

[Loud blast heard at military plant in Iran's central city of Isfahan, official says no casualties](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 00:14

TEHRAN: A loud blast was heard at a military plant in Iran's central city of Isfahan, but a security official said there were no casualties, Iranian state broadcaster IRIB said on its website early on Sunday.

"The explosion took place in one of the munitions manufacturing centers of the Defense Ministry and, according to an announcement by the ...deputy Isfahan governor for security, there were no casualties," IRIB reported.



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[Iran 'has executed more than 50 so far this year'](#)

Sat, 2023-01-28 23:53

PARIS: Iranian authorities have executed 55 people in 2023, Norway-based Iran Human Rights said on Friday, adding that the surging use of the death penalty aims to create fear as protests shake the country.

Meanwhile, rights group Amnesty International said three young people sentenced to death over protests – the youngest aged just 18 – had been subjected to “gruesome torture” in detention. IHR said it has confirmed at least 55 executions in the first 26 days of this year.



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[Iran cleric 'opposes use of violence to impose hijab'](#)

Sat, 2023-01-28 01:14

TEHRAN: One of Iran's top clerics, Nasser Makarem, has spoken out against the use of violence to force women into wearing the veil.

Iran has witnessed a wave of nationwide protests since the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old ethnic Kurd, after her arrest for an alleged breach of the regime's dress code for women.

Hundreds of people have been killed, including dozens of security personnel, and thousands have been arrested in the protests, which authorities generally refer to a "riots."



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[All eyes on turnout as Tunisia votes again after boycott](#)

Sat, 2023-01-28 00:18

TUNIS: Tunisians are to vote again on Sunday in elections for a parliament stripped of its powers, the final pillar of President Kais Saied's remake of politics in the country.

The second-round vote comes as Tunisia grapples with a grave economic crisis and deep political divisions over Saied's actions in July 2021.

Some 262 candidates, including just 34 women, are running for 131 seats in an election whose first round last month saw just 11.2 percent of registered voters take part.



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[Syrian regime guilty of chemical attack on Douma, weapons watchdog concludes](#)

Sat, 2023-01-28 00:07

NEW YORK: There are “reasonable grounds” to believe the Syrian Arab Air Force was responsible for a chemical weapons attack on Douma almost five years ago, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said on Friday. Its Investigation and Identification Team, which is responsible for identifying the perpetrators of such attacks in Syria, concluded that on the evening of April 7, 2018, at least one helicopter belonging to the elite Syrian “Tiger Forces” unit dropped two yellow cylinders filled with toxic chlorine gas onto two residential buildings in the city.



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