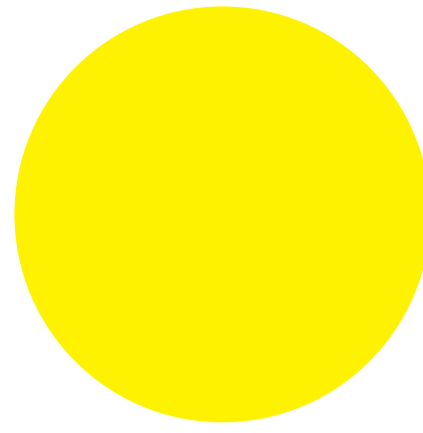


Raeisi:
UN should
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Iran, US Conclude Prisoner Swap Agreement

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Why is the **UN** Ineffective?

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

In a world facing complex global challenges, the United Nations, with its lofty ideals and ambitious goals, stands as a beacon of hope for international cooperation and diplomacy. However, like any institution of its scale and significance, it is not immune to criticism. Criticism, in fact, is a vital component of the UN's evolution. It serves as a catalyst for introspection, reform, and growth. As President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran prepares to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the necessity of criticizing the United Nations, particularly in light of its perceived inefficiencies.

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Settling 'political' scores with national heroes

Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani, one of the most popular athletes of the country, is the latest non-political figure falling victim to a malicious divide that is robbing Iran of its national heroes.

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Minister: Iran won't let NATO presence in region

The Iranian Defense Minister emphasized that his country is against NATO's presence in the region, as well as any changes in the region's geopolitics.

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Autumn music performances slowly begin

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NEWS IN BRIEF

KSA eyes cooperation with Iran in petchem

TASNIM – Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Iran on Monday voiced his country's readiness to broaden cooperation with Tehran in the petrochemical sector.

Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi expressed his country's willingness during his visit to the pavilion of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) at the 17th IranPlast International Exhibition.

Al-Anzi pointed to areas in which Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and NPC can cooperate, expressing hope that the two sides will hold talks on petrochemical projects.

Sports minister gets confidence vote



TASNIM – Lawmakers in the Iranian Parliament on Monday gave a vote of confidence to Kioumars Hashemi as the country's new Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.

During an open session of Parliament in Tehran on Monday, out of 237 parliamentarians present, Hashemi secured 167 votes in favor, with 57 against, 12 abstentions, and one invalid vote.

Hashemi had been introduced to Parliament by the president's deputy for parliamentary affairs on September 11.

He was chosen as the ministry's caretaker on August 1 as Hamid Sajjadi's replacement.

Scenario of isolating Iran failed: Spox

ISNA – Iran's government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi on Monday referred to a number of the government's achievements, saying that the scenario of isolating the Islamic Republic had failed.

The country's volume of commercial exchanges has increased, Iran's blocked assets have been released, and it has been accepted as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

He made the comments in a post on his X account.

Iran, US conclude prisoner swap agreement

International Desk

Iran on Monday completed a prisoner swap deal with the United States, which saw the release of five Iranian prisoners in the US in exchange for five American prisoners.

Under the deal, the five Americans were flown from Tehran to Qatar before transferring to flights to Washington, D.C.

The five Iranian detainees were identified as Mehrdad Moein Ansari, Kambiz Attar Kashani, Reza Sarhangpour Kofrani, Amin Hassanzadeh, and Kaveh Lotfollah Afrasiabi.

Two of the five Iranians imprisoned in the US arrived in Doha where they

will later transit back home.

Nournews, affiliated with Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Monday afternoon that Moein Ansari and Sarhangpour Kafrani are now in Doha, Qatar.

"Simultaneously, the three other Iranian prisoners who lived in the US have been freed," the news outlet said.

The agreement also included the release of nearly \$6 billion in Iranian funds which had been illegally blocked in South Korean banks since 2018 due to US sanctions.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Reza Farzin said on

Monday that funds have been transferred to the accounts of six Iranian lenders in two Qatari banks.

The US administration has insisted that Iran will only be allowed to use the money to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. However, Iran has denied restrictions have been placed on the spending of funds.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has insisted that the money will allow Tehran to "purchase all non-sanctioned goods," not just food and medicine.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi, who is currently in New York to attend the UN General

Assembly meeting, underscored Tehran's full authority over its assets, saying it is the Islamic Republic that decides how to spend the funds, and that the money will be spent "wherever we need it".



Mehرداد Moein Ansari (L) and Reza Sarhangpour, Iranian nationals who had been imprisoned in the US, pose for a photo at Doha International Airport in Doha, Qatar, on September 18, 2023. **NOURNEWS AGENCY**



US citizens, who had been imprisoned in Iran, Siamak Namazi (R), Emad Sharqi (L) and Morad Tahbaz (C) disembark from a plane upon their arrival at the Doha International Airport on September 18, 2023. **KARIM JAAFAR/AFP**

Raeisi: UN should be voice of nations, not powers



National Desk

Iranian President Raeisi, who has traveled to the United States to attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said that the United Nations should be the voice of nations, not powers.

"Nations expect the United Nations to be an organization of 'nations' because if it becomes an organization of 'states', the voice of nations will not be heard," he told reporters upon his arrival in New York on Monday.

Raeisi emphasized that the capacities of the UN and the

General Assembly can be used to communicate the Iranian nation's voice and outline the Islamic Republic's foreign policy.

Raeisi stressed the importance of outlining the "important messages" of the Iranian nation's achievements in the face of the enemies. He said the great nation of Iran has something to say in its demand for justice and rights, and the fight against discrimination and corruption.

Raeisi is scheduled to address the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday. He will also hold talks with

senior officials from other countries and participate in separate meetings there.

The 78th UNGA session will take place on September 18-26. The presence of high-ranking officials from different countries at the annual event provides a good opportunity for international political consultations and bilateral dialogues.

Iranian President Raeisi speaks with reporters upon his arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, US, on September 18, 2023. **president.ir**

Demand for Iranian drones much greater than production: Top general



The chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces said that demand for the purchase of Iran's homegrown sophisticated drones is much greater than the country's production.

Speaking at a Monday conference in Tehran on the role of the Sacred Defense against the former Iraqi regime's eight-year war on Iran in national security, the high-ranking general highlighted Iran's dramatic progress in the defense industry, Press TV reported.

"Today, the number of customers of our drones are several times more than our production capacity," Major General Baqeri said, adding that "major world powers" are vying to purchase Iranian weapons.

He also pointed out that once the Islamic Republic was banned from purchasing foreign-made weapons, but now it is faced with bans on the export of its domestically-developed military products.

Iran has turned into a "big drone power" that is outperforming major world powers, the commander added.

Last month, Defense Ministry spokesman also highlighted the increasing demand for Iran-made advanced unmanned aerial vehicles, revealing a strong interest from numerous countries in procuring these drones.

"We have received numerous requests from various countries, notably from Western and European countries," Reza Taleai-Nik said in August.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the Armed Forces self-sufficient.

Iranian officials have declared that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiations.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Minister: Iran won't let NATO presence in region

National Desk The Iranian Defense Minister emphasized that his country is against NATO's presence in the region, as well as any changes in the region's geopolitics.

Regarding the United States' entry into the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the potential introduction of NATO forces in the region, Mohammadreza Ashtiani told ILNA, "We firmly oppose external interference in regional affairs".

He underscored Iran's commitment to resolving regional issues through diplomatic channels and cooperation with neighboring countries.

Referring to recent tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the presence of Iranian forces on the bor-

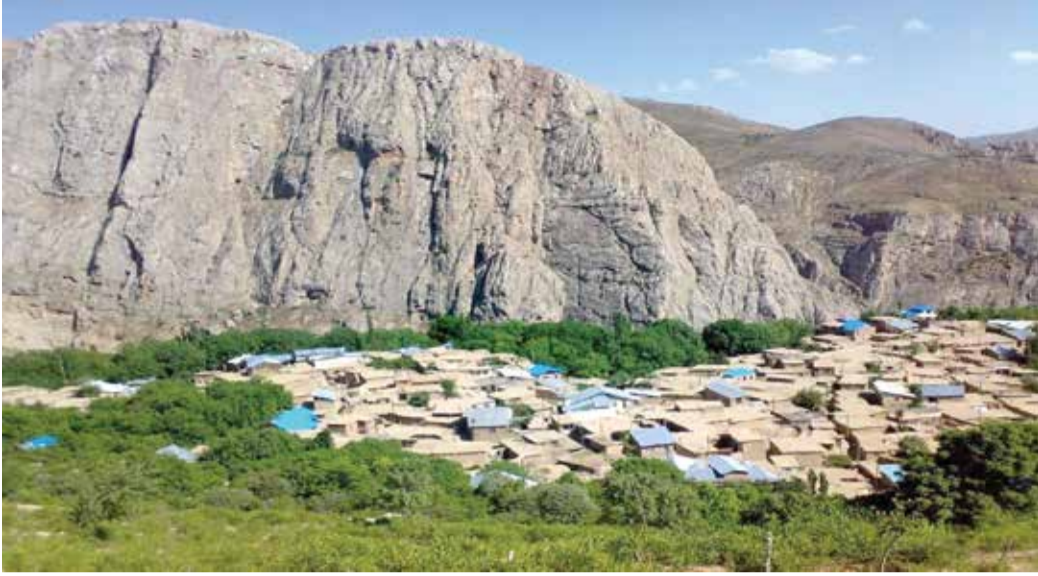
der, Ashtiani affirmed that Iran does not accept any changes in the geopolitics of the region.

"While we maintain relations and engage with Armenia and Azerbaijan as our neighbors and partners, we actively contribute to the issues," he added.

that upcoming border exercises are routine annual drills with minimal relevance to the current geopolitical situation.

Military posts along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. **OFFICE OF THE UN AMBASSADOR**





• iana.ir

Hir village rests atop the heights of Alborz Mountain

Iranica Desk

The scenic village of Hir is situated in the western part of Alamut Castle. Located approximately 65 kilometers north of Qazvin, the capital city of Qazvin Province, this charming village rests peacefully along the banks of the Ninehrud River. Hir is known for its chilly climate and rugged landscape, making it a perfect destination for nature enthusiasts and avid trekkers.

This picturesque village rests atop the heights of the Alborz Mountains, nestled below a number of magnificent cliffs. Atop these cliffs, visitors can bask in the breathtaking surroundings.

The local community primarily converses in the Tati language, with a distinct Deylami dialect. The village is the largest producer of cornelian cherries (known as *zoqal akhteh* in Persian), and its cornelian cherries are considered some of the best in the country. Every year, during the harvest season, the locals in this picturesque village, with its delightful climate, come together to celebrate and express their gratitude with local customs in a festival known as the "Cornelian Cherry Festival". The festivities include traditional music, folklore, and games unique to the area.

Every year, during late summer,

the villagers gather to harvest their crops before spreading them on the rooftops, which adds a unique and vibrant touch to the village. According to locals, an impressive amount of over 200 tons of cornelian cherries are produced annually and subsequently distributed across the country.

Hir village is famously referred to as "Blueberry Village." Each year, numerous tourists from cities like Tehran, Karaj, Mashhad, Isfahan, and Shiraz, as well as countries like Germany, Austria, and Australia, flock to Hir village to partake in this celebration. However, surprisingly, a considerable number of people,

including many from Qazvin, are unaware of this captivating village. It is important to note that in recent years, the village's reputation has significantly grown, making it more desirable for tourists. As a result, it now attracts a larger number of visitors.

Vagel is a boiling spring of the village with useful and extremely light and unique water. Vagel spring is the source of Ninehrud, a roaring river with cool and refreshing water. And it is also known as the healing river.

The main agricultural products of Hir are cornelian cherries, hazelnuts, walnuts, hawthorn, and rhubarb. The hazelnuts and

walnuts from this region are renowned as some of the finest garden products in the country due to their oily nature and delicious taste. Within the village, there exists a thousand-year-old walnut tree, which holds an esteemed position among all the walnut trees. According to the village elders, this tree used to produce an impressive yield of over 200,000 walnuts annually in the past.

In the charming vicinity of the Ninehrud River, you will find two fish farms offering an abundance of fresh fish for purchase. Additionally, you have the opportunity to relish the experience of preparing and cooking your fish over

ariverside bonfire. There exists a strong bond between the residents of the Eshkevarat region in Gilan and the locals of Hir and Viar villages in the western part of Alamut. This enduring relationship has had a profound impact on several aspects, including the dialect of the people in this region and the exchange of goods and services. Furthermore, due to this connection, the inhabitants of Eshkevarat have the convenient option of traveling to the central parts of Iran by passing through these villages. Consequently, Hir village has flourished to become one of the largest villages in western Alamut.

Discovery of human remains in ancient Iranian cave



• independentpersian.com

Iranica Desk

Based on studies of deposits in Shoperi Cave in Rostamkola City of Behshahr County, archaeologists have discovered the oldest residents in Mazandaran Province. Belonging to the Paleolithic period, they have estimated the remains in this cave to be over 100,000 years old.

This research indicates that the inhabitants in eastern Mazandaran had relations with east and northeastern regions of Iran, in addition to the southern parts of Central Asia.

Head of the Archaeology Department, Hossein Ramezani

said, "As the second chapter of Shoperi Cave's layers' investigation came to an end, we discovered four meters of ancient deposits inside the cave in Mazandaran Province. We estimate these pieces to date back to 100,000 years ago."

"These remains include stone handcrafts and animal fossils hunted by people from the Paleolithic period," he added. According to Ramezani, located in eastern Mazandaran Province, this historical heritage is known as one of the biggest caves in Mazandaran, initially discovered in 2020.

Due to the importance of this site, with a permit from the

Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, determining the area immediately took place in 2021, and it was registered on the country's Cultural Heritage List, with the number 33696.

With permission from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, the caves' layers were investigated by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Mazandaran in 2022 and 2023.

The head of the archaeology department said, "Some of these remains include patterned pottery like *Chakmakhmaq* stone materials. Moreover, traces of butchery with stone tools have been found on animal fossils inside the cave.

The 7000-year-old remains discovered in this cave prove the connection of southeastern Mazandaran with eastern and northeastern regions of Iran and the southern part of Central Asia," he added, pointing out some of the ice age animals such as horses and enormous bears found in the deposits.

He said that the results of the layer investigation proves that the human race lasted in the Ice Age for a long time, and there are signs of high tolerance in southeastern Caspian Sea during bad weather.

Whether Neanderthals lived in this region in the Paleolithic period is a crucial question.

Shahriyar pinnacle of modern Persian poetry



Compiled by
Sahba Saffary
Guest contributor

Seyyed Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, better known by his pseudonym Shahriyar, was born in Tabriz, Iran, in 1906. He displayed his poetic talent early in life, composing his first poem at the tender age of four. In 1921, he made his way to Tehran, where he enrolled in medical school. Soon afterward, he found that his heart was not in it, and he decided to drop out. During this time, he fell in love with a beautiful young woman but experienced heartbreak when his affections went unreciprocated. This emotional crisis led him to turn to lyricism as his sole refuge.

Shahriyar is one of the greatest and most talented modern poets of Iran and his poetry is a crowning glory in current Persian literature. His charismatic poem has a strong influence on the feelings of enthusiastic readers as if the seraphim of heaven gently croon a lullaby. In contemporary Persian literature, his name shines as the epitome of a dignified poet because he has added many treasured literary works to Iran's august literature that actually is a source of dignity for the Persian language. Shahriyar represents the cream of the modern Persian literature crop and Iran's classical literature has reached the maximum level in his poetical works.

His verse takes diverse forms, including lyrics, quatrains, couplets, odes, ghazals and elegies. Shahriyar's poetic talent looks very similar to a wavy and turbulent sea that has not a constant limitation. He invented new coinages and entered new expressions via his poetry in the Persian language and could reflect multifarious aspects of social life in his ghazal.

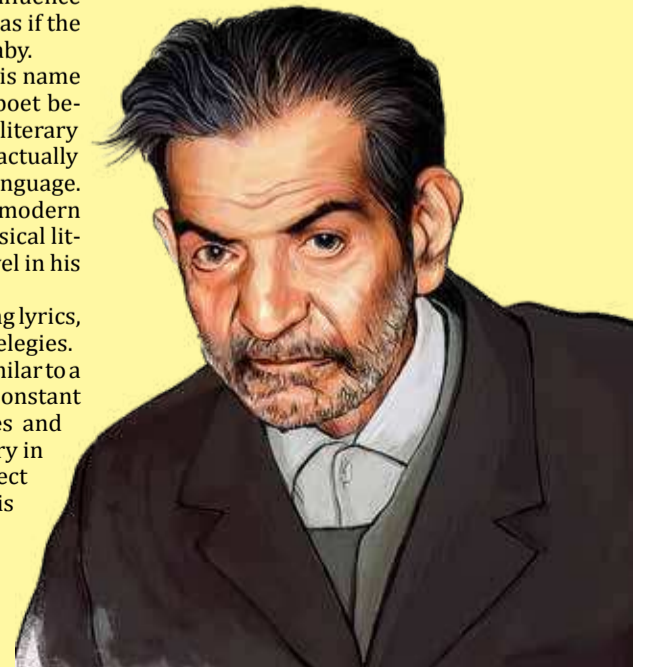
Some of his juicy poems from figures of speech point of view are very excellent.

Shahriyar is a poet who views poetry

as a powerful platform for conveying profound and enlightening ideas. He shares numerous moral and educational insights through various poetic forms. His intended audience for these teachings and concepts encompasses all of humanity across history, rather than being directed toward a specific individual or group. His poetry reflects signs of the societal conditions of his time that infuse his poems with a fresh and distinct hue.

Also, he was a very capable musician who mingled poems with music masterly and created many melodious lyrics.

On September 18, 1988, he died in a hospital in Tehran. His body was later taken to Tabriz, where he was laid to rest in the Tombs of Poets. In Iran, the day of his death is commemorated as the "National Day of Poetry."





Low Effectiveness in Decisions

Critics argue that the General Assembly's decisions often lack enforcement mechanisms, making them ineffective in resolving international conflicts. To explain further, the ineffectiveness of the General Assembly is often criticized due to the absence of robust enforcement mechanisms. This means that while the General Assembly can make resolutions and decisions, it lacks the power to ensure that these decisions are implemented effectively, especially in the context of resolving international conflicts.

Limited Enforcement Authority: The United Nations General Assembly serves as a forum for member states to discuss and make recommendations on international issues. However, unlike the United Nations Security Council, it does not possess the authority to enforce its decisions with measures like sanctions or military actions. This limitation makes it challenging to compel countries to comply with its resolutions.

Dependence on Member States: The effectiveness of the General Assembly heavily relies on the willingness of member states to adhere to its resolutions voluntarily. If a member state chooses not to comply, there are often few means available to hold that state accountable.

Political Considerations: International politics and power dynamics can significantly influence the enforcement of General Assembly decisions. Powerful nations may be more resistant to complying with resolutions, and there is often a lack of consensus on how to respond to violations.

Resource Constraints: The General Assembly may lack the resources and infrastructure needed to implement and monitor its decisions effectively, particularly in complex situations such as conflict resolution.

Overlap with the Security Council: Some argue that the existence of the United Nations Security Council, which has more significant enforcement capabilities, can overshadow the General Assembly's efforts and further contribute to its ineffectiveness.



Unequal Representation

Some argue that the Assembly's structure does not adequately represent the diverse interests and needs of all member states. Critics argue that the structure of the United Nations General Assembly doesn't adequately represent the diverse interests and needs of all member states. This concern primarily stems from the following factors:

Size and Power Disparities: The General Assembly follows a one-country, one-vote principle, which means that small nations have equal voting power with large and influential countries. Critics argue that this doesn't reflect the actual power dynamics in the world, leading to the dominance of a few powerful nations in decision-making.

Permanent Members and Veto Power: The UN Security Council, with its permanent members and veto power, holds significant influence over global affairs. This can undermine the General Assembly's authority, making it seem like a less relevant decision-making body.

Geopolitical Divides: Geopolitical divides among member states often lead to regional and political blocs forming within the General Assembly. This can result in voting patterns that prioritize regional interests over global ones.

Financial Contributions: Member states' financial contributions to the UN budget can impact their influence within the General Assembly. Countries that contribute more financially may seek to assert greater control or influence in decision-making.

Why is the UN Ineffective?

UN

Ineffective?

In a world facing complex global challenges, the United Nations, with its lofty ideals and ambitious goals, stands as a beacon of hope for international cooperation and diplomacy. However, like any institution of its scale and significance, it is not immune to criticism. As President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran prepares to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the necessity of criticizing the United Nations, particularly in light of its perceived inefficiencies.

The United Nations, with its diverse membership and multitude of mandates, often faces challenges in achieving swift and effective solutions to pressing global issues. Critics argue that its decision-making processes can be slow, its bureaucracy cumbersome, and its actions sometimes constrained by geopolitical interests. This article delves into the importance of critiquing the United Nations and exploring areas where it can improve its effectiveness.

Political Bias



Some claim that the General Assembly's decisions can be influenced by political biases, favoring certain member states.

Member States' Influence: The General Assembly consists of all United Nations member states, each with its own national interests, alliances, and political ideologies. Critics argue that decisions can be influenced by powerful member states or blocs, which may lead to favoritism.

Veto Power: While the General Assembly typically makes recommendations and passes non-binding resolutions, decisions made by other UN bodies, such as the Security Council, can significantly impact international actions.

The veto power held by permanent Security Council members can be seen as a form of political bias when decisions are blocked or allowed based on the interests of these powerful nations.

Resource Allocation: Allocation of resources, funding, and development assistance by the UN can be influenced by political considerations, potentially leading to disparities in support for different member states.

Complex Conflicts: In cases of complex international conflicts, political biases can impact the General Assembly's ability to reach a consensus or take effective action, as differing political interests may hinder cooperation.



Limited Enforcement Powers

The General Assembly lacks its own enforcement mechanisms, relying on the Security Council for major decisions. The General Assembly of the United Nations primarily serves as a deliberative body where member states discuss and make recommendations on various global issues. However, it indeed lacks its own enforcement mechanisms. Instead, it relies on the Security Council for major decisions related to international peace and security.

The Security Council, consisting of five permanent members with veto powers and ten rotating members, has the authority to take enforceable actions, such as sanctions, peacekeeping missions, and military interventions, when international peace and security are at stake. The General Assembly, on the other hand, doesn't possess the same level of authority.

The key reason behind this division of powers lies in the aftermath of World War II when the UN was established. The Security Council was designed to ensure that major powers, including the victorious Allies, could maintain stability and respond effectively to threats.

Slow Decision-Making



The Assembly's consensus-based decision-making process is criticized for being slow and prone to gridlock, hindering timely action on global issues. The criticism of slow decision-making in the United Nations General Assembly is rooted in several factors:

Consensus-Based Approach: The General Assembly often relies on a consensus-based decision-making process, where all member states must agree on a resolution. This inclusiveness can lead to extended negotiations and discussions, causing delays.

Diverse Membership: With 193 member states, the General Assembly's diverse membership means varying perspectives and interests must be considered. This diversity can complicate reaching a consensus and slow down the decision-making process.

Complex Global Issues: Many global issues discussed in the General Assembly are intricate and multifaceted, requiring time for thorough deliberation. The assembly deals with topics ranging from peace and security to development and human rights, all of which necessitate careful consideration.

Political Divisions: Political differences and alliances among member states can lead to prolonged debates and gridlock. Some member states may use procedural tactics to delay or obstruct decisions they oppose.

Bureaucratic Procedures: The General Assembly follows procedural rules that can be time-consuming. These rules include formal debates, committee discussions, and voting processes.

External Influences: External factors, such as lobbying, diplomatic negotiations, and regional dynamics, can affect the speed of decision-making within the General Assembly.

Resource Misallocation



Concerns have been raised about the allocation of resources, with claims that funds are sometimes mismanaged or allocated inefficiently. Resource misallocation in the context of international organizations, such as the United Nations General Assembly, refers to concerns that the allocation of funds and resources is sometimes inefficient or mismanaged. This issue has several dimensions:

Financial Transparency: Critics argue that there is a lack of transparency in how funds are allocated and spent within international organizations. Without clear financial reporting, it can be challenging to assess whether resources are being used efficiently.

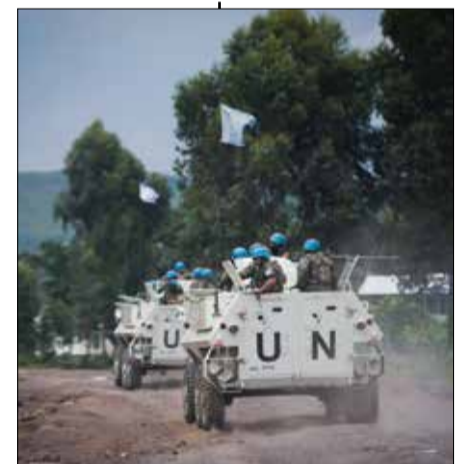
Bureaucracy: Large international organizations often have complex bureaucratic structures, which can lead to inefficiencies in resource allocation. Redundant administrative processes and decision-making layers can slow down the distribution of resources.

Priority Setting: Resource allocation involves making choices about which projects or initiatives to fund. Concerns arise when decisions are influenced by political considerations rather than objective assessments of where resources are most needed.

Effectiveness: Critics question the effectiveness of programs funded by international organizations. If allocated resources do not lead to tangible improvements in areas such as development, peacekeeping, or humanitarian aid, it raises concerns about misallocation.

Accountability: Ensuring that funds are used for their intended purposes is essential. When there are instances of corruption or diversion of funds, it reflects a misallocation of resources.

Relevance: Resource allocation should align with the changing needs of the global community. Outdated or rigid allocation practices may not address emerging challenges effectively.



Imbalance between diplomacy and implementation

Critics occasionally question the relevance of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in addressing contemporary global challenges. This skepticism arises due to several factors:

Limited Decision-Making Power: The UNGA's decisions are often non-binding and subject to the consensus of member states. Critics argue that this can hinder its ability to take swift and effective action on pressing global issues.

Dominance of Other UN Bodies: Some believe that other UN bodies, such as the Security Council, have more substantial decision-making power and influence over critical matters like international peace and security. This can lead to questions about the UNGA's role and impact.

Bureaucracy and Inefficiency: The UNGA's size and complex bureaucracy can impede its ability to respond efficiently to emerging challenges. Critics argue that it may not be agile enough to address rapidly evolving global issues.

Geopolitical Divides: Geopolitical tensions and divisions among member states can result in political gridlock within the UNGA, making it challenging to reach consensus on significant issues.

Lack of Accountability



Critics argue that there is insufficient accountability for the actions of member states within the General Assembly. Critics argue that there is a notable lack of accountability for the actions of member states within the General Assembly of the United Nations. This issue encompasses several dimensions:

Decision-Making Transparency: The decision-making processes in the General Assembly are often complex and can lack transparency. Critics contend that this opacity makes it challenging to hold member states accountable for their positions and actions during debates and resolutions.

Enforcement Mechanisms: Unlike the UN Security Council, the General Assembly lacks robust enforcement mechanisms. Consequently, even when member states violate international norms or resolutions, there may be no effective means of holding them accountable.

Political Considerations: Political alliances and power dynamics among member states can sometimes overshadow accountability. States with significant influence may face fewer consequences for their actions, even when those actions contravene international law.

Resource Allocation: The allocation of resources and contributions to UN programs and initiatives can be inconsistent and lack transparency. This can result in questions about whether member states are being held accountable for their financial commitments.

Reform Challenges



Calls for reforms to adapt to modern global challenges have met resistance, leading to questions about the institution's ability to evolve. Calls for reforms to adapt international institutions to modern global challenges often encounter resistance, prompting questions about these organizations' ability to evolve and remain effective. Several factors contribute to these reform challenges:

Historical Legacies: Many international institutions were established in the aftermath of World War II, reflecting the power dynamics of that era. Changing these structures to accommodate the current geopolitical landscape is

challenging.

National Sovereignty: Member states are often hesitant to cede authority to international bodies, fearing a loss of sovereignty. This reluctance can hinder reforms that require greater supranational cooperation.

Veto Powers: In institutions like the UN Security Council, veto powers held by a few states can obstruct meaningful reforms, as changes may not align with their interests.

Complex Decision-Making: Achieving consensus among numerous member states with diverse interests can be slow and difficult. This complexity can stymie efforts to update institutional frameworks.

Wrestling World Championships: Zare' regains superheavyweight throne, puts lid on woeful day for Iran

Sports Desk

Iran's Amirhossein Zare' defeated Georgian Geno Petriashvili in emphatic fashion for the freestyle superheavyweight gold at the Wrestling World Championships in Belgrade – a second world title for the young gun in three years.

Zare's triumph was a consolation for the country by the end of a miserable second day of the event, which saw four Iranians fail to reach the last four of their respective weight classes before Hassan and Amirmohammad Yazdani came short against the American foes in two evening final show-downs.

It was always going to be a three-horse race – featuring Zare', Petriashvili, and Turkish Taha Akgul – for the 125kg gold, and the 22-year-old Iranian proved to be the dominant force of the division by beating the latter two – who have a remarkable 20 world and Olympic medals between them – en route to the top podium.

Having avenged last year's semifinal defeat against Akgul this time around, Zare' stormed to an 11-0 technical-fall victory on the 4:48 mark against a frustrated Petriashvili in a repeat of the 2021 final.

Sunday's gold also means Zare' – a bronze winner at the Tokyo Olympics – will be the favorite to walk away



Amirhossein Zare' celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the freestyle 125kg gold medal at the Wrestling World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, on September 17, 2023. UWW

with the ultimate prize in next year's Games in Paris. Zare' said he would give his full dedication to the success in Paris "right from tomorrow when I wake up in my hotel room."

Second best
A fifth setback in six battles against American David Taylor was probably the

worst of the lot for Hassan Yazdani as he suffered a pin with two seconds left on the clock to take the 86kg silver. The defeat – third in a fourth successive final against the American – still extended Yazdani's personal tally to a national record of nine major medals, though he might need a change of tactics in

his meetings with Taylor if he fancies his chances of a second Olympic gold next summer.

The Iranian thought he had a 5-1 lead in the first period, only to see a successful challenge by the Americans change the scoreline into 5-3 in Taylor's favor. Taylor scored a key take-

down early in the second period to take a 7-3 lead and then clamped down when Yazdani attempted a late headlock throw to make it 9-3 before securing the fall for his third world title.

"It's so many micro-adjustments, it's amazing. I have a plan, he has a plan, then you go out there and your plan

works for about 20 seconds. When I wrestle him, it's like organized chaos, there's just so much happening," Taylor said after winning a third gold of the day for Team USA.

Also victorious against Yazdani in the Tokyo Olympic final, Taylor said the key to keeping the Iranian star

at bay was to neutralize his dangerous underhooks.

"He's so good in that position, and it's forced me to get better," Taylor said. "For me, the more action always benefits me. I feel like our matches had a lot of action... People will do the best they possibly can to slow me down, my job is to become a dynamic scorer and find ways to continue to score and that was what I was able to do."

Taylor's sole loss to Yazdani was a 6-2 decision in the 2021 final in Oslo.

"He is an aggressive, fearless competitor," Taylor said. "In Oslo, I gave him an inch and he took a mile. I learned my lesson the hard way in that match. Every time I have to try to stay one step ahead."

In a first Iranian-American final of the day, Zain Retherford – a silver medalist last year – came out on top against Amirmohammad Yazdani in the non-Olympic 70kg class.

Yazdani, who won a silver in Oslo, looked to be in exhilarating form on his way to the final but clearly ran out of steam toward the end of the contest against Retherford, who put together a solid 8-5 win.

Retherford used counters and a low single to score three takedowns and two stepouts, while Yazdani had two slick takedowns, but otherwise offered little resistance in having to settle for the silver.

IWF World Championships: Iran finishes men's third but work needs to be done for Paris

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifting men's team tallied 458 points to finish on the third podium at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh.

Still, there was little to cheer about for the country through the 14-day event, as eight members of the 10-man squad left the Saudi capital empty-handed, indicating the massive scale of the task facing the Iranians at the Paris Olympics in less than 12 months.

Armenia won the men's title with 522 points, with China in the runner-up spot on 492 points.

On Sunday, Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi lifted a personal-high 249kg to take the clean & jerk bronze of the +109kg weight class, finishing fourth in total with 452kg. Davoudi was desperately close to taking the C&J gold but failed with his final attempt at 255kg.

Double Olympic champion Lasha Talakhadze was clearly far from his best, mostly owing to a wrist problem, but still managed to bag a routine triple of golds for a sixth successive year. The Georgian sensation made 220-253-473 ahead of Armenian Varazdat Lalayan on 212-248-460 and Bahrain's Gor Minasyan on 213-246-459. "The others are closing in on Lasha. The standard he showed today will



Iranian weightlifter Ali Davoudi competes in the men's +109kg contests at the IWF World Championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on September 17, 2023. IWF

not be enough anymore," Georgian coach Giorgi Asanidze said. "He was not at his very best here, but the only thing that mattered today was for him to be champion again. He will have to regain top form next time." Ayat Sharifi was the other Iranian in the superheavyweight class, though he bombed out after three failed attempts in the C&J event while strug-

gling with a knee injury. Davoudi's bronze saw Iran end in the 10th place of the medal table. Mirmostafa Javadi had stunned Chinese duo Li Dayin and Tian Tao to claim the C&J and total golds in the 89kg contests earlier in Riyadh. China dominated the standings with a remarkable 33 medals – including 20 golds, with Thailand (9) and Egypt (7) in the following spots.

Sweden's Duplantis breaks own pole vault world record

REUTERS – Sweden's Armand Duplantis made the extraordinary look almost routine yet again as he broke his own pole vault world record, clearing 6.23 metres at the Eugene Diamond League finale on Sunday.

The performance shaved one centimetre off his previous best set in France in February.

It was the seventh world record for the back-to-back world champion, who soared over the rest of the field at the season-ending meeting as EJ Obiena of the Philippines finished second with 5.82 and American Sam Kendrick took third with 5.72.

The fans at Hayward Field held their breath as the Olympic champion Duplantis nudged the bar when he cleared the record height, before erupting with cheers. With his family there to witness the occasion, jumped up and down in joy before sprinting to his team, who hoisted him into the air. "I knew that when I was



AFP

over the bar just to not panic because I knew I was going to have to squeeze over a little bit. I don't know, I just looked up and the bar was still there – I don't know, it's hard to explain," Duplantis said in televised remarks. The record-breaking performance was exactly how he wanted to end his extraordinary season after he tried and failed to clear his own record

mark at the world championships in Budapest. He is expected to be one of the biggest attractions in athletics at the 2024 Paris Olympics. It was the second world record that the crowd in Eugene witnessed on Sunday, after Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay smashed the women's 5,000 metres world record with a run of 14 minutes 00.21 seconds.

Illegal activities behind scavenging business in Tehran

Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

In Tehran, the distressing sight of individuals clad in tattered garments, hunched over waste containers, with their heads concealed from view, has become a frighteningly commonplace occurrence. More often than not, citizens encounter with labor children among these scavengers and scrappers, a heart-breaking sight that could be used to negatively portray the face of Iran's capital.

A prevailing misconception among citizens, however, is the thought that poverty is the main reason behind scavenging, failing to realize that the immense profits generated by such extensive scavenging activities are being funneled into the coffers of a select few, commonly known in Iranian media as the "waste mafia."

Earlier this summer, Ali Salajegheh, head of Iran's Department of the Environment, told the media that "There is an economic mafia behind [scavenging] and

it exploits [labor] children," according to IRNA.

The environmental official further stated that the issue fuels the propaganda machine of Iran's enemies, calling for swift action to deal with the matter.

It should be noted that scavenging is not limited to Iran. Although practices differ, yet many countries are witnessing a rise in scavenging as a result of technological advances in recycling, which makes scrap metals and plastic bottles – among many other things – valuable, sought-after commodities.

"The recycling of scrap metal is a \$32 billion business in the United States, according to IBISWorld," reads Jake Halpern's 2019 article in New York Times.

A new article published by IRNA on September 18, 2023, takes a closer look at the scavenging business, and reveals that the scavengers operate under the supposition that their managers "own" the waste containers of the city.

"[One of the children] answered that everything has

an owner these days, even us," reads the report, going on to lament the fact that such young children should work on weekends in order to earn a living instead of enjoying leisure time.

"Waste mafia has turned into a serious issue these days. At 6 in the morning, a pickup truck drops off several children on certain streets and alleys, and they have to clean their containers of all recyclable materials."

At nightfall, the same pickup truck, or sometimes bigger ones, come back to recollect these children and the waste they have collected in order to take them to the market.

Not long ago, collecting waste and disposing of them was the municipalities' task, with no one signing up to competing with them. These days, though, everything is different.

The IRNA reports that "the statistical data show that more than 6,000 to 7,000 tons of waste is collected in Tehran every day, a significant part of which recyclable. In addition, more than



IRNA

12,000 people in the metropolis are responsible for collecting all the waste with municipal vehicles on 21 p.m.," which they later take to processing sites.

"Iran produces more than 20 million tons of garbage, one third of which is dry waste and about one quarter is processed," the report goes on.

These statistics show that about five million tons of valuable waste is produced

in Iran every year, which shows the high share of the "waste mafia" from the recycling industry.

Qanbar Adinehvand, director of supervision and evaluation of Tehran Municipality Waste Management Organization, called for citizens' extra attention to the matter, saying, "We ask the citizens not to dispose of their waste at random hours, but to stick with the 21 p.m. schedule."

The official believes that the "waste mafia" cannot be stopped and, as a result, the municipality has become a victim of the ugly and inappropriate behavior of the scavengers.

"But we have said many times that anyone who puts their head in the waste containers has nothing to do with Tehran Municipality, and is only connected with the [waste] mafia," Adinehvand said.

OPINION

Settling 'political' scores with national heroes



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani, one of the most popular athletes of the country, is the latest non-political figure to fall victim to a malicious divide that is robbing Iran of its national heroes.

With Olympic and World Championship gold medals under his belt, certainly losing the Sunday night final to David Taylor, the American wrestler, is not the end of the world for Yazdani. He is still young and can achieve much more. However, just like the case of the Iranian national soccer team, the Iranian government's opposition and political opportunists tried to exploit yet another international stage in order to diminish the pride the nation takes in its athletes, thus robbing it of a much needed sense of solidarity.

Before and after the final, Yazdani was the target of so much hate speech and malicious content on social media, mostly from opposition figures living abroad. These figures have shown that they will stop at nothing to belittle Iran at every turn, often disguising their intent as being opposed to the policies of the established government. Yet, the majority of Iranians stand firm behind their beloved athletes and national heroes, supporting them all the way, taking pride in their victories and achievements, consoling them in case of defeat. For they all know that Iran will prevail, and each and every citizen of this country is part of its greatness.

Tens of thousands rallied in New York demanding end of fossil fuels

Tens of thousands of protesters on Sunday rallied to kick off a week where leaders will try once again to curb climate change primarily caused by coal, oil and natural gas.

But protesters say it's not going to be enough, Associated Press reported.

They aimed their wrath directly at US President Joe Biden, urging him to stop approving new oil and gas projects, phase out current ones and declare a climate emergency with larger executive powers.

"We hold the power of the

people, the power you need to win this election," said 17-year-old Emma Buretta of Brooklyn of the youth protest group Fridays for Future. "If you want to win in 2024, if you do not want the blood of my generation to be on your hands, end fossil fuels."

The March to End Fossil Fuels featured such politicians as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and actors Susan Sarandon, Ethan Hawke, and Edward Norton.

But the real action on Broadway was where

protesters crowded the street, pleading for a better but not-so-hot future. It was the opening salvo to New York's Climate Week, where world leaders in business, politics and the arts gather to try to save the planet, highlighted by a new special United Nations summit Wednesday. Many of the leaders of countries that cause the most heat-trapping carbon pollution will not be in attendance. And they won't speak at the summit organized by UN Secretary-General Antonio Gu-

terres in a way that only countries that promise new concrete action are invited to speak.

Organizers estimated 75,000 people marched Sunday.

"We have people all across the world in the streets, showing up, demanding a cessation of what is killing us," Ocasio-Cortez told a cheering crowd. "We have to send a message that some of us are going to be living on, on this planet 30, 40, 50 years from now. And we will not take no for an answer."



CAPTION: Climate activists yelling that the future and their lives depend on ending fossil fuels, in New York, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. AP PHOTO/BRYAN WOOLSTON

Downtown Tehran to receive public spaces boost

Social Desk

Anaraki Mohammadi, the mayor of Tehran's District 12, recently discussed the need for improved public services in the capital's underprivileged neighborhoods.

During a visit to various areas, including Pirnia and Keyhani houses, Mohammadi emphasized the

importance of revitalizing abandoned spaces and transforming them into green areas for the benefit of the local community, Fars News Agency reported.

Mohammadi expressed concern about the negative consequences of converting old structures into workshops or warehouses, as it can lead to the loss of

the neighborhood's identity. He acknowledged the public's dissatisfaction with the conversion of residential buildings into warehouses or their total abandonment.

To address this issue, the city management is fully prepared to support individuals interested in restoring historical structures and preserving the neighborhood's character. District 12 of Tehran is home to fourteen neighborhoods, which are considered the oldest in the city. They are also the busiest areas. The district boasts several attractions, including bazaar, various museums, embassies, and places of worship for different faiths.



FARS

First Announcement


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TENDER NO.: 08-21-0240004

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Conference of public libraries to be held in Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

The Second International Conference of Public Libraries titled 'Public Libraries and Small Businesses' will be held in Mashhad on October 17 and 18, announced the Secretary-General of the Iran Public Libraries Foundation Mehdi Ramezani.

Ramezani said, "As we know, all developed and developing countries are experiencing economic challenges. For tackling challenges, businesses have also changed. Among recent changes are the proliferation of small companies, which are now known as "the key to economic development in the next decade."

He noted that socioeconomic needs have made society tend toward entrepreneurship and small businesses, which need promoting, supporting, training, and learning.

"Considering the mission of public libraries in informing and training, we believe that public libraries can be pioneers in fulfilling the needs of societies and local communities through designing local culture-based services. Evidence confirms this hypothesis. For instance, some interested and creative librarians have taken remarkable initiatives by providing services to rural businesses in some areas of beautiful Iran, activities which we are now documenting. Others around the world can also see such actions," he said. As the manager of the most significant public library system in West Asia, Iran Public Libraries Foundation, with more than 3,700 public libraries, in line with using modern approaches to libraries and their services, emphasizes knowledge and experience as the two necessary elements in solving problems.

Defining and consolidating the role of public libraries in businesses greatly depends on setting scientific communications and sharing experiences, he noted.

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Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motehari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
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● Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
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Autumn music performances slowly begin

Arts & Culture Desk

With the conclusion of the mourning days of the months of Muharram and Safar, once again Tehran's concert halls are getting ready to welcome music enthusiasts. The two-month hiatus during Muharram and Safar provided an ideal opportunity for musicians of various genres to prepare thoroughly and return to the stage after the first four months of concert inactivity, which had lasted from the beginning of the Iranian year until July 22. Some pop musicians have already shared new songs on their social media pages and, undoubtedly, these pieces will be heard and performed during the upcoming live performances of the new season.

Over 1,070 concerts in four months

According to the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in the first three months of the Iranian year (March 21-June 21), 776 performances were held, and in the month ending on July 22, 294 concerts were organized across the country. In total, during this four-month period, 1,070 concerts took place, indicating a significant increase compared to the last two years and possibly even earlier.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra a pioneer in autumn concerts

Notably, there has been no news of the presence or performance of pop singers up to this point, and even on their social media pages, there have been no announcements regarding their autumn concerts. Therefore, the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Manouchehr Sahbaei, will be the pioneer of the new concert season, with its first autumn performance scheduled for September 27 and 28 in Vahdat Hall.

In this performance, Sahbaei

will lead the Tehran Symphony Orchestra in renditions of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Hossein Nasehi's 'Dance at the Court of Samangan King,' Hungarian Dances No. 1, 4, 5, and 10, and the first movement of Brahms' Symphony No. 4.

'Chopin and Liszt Night' piano recital

Another musical event to look forward to is the piano recital by Fereidun Nasehi, titled 'Chopin and Liszt Night,' which will be held at Vahdat Hall on September 29.

Nasehi, a renowned musician and pianist, has collaborated with prominent artists such as Fereydoon Naseri, Iraj Sahbaei, and Nader Mashayekhi over the years. His program will feature compositions by classical music giants, promising an exceptional musical experience.

Nasehi, the son of the renowned Iranian composer Hossein Nasehi, received a scholarship in 1975 to pursue his studies in Germany. Following the completion of his studies in solo piano perfor-

mance and numerous recitals in Germany and Austria, he returned to Iran. Since then, he has held several performances at Vahdat Hall and Niavaran Cultural Center.

'Shahpar' and the 'Shahnameh' narrative with music

Another autumn performance is dedicated to the first music concert by the fusion music group 'Shahpar,' scheduled for October 2 at the Khalij-e Fars Cultural Center in Niavaran Cultural Complex.

This concert, titled 'Shahnameh Night,' is inspired by Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece. The group will perform pieces accompanied by verses from the stories of Rostam and Sohrab, Rostam and Esfandiar, Fereidun and Zahhak, Manuchehr Shah, Keykhosrow, Afrasiyab, and the tales of Siavash.

The fusion music group, led by Mohsen Mar'ashi, has been active for several years, incorporating the words of Persian literary giants

such as Ferdowsi, Rumi, Hafez, and Khayyam into their music.

'The Silky Constellations'

Another music performance taking place at the Artists House will be the concert 'The Silky Constellations,' a research-based performance featuring the tambourine playing of Niknaz Mirqalami, scheduled for September 29 at 19:00 in the Shahnaz Hall. Mirqalami will present her performance in 12 maqams of this instrument. Maqam is the principal melodic concept in Middle Eastern musical thought and practice

International performances

During this period, concerts featuring well-known Iranian singers will also be held outside the country. Homayoun Shajarian will perform in Hamburg, Munich, Vienna, and the Netherlands on October 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. Alireza Qorbani will have performances in Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal on November 3, 5, 11, and 12. Majid Razavi, a pop music artist, will also perform in Dubai on October 13.



Baghdad International Book Fair opens with Iran's presence



Arts & Culture Desk

The 24th edition of the Baghdad International Book Fair opened on September 18, with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran's House of Books and Literature is participating in this fair for the third time, showcasing a 60-square-meter booth, featuring 1,100 titles in various categories including Islamic studies, adult literature, children's and young adult literature, academic and university books, Persian language instruction, the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war), and special books

on martyrs Hajj Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Additionally, there is a special section dedicated to the Holy Qur'an. A total of 18 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions are also present at the fair, offering their books to visitors. According to IRNA, the fair was inaugurated by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, with Morocco being the special guest of the event.

During the opening ceremony, Al-Sudani emphasized the importance of books in the current era, stating that despite technological

advances, there is still a significant need for books due to the challenges facing reading.

He also said that the smell of paper and ink remains nostalgic and memorable.

The Iraqi official highlighted the government's commitment to supporting culture as part of Iraq's national program.

He mentioned plans to facilitate the work of publishing institutions, including offering interest-free loans to support publishing and large intellectual exhibitions in Iraq. He also touched upon the histori-

cal connection of books with Baghdad, stating that in the past, books were written in Egypt, printed in Lebanon, and read in Iraq. However, Iraq has now reached a level of self-sufficiency and progress where books are written, printed, and read within the country.

The 24th Baghdad International Book Fair hosts publishers from various countries, including Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, the United States, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. The event takes place from September 18 to 27.