forward curves for ICE Brent, NYMEX WTI and DME Oman steepened on concerns over geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Hedge funds and other money managers heavily

cut bullish positions, fueling price volatility and contributing to the drop in futures prices.

World oil demand

The world oil demand growth forecast for 2023 is revised up marginally from the previous month's assessment to 2.5m bpd. Revisions to data for the OECD countries throughout the first three quarters largely offset each other. In the non-OECD, the upward revisions to China's oil demand in both 3Q23 and 4Q23 outpaced the downward revisions in the non-OECD region in 3Q23. In 2023, OECD oil demand is expected to rise by around 0.1m bpd, while non-OECD oil demand is expected to increase by 2.4m bpd. For 2024, world oil demand is expected to grow by a healthy 2.2m bpd, unchanged from the previous



month's assessment. The OECD is expected to expand by about 0.3m bpd in 2024, with OECD Americas contributing the largest increase. The non-OECD is set to drive next year's growth, increasing by about 2.0m bpd, with China, the Middle East, Other Asia and India contributing the most.

Global oil supply

Non-OPEC liquids supply growth forecast is revised up to 1.8m bpd in 2023. Main drivers of liquids supply growth for 2023 include the U.S., Brazil,

Kazakhstan, Norway, Guyana, Mexico and China. For 2024, non-OPEC liquids production is expected to grow by 1.4m bpd, broadly unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Main drivers for liquids supply growth next year are set to be the U.S., Canada, Guyana, Brazil, Norway and Kazakhstan. OPEC NGLs and non-conventional liquids are forecast to grow by around 50,000 bpd in 2023 to average 5.4m bpd and by another 65,000 bpd to average 5.5m bpd in 2024. OPEC-13 crude oil production in October increased

by 80,000 bpd m-o-m to average 27.90m bpd, according to available secondary sources.

Balance of supply and demand

Demand for OPEC crude in 2023 remained unchanged from the previous month's assessment to stand at 29.1m bpd, which is 0.6m bpd higher than in 2022. Demand for OPEC crude in 2024 is also remained unchanged from the previous month's assessment to stand at 29.9m bpd, 0.8m bpd higher than the estimated level in 2023.

Iran, Saudi Arabia bankers brace for promoting monetary-banking cooperation

Bank officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia started negotiations to expand monetary, banking and foreign exchange relations between the two countries after a 7-year hiatus.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for Foreign Currency Affairs Mohammad Aram traveled to Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh on Tuesday to hold talks with his

counterpart for the resumption of banking and monetary cooperation, Tasnim reported. According to the scheduled program, the CBI deputy governor will hold high-profile talks with Saudi bankers on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

A specialized delegation consisting of senior currency managers of the Central Bank of Iran and directors of the

concerned organizations accompany the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran on his visit to the Arab country. In congratulatory messages to Saudi Arabia's leaders on the country's 93rd National Day on September 23, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi expressed hope for the enhancement of relations between the two nations in various fields.

El Goli Park, a historic and beautiful recreational destination in Tabriz



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Iranica Desk

El Goli Park is a beautiful and historic park in Tabriz. It was established during the Aq Qoyunlu period in 1784, and was expanded during the Safavid era, resulting in the creation of a stunning landscape with tall trees, vibrant flowers, and a large pool. The park is a prominent recreational and tourist destination in Tabriz, renowned for its historical significance and natural beauty.

The park is situated seven kilometers from the city center of Tabriz and serves as an ideal location for relaxation and leisure activities. Visitors can enjoy the fresh air, scented with silk flowers, and create unforgettable memories.

Until the emergence of the Safavids, El Goli was the largest source of water storage for irrigating the gardens of the eastern



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tishineh.com



tishineh.com

regions of Tabriz.

During the Safavid era, the lake area was expanded, and a stone wall was built around it. The Tabriz Municipality took over El Goli during the Pahlavi era and transformed it into a public park.

The El Goli Palace, an octagonal mansion located in the center of the lake, has been converted into

a reception hall. The original one-story adobe structure was replaced in 1967. The lake spans over 55,000 square meters and has a capacity of 720,000 cubic meters of water. It is fed by a small stream from the Liqvan River, which passes near Chavan village. A forested hill in the southern part of the lake features

multiple artificial waterfalls that flow into the lake, and a street has been drawn from the southern edge to the center of the lake, creating a peninsula around the El Goli Palace.

When the lake freezes over, the fish residing in its waters are unable to access the surface, leading to a deceleration in their growth. El Goli is captivating throughout

the year: in the spring, it boasts blooming flowers and lush greenery; during the summer, it offers a gentle breeze and ample tree shade; in the autumn, it dazzles with vibrant foliage; and in winter, it transforms into a snowy, enchanting wonderland. With such diverse seasons, spring and summer emerge as the optimal times to visit El Goli, catering to a wide

range of preferences.

Its architecture follows the same rules and basis of Persian gardens: a pool or lake with a mansion in its center, and a garden with dense trees around it. Apart from these beauties, El Goli Park has other attractive facilities aimed at entertaining visitors, like a theme park, golf center, skating complex, billiard academy, game club, cafés, restaurants, sports shops, small street shops, and many others. Some activities like boating in warm seasons, walking, biking, coach riding, picnic, having fun with some homemade traditional food like eggs, potatoes, and butter that is sold in the park. El Goli Park also has an interesting sundial that shows the official time of Iran. There is also a modern and facilitated hall called Andisheh Hall for holding different events, meetings, and conferences.

Rise of a literary movement in Isfahan

On the heels of the Afghan invasion to Iran, the fall of the Safavids, Nader Shah's rule and the maneuvering for power between the Afshars, Zands and Qajars, the rise of a coherent literary movement in Isfahan seems hard to fathom.

The attention paid to Isfahan by factions contending for power in post-Safavid Iran demonstrates the way in which the city continued to be viewed as one of the pre-eminent seats for establishing political power and legitimacy.

The city remained central in the political consciousness of the time. The continued presence of Safavid pretenders and aspirants to the throne after that dynasty's fall is an indication of the persistence of Safavid-centered preconceptions among the populace, even in the face of an ever-shifting political landscape. This fact undermines the notion that the period between the Safavids and the Qajars is devoid of continuities and therefore represents a clean break in Iran's history, an important intervention for understanding

the emergence of the 'literary return' movement in its proper context.

Cultural continuities did exist, grounded in the city's image and historical place as the centre of literary culture in Iran. The literary historian Jan Rypka, for example, credited Isfahan with cradling the nascent 'literary return' movement precisely for this reason. On account of its recent history under the Safavids, Isfahan retained its reputation as the centre of cultural production among *littérateurs* and poets in post-Safavid Iran as well, making it the natural locus for the emergence of a literary movement after the Safavids' fall, political and social turmoil aside.

The literary historian Saeid Nafisi expresses a similar sentiment: Despite all the 'unpleasant events' occurring in post-Safavid Iran, it was a near certainty that if any such 'return' movement were to arise, then it would most certainly do so in the city that served as Iran's cultural and artistic heart during Safavid times.

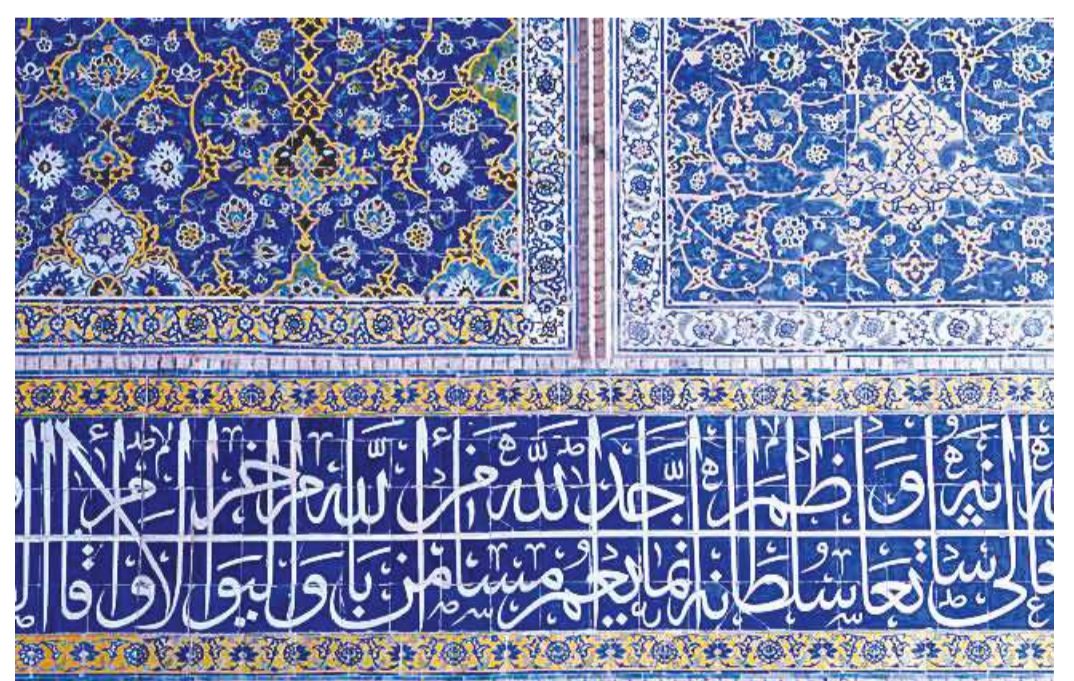
Isfahan during Karim Khan

Zand's rule is often credited with providing amenable conditions for nurturing the rise of the 'literary return' movement beginning with the emergence of a literary society organised by the poet Seyyed Ali Mushtaq Isfahani. Few details are known of Mushtaq's life outside of his perceived contributions to the nascent 'literary return' movement and his role as mentor and teacher to other poets of the period. He was born in Isfahan around 1690 and appears to have spent his entire life in that city.

Zand- and Qajar-era authors are effusive in praising Mushtaq as the head of a literary society that sought a 'return' to classical modes of Persian poetry.

Azar noted his role in rebuilding 'the structure of eloquent poetry of the old masters', while the historian Dunbuli declared that his poetry 'adorned the melodies of Barbad-like minstrels'.

(Barbad was a Persian poet-musician, lutenist, music theorist and composer of Sasanian music.) The 'perpetuation of the image of Mushtaq as a revolutionary force in Persian poetry



stems as much from the widespread influence of Azar's *Atishkade* as from an appreciation of Mushtaq's poetry itself. By the time Ahmad Beyg 'Akhtar' Garrusi composed his biograph-

ical anthology at the court of Fat'h-Ali Shah in the early nineteenth century, Mushtaq's reputation was well-established. Surpassing the praise heaped upon Mushtaq by his contempo-

raries, Garrusi recognises him as 'the lord of the poets and master of men of letters', noting that 'the renewal of the poetic methods of the ancient poets came from his perfection of taste'.

Israel's Plan B for Gazans



By Hassan Hanizadeh
Middle East
affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7 was a significant battlefield victory for Palestinian fighting groups, utilizing the element of surprise in war tactics that were uncommon in the past few decades.

Palestinian resistance groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas – highly experienced in urban and guerrilla warfare – have faced extensive bombardment by Israel in Gaza due to the regime's inability to counter these combatant groups conventionally. The massive bombardment has killed more than 11,000 civilians, mostly women and children.

Israel initially warned Gazans to evacuate Gaza City and surrounding areas in the northern part of the strip, though the southern part of the besieged territory is not much safer. But the primary goal, in collaboration with the United States, was the forced migration of Gaza's people to the Sinai Desert in Egypt and the Arabian Desert in Jordan. Egypt and Jordan rejected the forced migration.

It seems that the United States and Western states always have an anti-crisis plan in any situation or, in fact, they have a Plan B. It appears that what Israel and the United States are currently pursuing involves relocating the people of Gaza or certain numbers outside the region.

With Egypt and Jordan opposing the forced migration plan, the relocation of Gazans to eastern provinces of Syria under US control has been suggested, and even relocation to certain European countries like Scotland has been raised. The Scottish government has announced its readiness to accept 500,000 people from Gaza. Israel is also considering handing control of Gaza to international forces while retaining its security oversight.

The people of Gaza and the axis of resistance oppose the relocation plan, viewing it as a violation of their rights and as resistance to Israel's acceptance of the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

If the US and Israel persist in their inhumane plans, Hezbollah in Lebanon might abandon its restraint, potentially leading to a conflict that could go out of control and, accordingly, the world public opinion would be unlikely to favor the US and Israel.

As the Gaza conflict prolongs and widens, Russia and China may advance their plans in Ukraine and Taiwan, which would not be in the interest of the US and the West. Therefore, American supporters of Israel, being the main backers in the conflict, should exert more pressure on the regime to accept a cease-fire, limit the consequences of the war, and prevent an escalation of the conflict.

WHO: Gaza's Shifa hospital 'nearly a cemetery'



Mideast no longer safe for US

During the ongoing war on Gaza, the occupying Israeli regime has not hesitated to carry out brutal attacks against Palestinians. Now, the region is witnessing the inevitable spread of war and bloodshed as groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen who sympathize with the Palestinian cause react to the Israeli brutality.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's
correspondent in Pakistan

During the ongoing war on Gaza, the occupying Israeli regime has not hesitated to carry out brutal attacks against Palestinians. Now, the region is witnessing the inevitable spread of war and bloodshed as groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen who sympathize with the Palestinian cause react to the Israeli brutality.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Tel Aviv exposed American support not just for Israel's cabinet but also for its oppressive actions. It made clear that the United States, along with its Western allies, uses the rhetoric

of human rights as a mere facade to serve its political interests.

With full military support from the United States, Israel continues its brutal aggression, which amounts to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza. The United States has even sent nuclear submarines to support Israel militarily, escalating the already dangerous game of war. There are reports from Eastern European media that the United States is working on a project to relocate mercenary forces from Ukraine to Palestine. According to Palestinian authorities, more than 50% of the structures in Gaza have been damaged by Israeli bombings. IDF forces are targeting not only hospitals but also ur-

ban infrastructure to make the region uninhabitable for years to come. These actions are contributing to the spread of war.

The United States is grappling with intense resistance in Syria and Iraq, where resistance groups are launching continuous rocket attacks on American bases. The Pentagon declared that US military bases in Iraq and Syria are

no longer safe. The war has already cost the US economy heavily, and American lives are suffering because of it as well. The balance of power in the Middle East is shifting. If this trend continues, one can expect a global war in the region, with Israel and its patron, the United States, being responsible for the immense human losses.



International Desk

The World Health Organization said Gaza's Shifa hospital "is not working at all any more as it should. It's nearly a cemetery."
"Around the hospital there are dead bodies which cannot be taken care of or not even be buried, or taken away to any sort of morgue," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told the BBC.

The director of the hospital, encircled by Israeli tanks, said on Tuesday that the facility has been forced to bury scores of dead patients in a mass grave. Israeli forces were at the gates of Shifa hospital they claim sits atop an underground Hamas command base, but the resistance fighters deny the charge and doctors say thousands of people are stranded inside in



Men check the bodies of people killed in bombardment that hit a school housing displaced Palestinians, as they lie on the ground in the yard of Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on November 10, 2023.
● AFP

horrific conditions. "There are bodies littered in the hospital complex and there is no longer electricity at the morgues," said Shifa hospital director Mohammad Abu Salmiyah, adding that 179 bodies had been interred so far. "We were forced to bury them in a mass grave," he said, adding that seven babies and 29 intensive care patients were among those who had died after fuel for the hospital's generator ran out. The United Nations believes that thousands, and perhaps more than 10,000 people – patients, staff and displaced civilians – may be inside and unable to escape because of fierce fighting nearby. International aid agencies also speak of hundreds of thousands of people displaced and a rolling humanitarian catastrophe. The Israeli Army has launched a ground invasion in the north of the Palestinian territory and is forcing Palestinians to leave for the south. It has agreed to daily pauses in military operations around specified "corridors" to allow the passage of fleeing civilians. But escaping the fighting is dangerous and wounded Palestinians told AFP how they were hit by a strike on their way south. The southern part of the besieged territory is not much safer. Israel carries out frequent airstrikes throughout Gaza, hitting what it says are Hamas targets but often killing women and children. UN-run shelters in the south are severely overcrowded, with an average of one toilet for 160 people. In all, some 1.5 million Palestinians, more than two thirds of Gaza's population, have fled their homes.

Mounting int'l pressure

Israel is facing mounting international pressure over the

human cost of its onslaught on Gaza. Israel's top diplomat acknowledged Monday that the regime has "two or three weeks until international pressure really steps up". Quoted by his spokesman, Foreign Minister Eli Cohen added that Israel is working to "broaden the window of legitimacy, and the fighting will carry on for as long as necessary". As Israel's ground campaign advanced, Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant claimed Hamas had "lost control" of Gaza. The Israeli Army claimed on Tuesday that it had captured parliament and other government institutions run by Hamas in Gaza City. Military units took over the Hamas parliament, the government building, the Hamas police headquarters and an engineering faculty, the Israeli Army said in a statement.

Fuel shortage

The regime has also imposed a near-total siege on the Palestinian territory, restricted the entry of food, fuel, electricity and other basic supplies. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned on Monday its Gaza operations might shut down due to fuel shortages. "The humanitarian operation in Gaza will grind to a halt in the next 48 hours as no fuel is allowed to enter," UNRWA's Gaza chief Thomas White wrote on X, formerly Twitter. Israeli leaders have so far insisted there will be no broader cease-fire until hostages are released, but Qatar is mediating talks on a possible deal to free hostages. Abu Obeida, a spokesman for Hamas's military wing, said Monday that a possible deal would involve the release 100 Israeli hostages in return for

200 Palestinian children and 75 women held in Israeli prisons. Israel's relentless strikes on the besieged territory have so far killed more than 11,240 people – mostly women and children. The Israeli Army also confirmed on Tuesday the death of one of its woman soldiers held captive in Gaza. Israel's military said 47 of its troops have been killed in Gaza since the beginning of its ground invasion. Meanwhile, the regime has been increasing its deadly raids in the occupied West Bank since the beginning of the conflict. The Palestinian Health Ministry said on Tuesday that eight Palestinians were killed in Israel's attacks on the northern city of Tulkarem and the southern city of Al-Khalil in West Bank.

Nuclear bomb threat

China, Iran and a multitude of Arab nations condemned an Israeli minister's statement that a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was an option, calling it a threat to the world. At Monday's long-planned opening of a United Nations conference whose goal is to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, many ambassadors expressed condemnations and criticisms of comments by Israel's Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu, who later called his remarks in a radio interview Sunday "metaphorical." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly disavowed the comments and suspended him from cabinet meetings. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its nuclear capability. It is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, and a former employee at its nuclear reactor served 18 years in Israeli prison for leaking details and pictures of Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal program to a British newspaper in 1986.



US Pleads with Axis of Resistance

International Desk

The United States, as the main supporter of Israel in attacking the people of Gaza, has, on the one hand, provided all kinds of military equipment to the Israeli regime and neutralized any plan and proposal for a cease-fire in international institutions and, on the other hand, not kept its fears of the spreading of the war secret. In the latest example of Washington's moves to prevent the escalation of the war and its scope, it has sent a secret message to Lebanon's Hezbollah. Iran's foreign minister revealed that the US has been sending messages to Tehran as well. The Lebanese newspaper Ad-Diyar quoted informed sources that the United States sent a message to Hezbollah through a third channel, stressing that the US Army would not participate in field operations alongside the Israeli Army. In the message, it is stated that their dispatch of about 2,000 military personnel, most of whom are advisers, was not aimed at participating in the field operations of the Israeli Army in the Gaza Strip and the northern front. Rather, their mission purportedly is to provide security and protect the nuclear facilities in the occupied territories. The first facility in question is in the Dimona region and the second one is in the Tibnah desert region. This message also states that the mission requires that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his right-wing cabinet are not allowed to use these facilities, either on a small tactical level, or on a large regional level, against Iran. It was also emphasized that the cutting-edge air defense technologies that were implemented in these two facilities will prevent any party in the axis of resistance from targeting them. Ad-Diyar newspaper added that these clarifications were conveyed to the resistance leadership, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, exclusively through a Lebanese channel trusted by all parties. It is believed that the channel is linked to the former director of Lebanon's General Directorate of General Security Major General Abbas Ibrahim. Earlier, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also said that the Americans have sent a message to Iran at least twice, and that this message makes two points. The first point is that we in the White House do not want to expand the war, and the second point is that we want Iran to exercise restraint. In some messages, it was emphasized that Iran should advise other countries, parties, and activists to also exercise restraint. On November 5, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in an unexpected trip to Baghdad. A day after the meeting, Al-Sudani visited Tehran, which fueled suspicion that the Iraqi PM was the bearer of a message from the US to Tehran about the war in Gaza. Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh also announced in a recent speech that the Americans have sent messages to Iran. He denied the rumor of threats made by Washington against Iran, saying "The Americans have not threatened Iran. Their correspondence — and sometimes they corresponded with Iran three times in one day — was all in the language of pleas and requests." He underlined that Iran is not in a position in which anyone wants to threaten it. "We are at the peak of power and have prepared ourselves for all conditions." The reports suggest that the main point of the US's pleading messages to the various sides of the resistance, including Iran and Hezbollah, is the demand for restraint in order to prevent the expansion of the war. It seems that the Americans are better aware of the ability of the resistance to create problems for Israel than the Israelis are. However, as Iran's foreign minister has emphasized, the expectation of restraint from the resistance must be accompanied by pressure on Israel to accept a cease-fire and end the killing of the people of Gaza. Otherwise, the US will be responsible for unexpected conditions on the battlefield.



US forces patrol the countryside of Rumaylan in Syria's northeastern Hasakeh Province on Dec. 4, 2022.
● DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP

Iranian saber team remains on course for Olympic berth



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

Iranian fencer Mohammad Rahbari said the country's saber team has "a decent chance" to secure a quota for next year's Paris Olympics. Rahbari was part of the Iranian trio - alongside Ali Pakdaman and Mohammad Fotouhi - that beat China to make it to the last eight of the men's team event at the FIE World Cup in Algiers, only to suffer a 45-40 defeat against Hungary. The result left Iran in the sixth spot of the FIE Team Ranking - second to South Korea in the continent - with Japan in seventh after a quarterfinal loss to the South Koreans. "We collected 26 points in the Olympic qualification process and have a decent chance to book a berth for the Games in Paris," Rahbari told Iran Daily. Iran got off to a flying start against Hungary as Pakdaman and Rahbari

came out on top against Aron Szilagyi and Csanad Gemesi respectively. However, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist bounced back with five successive wins to seal the victory, with Rahbari's triumph over Szilagyi only a consolation for the Asian team. "We will have to participate in four more qualifiers in France, Tunisia, Poland, and Italy before the final qualification tournament in Hungary in April," added the Iranian. "We've already set sights on winning a maiden fencing medal at the Olympics for the country and will give it our best shot to finish on the podium," Rahbari said. Rahbari stepped into the tournament in the Algerian capital on the back of an impressive campaign at the Hangzhou Asian Games, where he bagged the individual and team bronze medals. "The level of the competition in Hangzhou was equal to the top international events of the

sport, as some world and Olympic medalist took part at the event. South Korea and China are the world heavyweights in fencing," said the world No. 32, who fell to a semifinal setback against Oh Sang-uk - a member of South Korea's gold-winning side in Tokyo - to share the bronze with Yousef al-Shamlan of Kuwait, while Oh went on to beat his fellow coun-

tryman Gu Bon-gil for the gold. The bronze was followed by another third-spot finish for Rahbari, who teamed up with Pakdaman, Fotouhi and Farzad Baher to beat Hong Kong in the quarterfinals before a 45-41 loss to the host - a fourth Asian Games medal for Rahbari after he grabbed double team silvers in the previous two editions.



Iranian fencer Mohammad Rahbari celebrates during a saber contest at the Hangzhou Asian Games in China in September 2023.
● NOCI



Iranian weightlifters eyeing glory at world junior event



Iranian Alireza Yousefi will put his three gold medals on the line in the men's superheavyweight contest of the IWF Junior World Championships.
● jamaran.news

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifters will be looking to have a decent run at the IWF Junior World Championships when getting their campaign underway in Guadalajara, Mexico, on Sunday. Alireza Yousefi will headline the Iranian 10-man squad at the event, chasing a clean sweep of +109kg gold medals for a second year running,

after he shattered the world snatch record of the age group on his way to triple golds in Heraklion, Greece, last year. Yousefi will enter the tournament with a highest entry record of 380kg, while his fellow Iranian Taha Nemati will also fancy his chances for a podium finish, having registered a second-best 370kg record. Iliya Salehipour and Abdollah Beiranvand in action, rep-

resenting the country in the 81kg weight class. Amir-Mohammad Soleimani, Hamidreza Zarei (89kg B); Alireza Nasiri (96kg); Abolfazl Zare' (102kg); as well as Arya Paydar and Kourosh Zare' (109kg) complete the Iranian lineup in the Guadalajara. The United States and the host country have also introduced a complete a squad, while China is absent at this year's event.

Alcaraz loses to Zverev in ATP Finals debut, Medvedev beats Rublev

BBC - Carlos Alcaraz suffered defeat on his ATP Finals debut as Alexander Zverev fought back to win in Turin, Italy. Wimbledon champion Alcaraz lost 6-7 (3-7) 6-3 6-4 to Germany's Zverev, who won the event in 2018 and 2021. It is the first time the 20-year-old Spaniard has lost three matches in a row since March 2021, when he was ranked outside the world's top 100. In the day's other Red Group singles match, third seed Daniil Medvedev beat fellow Russian Andrey Rublev 6-4 6-2. World number two Alcaraz missed last year's tournament with an abdominal injury and was making his debut at the season-ending men's event for the world's top eight players.

He had been hampered by foot and back problems last month and lost in his opening match at the Paris Masters on his return from injury. His shaky form continued on Monday as he struggled for consistency on the fast indoor hard court against Zverev. There was a worrying moment for the German - who missed last year's event while recovering from a nasty right ankle injury sustained at the 2022 French Open - when he fell on his left ankle towards the end of the match. "I didn't twist my ankle. I kind of slipped. There was a pain for a while and I don't think any damage has been done," the ATP Finals website quoted Zverev as saying. "I hope not and we will see when it settles down. It is

nothing comparable to Paris."

Medvedev halts losing run
World number three Daniil Medvedev was defeated in all three of his round-robin matches in Turin last year, losing all of them in third-set tie-breaks. But the 2020 champion has got off to a much better start this time and was in dominant form against compatriot Rublev, whose increasing frustration boiled over at times. The ATP Finals features eight of the year's best men's players split into two groups of four, with the top two qualifying for the semi-finals. Novak Djokovic is the defending champion and secured the year-end number one status with victory over Denmark's Holger Rune on Sunday.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz is seen in action against German Alexander Zverev at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, on November 13, 2023.
● VALERIO PENNICINO/GETTY IMAGES

Hundreds of plains in Iran affected by subsidence

Social Desk

Four hundred plains in Iran are experiencing subsidence issues as per a professor with the International Research Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering.

"There was initial resistance to acknowledging climate change in Iran. Some academic experts believed that further measurements were necessary to confirm its existence," said Mehdi Zare, according to IRNA.

During a climate change and science promotion meeting held on November 14, Zare explained that since 2013, with increased awareness, climate change has been accepted in Iran, leading to the formation of executive and research groups in universities, along with the definition of doctoral theses and research projects in the field.

Emphasizing that climate change is a regional issue that can result in significant migrations, Zare stated in Iran, the phenomenon of subsidence is particularly evident in 400 plains, with the plains in the provinces of Tehran and Alborz being centers of population accumulation.

Furthermore, he mentioned specific areas in Iran, such as Isfahan, Tabriz, Lake Urmia, and important plains in Kerman Province, where severe cases of land subsidence is occurring.

The expert emphasized that the challenge is not created suddenly, citing the example of Afghanistan, where approximately 10 million people out of a population of 40 million live in extreme poverty and hunger, leading to internal and external tensions over immigration.

Zare asserted that solving climate change problems requires a collective effort, with all countries in the region coming together to negotiate and address the issue. He believes that scientists from these countries hold the key to finding solutions through collaboration.

The professor also highlighted the issue of high water consumption in Iran's agricultural sector. He mentioned that Iran has approximately 13 million hectares of arable land, with 8 million hectares being irrigated and 5 million hectares relying on rainfall.

"About 90 percent of Iran's agriculture takes place on irrigated lands, while 10 percent relies on rainfall," he said.

"In Isfahan, for instance, which has around 568 thousand hectares of agricultural land, about 7 percent of Iran's total agricultural land, approximately 5.7 million tons of agricultural products, about 4 percent of Iran's total production were produced in 2018," he added.

However, according to Zare, the phenomenon of subsidence is affecting the city of Isfahan, as it faces water scarcity issues. The reduction of water flow in the Zayandeh Rud River, which supplies water to Isfahan, has impacted the lives of three million citizens.

The seismology expert also addressed the supply of water from the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to industries in Isfahan province, holding that while such a move may increase water availability, it can also lead to further migration.

Regarding the possible effects of subsidence on seismic events, Zare

mentioned two earthquakes that occurred around the northern parts of Isfahan about 10 to 12 years ago.

"It is necessary to investigate whether these earthquakes were influenced by the depletion of underground water," he noted.

He also discussed recorded evidence of the effects of aquifer depletion on seismic events.

"The Mallard earthquake on December 20, 2017, in the west of Tehran, is believed to have been caused by fault stimulation through the removal of aquifers. Researchers also suggest that the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, with a magnitude of 7.8, was also triggered by excessive extraction of underground water in northern India," he said.

Highlighting the importance of considering the triggering of faults due to the depletion of aquifers, he stated that approximately 20 billion cubic meters of water are extracted from natural sources and underground water annually.

"If this continues, agricultural activities around the Zagros Mountains may vanish within the next 20 years," he said, adding, "Moreover, Iran's annual water consumption is 96 billion cubic meters, exceeding the country's total renewable water resources of 90 billion cubic meters."

According to Zare, the agricultural sector accounts for about 90 percent of water consumption, while drinking water represents eight percent, and industries and mines utilize approximately two percent.



Pomegranate Festival, a chance to celebrate the celestial fruit



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

The Pomegranate Festival, running from November 8 to 17, 2023, at Tehran's Grand Mosalla, is a vibrant gathering of gardeners, farmers, rural villagers, and entrepreneurial individuals showcasing their pomegranate-related products in 100 captivating exhibition booths.

From colorful pomegranates to an array of rural offerings, the event is an invaluable experience for enthusiasts of this delectable fruit and its delightful derivatives, such as pomegranate paste and refreshing pomegranate juice. Visitors have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of products and acquire their desired items while immersing themselves in the delightful atmosphere of the exhibition.

We took this chance to explore the booths and talk to vendors who specialized in making organic products with pomegranates.

Milad Mohammadzadeh brags about running one of the most enticing booths at the exhibition, brimming with pomegranate products sourced from his hometown, Firuzkuh.

"The festival serves as an avenue for people to discover superior products," Milad affirms with enthusiasm.

Within his booth, an assortment of pomegranate creations awaits, including tantalizing pomegranate juice, mouthwatering lavashak (a leathery fruit product), flavorsome pomegranate paste, and tasty pomegranate sauce – all freshly produced this very month.

Milad proudly shares, "Our gardens in Firuzkuh host two distinctive varieties: red pomegranates, known for their blood-cleansing properties, and black pomegranates, famous for their remarkable medicinal and therapeutic attributes."

According to him, black pomegranates command a significantly higher price than their red counterparts.

As we spent a few minutes at Milad's booth, we witnessed the attractive, eye-pleasing process of preparing fresh pomegranate juice, swiftly served to eager customers.

The Saveh Pomegranate stand captivates exhibition-goers in a unique way, as Saveh pomegranates have always possessed an exceptional taste, satisfying the palates



of fervent fruit fans. Maryam Bahmadi, an esteemed gardener from the city of Saveh, explains, "Saveh pomegranates are distinguished by their superior quality, boasting a higher concentration of juice compared to other cities' pomegranates."

This attribute, according to Maryam, lends them a delightful stickiness and a vibrant hue – an outcome of favorable weather conditions and the fertile soil of Saveh.

"This heavenly fruit has long made Saveh famous by being the cherished souvenirs of our city," Maryam said.

She further elaborates, "Over 10 different varieties of pomegranates flourish across 10,000 hectares of Saveh's fertile orchards, out of a total of 11,000 hectares."

Maryam explains that approximately 25 percent of the city's pomegranate production, totaling 40,000 tons, finds its way to international markets, while 50 percent of the 170,000 tons produced are relished fresh. The remaining 25 percent undergo traditional processing in local factories and workshops, primarily for concentration.

Soroush Shahbazi, who proudly presents his Kashmar garden's produce at this exhibition in Tehran, believes that while Yazd pomegranates may possess a thinner skin compared to Kashmar's, their quality falls short.

He asserts, "Kashan pomegranates may exhibit a visually appealing appearance, but their quality is inferior. If you were to transplant the same seedling to Kashan or Shiraz, it would not yield the same level of quality, as weather and soil conditions play an important role in determining the fruit's excellence. Even within Kashmar itself, the quality of pomegranates may vary across different regions."

Shahbazi views the Pomegranate Festival as an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the nation's potential and historical significance.

"It's an enduring testament to our rich heritage."



Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 48-32-0025002

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

items	Material Description	Quantity
1	DRILL PIPE 2-7/8" HT-PAC THREAD S-135 GRADE, PSL2, WT 10.4 PPF,	37200 FT

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 51,480/71 EURO or 20,097,913,344 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-materialprocurementmanagement/tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P.,
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Oldest plaster furnace unearthed in Western Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

ISNA – Archaeologists at the Chogha Golan site in Iran's western province of Ilam discovered the country's oldest plaster furnace. The Chogha Golan archaeological site in the Mehran district is renowned for having the most settlements, dating back to the Neolithic era.

Despite its significance, research on the Neolithic transition and the beginning of agriculture and settlements in Iran has received comparatively little attention compared to neighboring Western Asian countries.

Archaeologists argue that extensive and long-term excavations not only provide invaluable information into the nature of human arrival into the Neolithic world in the Zagros Mountains but also establish a foundation for preventing further destruction through protective measures.

The archaeological exploration of Chogha Golan began in mid-October 2023, led by Hojjat Darabi, an associate professor of archaeology at Razi University in Kermanshah.

Regarding the latest findings from the first season of the Chogha Golan excavation, Darabi stated that significant discoveries have been made regarding architectural structures, residential and ritual spaces, as well as industrial structures at the site.

Darabi also proposed the establishment of a site-museum and archaeological park at Chogha Golan as one of the ideas and goals of the excavation program.

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Official: Foreign arrivals in Iran increased 40% in seven months

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced a significant 40 percent increase in foreign tourist arrivals to Iran during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21, 2023) compared to the same period last year. Speaking at an event in Shiraz, Ali Asghar Shalbfanian emphasized the need to promote the country's tourism potential and focus on attracting visitors from neighboring countries.

Shalbfanian expressed optimism about the government's plans to facilitate the travel of foreign tourists by car, referring to successful outcomes with Iraq and Turkey.

Additionally, arrangements are in progress to extend this to Armenia in the near future, allowing tourists from these countries to travel to Iran with their personal vehicles.

The deputy minister also talked about the extensive tourism and accommodation projects underway across the country, with over 2,500

projects totaling an investment of more than \$7.4 billion.

Fars Province has 187 projects, including the construction of three five-star hotels and five four-star hotels, which are set to open in the near future.

One of the investment plans is to encourage having multiple usages for tourism areas, Shalbfanian noted.

He stressed the importance of coordination with cultural heritage, tourism, and handicraft authorities at the provincial level.

Speaking about the Iranian

diaspora's potential, Shalbfanian outlined plans to identify Iranians abroad from each province and use their capacities for investment.

He added that provinces of Bushehr, Fars, East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, and Mazandaran have so far effectively used the investment potential of Iranians abroad in the tourism sector.

In the past two years, the

country attracted \$291 million in foreign investments in tourism.

Iranians living abroad contributed to some of these projects, demonstrating a tenfold growth compared to 2012.

He emphasized the need to strengthen this trend and get the most out of the interest of Iranians abroad for investment in the tourism sector.



Formation of popular music in Iran



By Hamideh Hosseini
Staff writer

The evolution of popular music in Iran is a interesting journey shaped by many social, historical, and political events. Like music worldwide, Iran's musical landscape has diverse styles and genres, each with its unique characteristics formed over time.

These genres are not merely products of natural genius but rather several historical factors, portraying the complexity of artistic evolution.

With its rich social roots and historical tapestry, Iran has experienced significant influence from Western art and modernity, notably during the reign of Nassereddin Shah, the Constitutional Revolution, and the era of Pahlavi II, according to a report published

by Asriran news website.

The political-social conditions of the region also played a crucial role in the formation of various music genres. Instances of national upheavals and bravery among the Iranian people encouraged the creation of hymns and songs that resonated with popular uprisings. A notable genre that emerged from this historical backdrop is popular music, which basically takes its title from the existence of its fans. 'Emergence of Popular Music in Iran,' by renowned ethnomusicologist Sassan Fatemi, explores this genre's evolution over different periods, drawing distinctions between "folk" and "popular." Fatemi's classification into three categories—classical music, folk, and popular music—facilitates a clearer understanding of audio productions and music producers.

The book explores the concept of "tasnif," a light music style, elucidating its role in radio, media, and commercial music. Fatemi categorizes "tasnif" as a kind of popular music with short, light, and accessible songs, often with dance rhythms suitable for various occasions, not necessarily made for celebrations, but widely used in

celebrations. In the first chapter, the author discusses the historical roots of "tasnif," highlighting its evolution from court-related compositions to politically charged pieces during the Qajar era.

During the Qajar period, the Westernization of kings marked a significant shift in Iranian music, as exposure to Western cultures influenced the local musical landscape. Western culture was considered superior, resulting in a substantial one-way influence on Iranian music.

"The dominant mindset in the intellectual atmosphere is characterized by progressive and rationalist thought. It consistently draws comparisons between the Iranian society and its historical path with its European counterparts, aiming to distinguish the factors contributing to its decline. This approach involves examining nearly every aspect of traditional life. Behaviors and ideas differing from Western norms are viewed as primary factors for the nation's misfortunes, thus becoming subjects of severe criticism."

The book notes the transformation of "Tasnif-e taghazzoli," (translated as lyrical compositions) a light urban music style in

the Nassereri period, into politically charged or protest tasnifs, reflecting the feelings of the common people. The Pahlavi era saw tasnifs adapting to radio and media formats, influenced by complex compositions and Western styles. However, the 1979 Islamic Revolution led to a return to traditional Iranian music under the influence of the Music Preservation and Promotion Center.

The book's final chapter explores the musical quality of popular works, emphasizing the role of the economy and media in the genre's growth, echoing the perspectives of Theodor W. Adorno and Richard Middleton.

This book provides valuable insights into the history and development of popular music in Iran, particularly through the lens of the tasnif. It sheds light on the intricate interplay between cultural shifts, political events, and the evolving tastes of the audience, offering a comprehensive examination of this musical genre. Nevertheless, the book highlights the commercialization of Iranian music, emphasizing the need for balance between commercial success and the enhancement of public musical preferences.



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