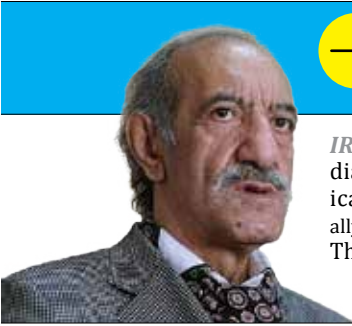


Iran’s revolutionary singer  
Esfandiar Qarebaghi dies at 79



➔ Esfandiar Qarebaghi, legendary Iranian singer

*IRNA* – Iran’s revolutionary singer Esfandiar Qarebaghi, who is famous for ‘America America, Nang be Neyrange To’ (literally meaning ‘Shame on You, America’), died on Thursday at the age of 79.

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Maqbarat-o-Shoara in Tabriz:  
Ancient cemetery of great Iranian poets

➔ Mohammad Motlagh  
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Maqbarat-o-Shoara (Mausoleum of Poets), a home to the graves of more than 400 Iranian poets, is located in the Surkhhab district of Tabriz, the capital city of East Azarbaijan Province. The 1,000-year-old cemetery proves that East Azarbaijan Province, along with Khorasan, has always been one of the two centers of Persian literature throughout history. Khosrow Surkhabi, owning a shop in the district, said that a river used to flow from Eynali Mountain in the north of Tabriz to Surkhhab, bringing down the red soil of the region (‘surkh’ means red in Persian). When it rained, the red mud was spread everywhere. That is why the area is known as Surkhhab (literally meaning red water). Originally from Surkhhab, he is proud that his house and shop are situated next to Maqbarat-o-Shoara. However, he complained that this neighborhood and cemetery are not taken care of adequately. He believes that the district should be full of Iranian and foreign tourists throughout the year. There is no guide to introduce the site to visitors and tell them why a number of great poets from Toos, Neshapur and Khujand are buried there. Rasoul Aminzadeh, another shopkeeper working in the region, said, “I remember a huge number of people who participated in the funeral



of the famous Iranian poet Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known as Shahriar, held in Surkhhab district in 1997.” Shahriar, who died on Sept. 18, 1997, is a popular and famous poet who was buried in the cemetery. Iranians honor his memory on this day every year, which has been named ‘National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature’. He added that foreign tourists, mainly from Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, travel to the region to visit the cemetery, especially in the spring season but, un-

fortunately, enough attention has not been paid to the ancient site. He observed that many tourists ask where the grave of Shahriar is because they are not informed that some other Iranian poets are buried there. Qatran Tabrizi (1009-1072 CE), Asadi Tusi (999-1072 CE), Khaghani Shervani (1120-1190), Hamam-e Tabrizi (1238-1314 CE) and Salman Savaji (1309-1376 CE) are among the poets who are buried in Maqbarat-o-Shoara. In the old times, Tabriz had nine gates, one of which, known as Surkhhab Gate, was

located in the region. Sajjad Aydenloo, a literature researcher, said earlier that when the first Persian government came to power, a number of Iranian poets emerged in Khorasan, including Ferdowsi (940-1020 CE), one the first who wrote poetry in Persian. He added that according to historical documents, Azari poets immediately started to get involved as well. However, when the political order collapsed in Khorasan, Tabriz became the only center of literature in Iran. Subsequently, some new literary centers were formed

in Kerman, Isfahan and Shiraz and a number of great poets including Sa’di and Hafez created their own specific styles. But when the lyrical style started to decline, Azari people entered the field again; numerous great poets emerged in the region including Baba Faghani Shirazi (died in 1516) and Saeb Tabrizi (1592-1676) have left memorable literary works. Thus efforts should be made to make Maqbarat-o-Shoara a popular site. This would help introduce the Persian language and literature to people all over the country and the world.

Spain sack  
Luis Enrique  
after World Cup flop

*AFP* – Spain sacked head coach Luis Enrique on Thursday after the 2010 champions were dumped out of the World Cup by Morocco at the last-16 stage earlier this week. “Both the president, Luis Rubiales, and the sporting director, Jose Francisco Molina, have told the coach their decision,” the Spanish FA said in a statement. The federation said they wanted to thank Luis Enrique and his staff for their work, but had decided to start a “new project”. “The sporting direction of the RFEF has given the president a report, in which it was determined that a new project should start for the national team, with the objective of continuing the growth achieved in the last few years thanks to Luis Enrique and his colleagues,” added the RFEF. Spain hammered Costa Rica 7-0 in their opening game in Qatar but suffered a shock defeat by Japan that resulted in a second-place finish in Group E. Spain were strong favourites to beat Morocco in the first knockout round but lost 3-0 on penalties after the game finished 0-0 following extra-time. “We dominated the game but we lacked a goal,” lamented Luis Enrique after the game. “We could have been more effective in the final third, but I am more than satisfied with what my players did. “They represented perfectly what my idea of football is.” Spain last lifted a major trophy a decade ago at Euro 2012, while they have not won a single knockout game at the World Cup since triumphing in South Africa in 2010. Luis Enrique took over in 2018 after Spain’s disappointing Russia World Cup showing, and led La Roja to the semi-finals of Euro 2020, where they were also beaten on penalties by Italy. Country’s under-21 manager Luis de la Fuente was named as Luis Enrique’s replacement by the Spanish federation.



➔ A worker cuts a banana tree on a farm in a village in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan on December 8, 2022.

MAHMOUD MIRBOZORG/MIZAN

Newly created legs

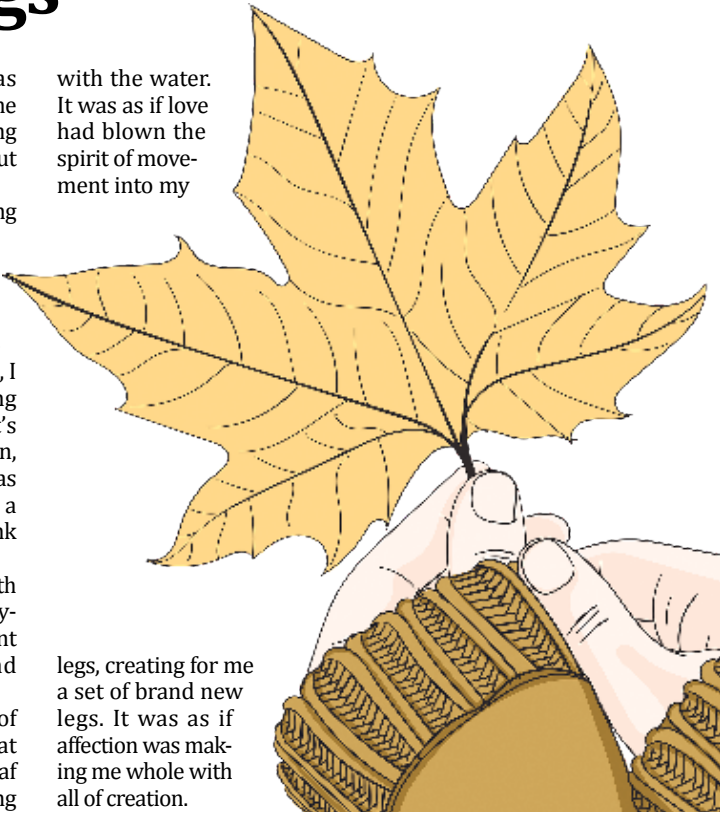
➔ Hanieh Moslemi  
Guest contributor

EXCLUSIVE

I was drinking tea in the kitchen. I took a look at the narcissus flowers in the pot on the table. I walked towards them. Some of them had faded; two of them, however, were still fresh. I gently ran my fingers on them and my tears began to fall. I didn’t understand, at that moment, why should I be crying. There was no end to my crying. That’s how affection works. Without any rhyme or reason. The mind cannot analyze it, and, instead, interprets it in its own way. Psychoanalysts attribute it to the unconscious mind and early childhood memory. Everything is powerless when it comes to describing and understanding affection.

Similarly mysterious was my encounter with the same bank clerk, who once sprung in front of me on his way out of the bank. The story goes back to a long walk I was taking when I was in a cheerful mood. I was walking with my earphones blasting with music. I wanted to scream my joy away. Then, I noticed something moving on my shoes. I thought it’s just a small creature. Then, I stopped and looked. It was only a yellow leaf. I came to a halt in front of the very bank clerk. The clerk was burdened with routine and I was full of myself. I raised the leaf in front of his surprised look and went my way. When I heard the sound of flowing water, I knew what I should do. I threw the leaf into the water and ran along

with the water. It was as if love had blown the spirit of movement into my



legs, creating for me a set of brand new legs. It was as if affection was making me whole with all of creation.