

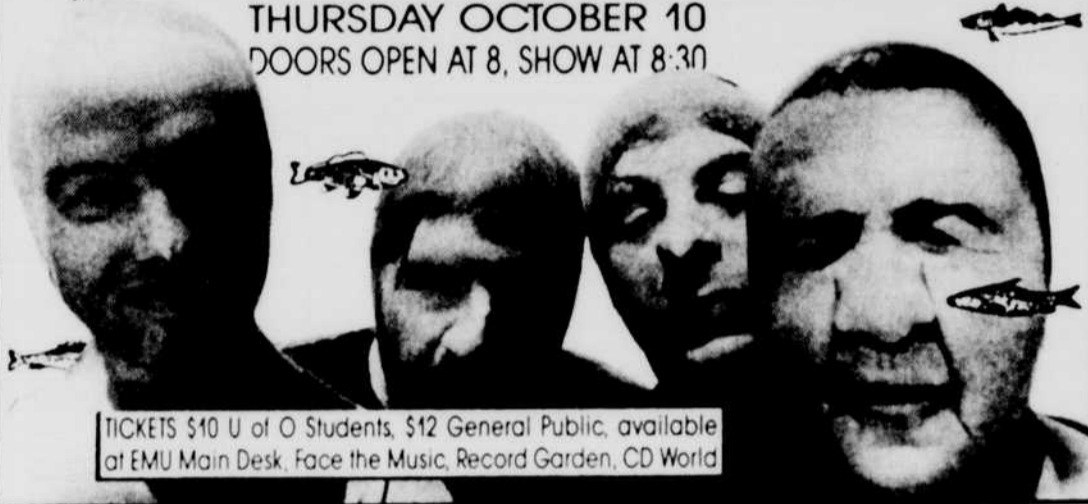
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Iran bans Germany again from book fairs in Tehran



NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has again banned German publishers from attending international book fairs in Tehran because Germany barred Iranian publishers over the condemnation of Salman Rushdie.

Sabah Zanganeh, deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance, made the announcement Sunday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia.

After the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death sentence against Rushdie for his book *The Satanic Verses*, Iranian publishers were prohibited from the Frankfurt Book fair in 1989 and 1990.

Iran reciprocated with a ban on German publishers.

This year Iranian publishers were invited back to the Frankfurt exhibition, to begin Oct. 8, but the invitations were withdrawn last week.

Organizers said German publishers objected to the continued death threat against Rushdie, whose book Khomeini called blasphemous to Islam.

Zanganeh blamed "Zionist pressures" on the Frankfurt exhibition, the news agency said.

He said eight leading book publishers, in addition to a small group of other publishers, were to display their books at the Iranian pavilion in Frankfurt.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Storm forces ferry to lay at anchor for 30 hours

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — For anyone who's ever been stuck in a stalled train or a traffic jam, consider the case of the 570 travelers aboard the unhappy ferry Felicity, which docked Sunday evening at Ireland's Rosslare Harbor.

A storm forced the ferry to lay at anchor off Ireland's coast since Saturday morning, turning a quick 3-hour trip from Fishguard, Wales — just 65 miles away — into 30 hours of waiting in pitching seas and gale-force winds.

The Stena Sealink line and passengers said many of the people aboard whiled away the hours dancing to music provided by the ship's musicians.

One weary passenger leaving the ship at Rosslare said: "It was a long haul. But after a while most people decided to sit back and make the best of it."

"We were treated well by Sealink. There was plenty of food and drink, stacks of films to watch and music to dance by for anyone who had enough energy."

Passenger Frank McCoy, however, called the trip "an unmitigated purgatory, cooped up with mad musicians, one-armed bandits, diabolical food and the stench of vomit," according to the Times of London.

President Mobutu chooses leader despite threats

KINSHASA, Zaire — President Mobutu Sese Seko and his opponents chose an opposition leader as prime minister Sunday despite threats by government critics to kill the new minister if Mobutu remained in power.

Etienne Tshisekedi, leader of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, was selected to form the so-called government of national crisis, unconfirmed French media reports said.

The appointment, which was widely expected, remains to be approved by a national conference of political leaders that will convene on Tuesday, the reports said.

It was not clear what role Mobutu would play in a new government or what powers Tshisekedi would have as prime minister.

Earlier, about 20 opponents of Mobutu forced their way into his marble palace and disrupted the nine hours of talks aimed at keeping this vast country from slipping further into chaos.

The group told reporters that they would kill Tshisekedi, 58, and other opposition leaders if they agreed to form a coalition government with Mobutu remaining even as a figurehead.

The scene demonstrated Mobutu's loss of control since unpaid soldiers mutinied a week ago, pillaging Kinshasa and other cities in this sprawling Central African country of 30 million people.

Bush's announcement surprises military

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The American military in Europe seems to have been surprised as much as anyone by President Bush's decision to reduce the U.S. arsenal of nuclear weapons.

U.S. military officers contacted in Germany and Britain over the weekend said they still were awaiting word from Washington about specifics on how their missions would be affected by Bush's announcement Friday night.

American military units reported they continued to operate as in the past, even as some intercontinental missiles and B-52 units in the United States were taken off alert for the first time in decades.

Asked how U.S. military units in Europe will be affected by Bush's plans, Maj. Freda Brame, a spokeswoman for the U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, said "I don't have anything on this."

She said the command had been operating normally seven days a week "and the topic of removing short-range nuclear missiles from Europe hasn't yet been mentioned."

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