



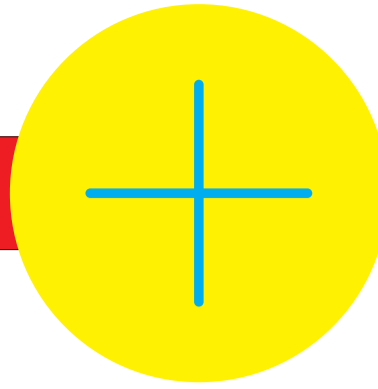
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Iran's female writer Razi dies at 84

IRNA – Iran's writer, researcher, poet, playwright, and translator Farideh Razi died at the age of 84.

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Tarik Darreh Resort hosts ski enthusiasts every year



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Tarik Darreh Ski Resort is located 10km away from Hamedan, the capital city of the western province of Hamedan. Nestled on the side of Alvand Mountain range at an elevation of 1,900m, Hamedan is one of the coldest cities in Iran. The province's plains and lowlands are located in the northeastern and eastern part of the mountain. The vast plains are in the path of strong winds, so air masses easily affect these areas. The city of Hamedan is also known in Iran for its numerous monuments worth seeing. There, you can find Ganjnameh, an ancient inscription carved in granite from 500 BCE, skiof-persia.com reported. On the road to the ski resort, you will find a park with a summer sledge track, karting, bungee jumping and a gondola. The ski area is settled into

a 270° valley. The resort is equipped with one ski-lift and a two-seat chairlift, serving both sides of the valley. The slope served by the ski lift is used during summer for grass skiing. The potential for ski touring and off-piste skiing is interesting. However, following a huge avalanche a few years ago, the staff is reluctant to let skiers going off the trails. The complex has provided a very pleasant and suitable atmosphere for those who are enthusiastic about climbing. Tarik Darreh Ski Resort, also called Alvand Ski Resort, has come into operation since 1985. Since that time, it is known as a hidden paradise thanks to its sports, welfare, and accommodation facilities. The complex consists of three main sections: The restaurant complex, the ski school, and

the complex of ski and lifts. Visitors can use the equipment of the Tarik Darreh Ski Resort every day of the week. Snowfall in this area begins around December and continues until April. The proximity to natural springs and rivers, green space, and tall trees of Ganjnameh Complex have helped make the area one of the main natural attractions of Hamedan Province. Proximity to an urban area, well-equipped shelters, conference hall, ski equipment store, all at an advanced level, make this complex unique among other similar sites. Due to the suitable facilities and distinctive features, the ski resort hosts many enthusiasts every year in the ski season and it is capable of hosting the snow skiing and grass skiing tournaments in all seasons.

In West Bank, last vinyl repairman preserves musical heritage

From Jamal Hemmou's ramshackle workshop in Nablus's Old City in the occupied West Bank, classic Arabic songs blare into the surrounding cobbled streets.

The 58-year-old is the last of his kind in the city – he runs the only shop in Nablus repairing and selling vinyl records and players, AFP wrote.

Like much of the world, Nablus is attuned to digital music, but Hemmou told AFP working with vinyl was about preserving Palestinian "heritage".

Elderly people regularly pass by at the end of the day and, "when I turn on the record player, they start crying," he said.

Hemmou began learning how to repair record players when he was 17, listening to the great Arab artists of the time as he worked.

"I have more experience than the people with the certificates," he joked, adding that he is entirely self-taught, and acquired his passion for music from his father.

"My father was a singer, he used to sing because he loved those old singers... almost everyone in my family is a musician," he said.

He said he enjoys Lebanon's Fairuz and Egyptian superstar Abdel Halim Hafez, but his favourite is Shadia, an Egyptian diva who released a string of hits between the 1940s and 1980s.

Strewn throughout his work-



shop, in various stages of repair, are record players from the 1960s and 1970s. There are even several gramophones from the 1940s.

He estimated that he sells an average of five record players per month.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Six-Day War in 1967. A surge in violence in 2022 made it the deadliest year in the West Bank since United Nations records began in 2005 – with Nablus having been at the forefront of the bloodshed.

But Hemmou said it's not the military raids that hurt business – it's the strikes regularly called by local authorities in response to Israeli operations. "We close all the shops when the Israeli raids kill someone in Nablus, especially the Old City," he told AFP.

For Hemmou, the machines and the music they play are

more than just songs, they are an essential part of Palestinian and Arab heritage.

"When you play the record, you're transported back 50 years," he said.

"You listen to this music, and you remember what it means to be an Arab or a Palestinian," he added.

Hemmou said that today's artists don't match the emotion of the great Arab singers of the 20th century.

"The modern singers do not know what they sing. The old singers, they summon what is deep within us and they revive our heritage," he said.

Known throughout the old city as Abu Shaadi, he has developed a reputation beyond Nablus. Music enthusiasts will travel from afar to buy from him.

"My customers are from all over the West Bank, from Jerusalem, from Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jenin, Qalqiliya," he said.

Klimt's painting gets an exhibition in Austria after 60 years

ECONOMIC TIMES – A major work from the Austrian painter Gustav Klimt returned to Vienna where it will be shown in its homeland for the first time in

nearly 60 years after museum officials pieced together its tumultuous history.

'Water Serpents II', which depicts nymphs grappling with a

red serpent, was completed in 1907 during Klimt's so-called golden period when he embraced the gold-leaf techniques he is known for today.



A member of the Iranian Red Crescent Society checks the little girl's heartbeat in the IRCSS tent in Khoy, more than a week after a magnitude of 5.9 hit the northwestern city in West Azarbaijan.

MASOUD VAEZ/TASNIM