

Iran, Venezuela have constructive ties: Minister



IRNA - Iran's minister of culture said that Iran and Venezuela have had constructive and good ties in various fields despite the long distance between them.

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili is in Caracas to meet and talk with the high-ranking officials of Venezuela, participate in the cultural and artistic exhibition of Iran and Venezuela, and attend cultural programs. Esmaeili told IRNA that this visit was being done according to the government's central policy in expanding cultural interactions with friendly and allied countries.

He expressed hope that he would have good talks with the Venezuelan authorities and that cultural ties between the two countries and the two nations would witness expansion.

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# Prominent researcher Abdullah Anwar passed at 98

"As one of the cultural heritages of this land, Professor Anwar, while mastering classic texts, was also a master of modern sciences," said the minister's message of condolences.

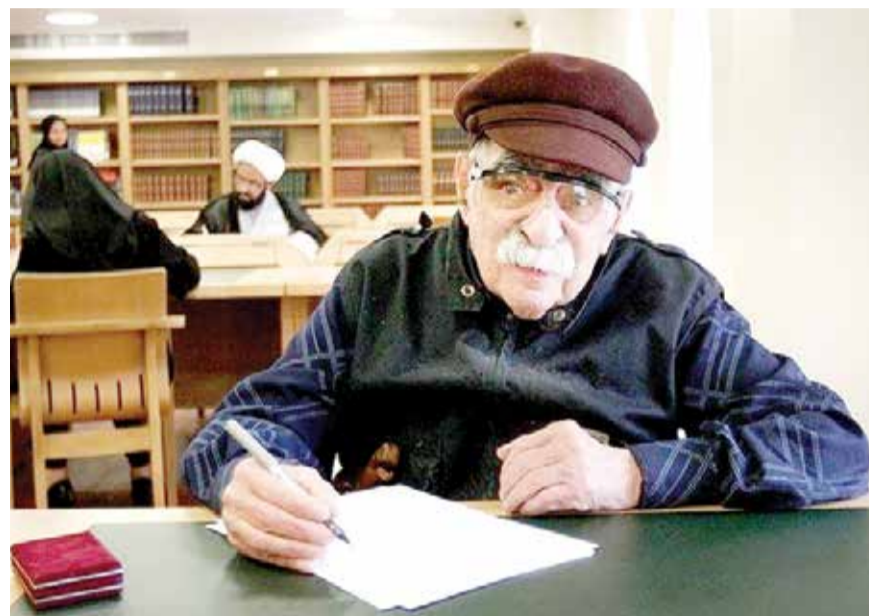
Arts & Culture Desk

Abdullah Anwar, a prominent researcher on Iran and Islam passed away on Thursday at the age of 98 due to old age. Anwar was one of the researchers who contributed a lot to Iran's culture. He had various skills in many fields. Many important manuscripts of Islamic philosophy were revived and explained by him, among which the explanations of the works of Farabi and Avicenna are of particular importance. His essays based on the quotations of Nasir al-Din Tusi are also famous. He was also involved in trans-

lating important works from Eastern and Western philosophies.

Iran's Minister of Culture Mohammad Mahdi Esmaeili sent a message of condolences on Anwar's passing, calling him a "treasure of wisdom, knowledge and philosophy."

"As one of the cultural heritages of this land, Professor Anwar, while mastering classic texts, was also a master of modern sciences. He was comprehensive in various sciences, mastering logic, philosophy, music, mathematics, history, astronomy and manuscripts," said the minister's message of condolences.



HAMSHAHRI

Jenna Ortega 'in talks' for role in Beetlejuice 2

Hollywood Reporter - Jenna Ortega is believed to be eyeing a reunion with director Tim Burton in his highly anticipated Beetlejuice 2.

The 20-year-old actress and Burton, 64, recently worked together on Netflix's hit Addams Family spin-off show Wednesday. Now, she is said to be "circling" a role in the long-awaited sequel to his 1988 cult classic movie about a married couple Adam (Alec Baldwin) and Barbara (Geena Davis) who are recently deceased and learn that a new family, the Deetz's (Jeffrey Jones, Catherine O'Hara and Winona Ryder) have moved into their house. They consult the Handbook for the Recently Deceased and summon the spirit known as Beetlejuice (Michael Keaton) to scare off this new family. According to The Hollywood Reporter, Ortega - who is set to make her Saturday Night Live debut as host this weekend - is hoping to bag the role of Ryder's daughter Lydia Deetz.

There have been many attempts over the years to develop a Beetlejuice sequel.

## The Crown's Chris Gordon joins Hollyoaks cast



LIME PICTURES

Chris Gordon has joined the cast of Hollyoaks playing a member of the nobility - Rafe, the Earl of Dee. The actor appeared in 13 episodes of the hit Netflix drama as the Duke of Edinburgh's valet and has also starred in Bang, Casualty and Vera, Mediamole reported. Rafe is first seen in an episode set at Chester

Races, where he meets Sienna (Anna Passey) and immediately charms her - although their interactions could spark a rift with her boyfriend Ethan (Matthew James-Bailey).

"Joining the team at Hollyoaks feels a bit like meeting the family of a partner you really like - a little bit intimidating, but also very fulfilling," said Gordon.

"There's a real closeness throughout the departments and I've been welcomed into the fold with grace."

"Working with Anna has been an utter joy, not only as an actor but as a person too. Sienna's journey collides with Rafe and there's, well, fireworks!"

"[He's] not the usual man around town. The mystery

and complexity of a road less travelled is something I'm really looking forward to playing and sharing with the fans."

Soap stalwart Passey added: "We are so excited to have Chris join the cast. He is a wonderful actor, and is bringing something completely new to the village with Rafe."

"We are already having so

much fun with this storyline, and I cannot wait for the audience to meet our suave and mysterious Rafe."

"Chris is an absolute dream to work with - it looks like an exciting year ahead!"

Rafe's first appearance will come in E4's first-look episode of Hollyoaks on Tuesday, May 9.

## Emmy winner Robert Blake dies at 89

Robert Blake, the Emmy award-winning performer who was tried and acquitted in the killing of his wife, has died age 89.

A statement released on behalf of his niece, Norreen Austin, said Blake died from heart disease, surrounded by family at home in Los Angeles, Guardian reported.

Blake's career never recovered from the long ordeal that began with the shooting death of his wife Bonny Lee Bakley outside a Studio City restaurant on 4 May 2001.

He was adamant that he had not killed his wife, and a jury ultimately acquitted him. But a civil jury would find him liable for her death and order him to pay Bakley's family \$30m,

a judgment that sent him into bankruptcy.

The daughter he and Bakley had together, Rose Lenore, was raised by other relatives and went for years without seeing Blake, until they spoke in 2019. She would tell People magazine that she called him Robert, not Dad. In his youth, Blake starred in the Our Gang comedies and acted in The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, a movie classic. As an adult, he was praised for his portrayal of the murderer Perry Smith in the movie of Truman Capote's true crime bestseller In Cold Blood.

His career peaked with the 1975-78 TV cop series Baretta. He starred as a detective who car-

ried a pet cockatoo on his shoulder and was fond of disguises. It was typical of his specialty, portraying tough guys with soft hearts, and its signature line "Don't do the crime if you can't do the time" was often quoted.

Blake was nominated for an Emmy in 1977 for his portrayal of Tony Baretta, although behind the scenes the show was racked by disputes involving the temperamental star. He later admitted to struggles with alcohol and drug addiction in his early life. In 1993, Blake received another Emmy nomination for the title role in Judgment Day: the John List Story

In 1993, Blake won another Emmy for the title role

in Judgment Day: the John List Story, portraying a soft-spoken, churchgoing man who murdered his wife and three children. Blake's career had slowed down well before the trial. He made only a handful of screen appearances after the mid-1980s; his last project was in David Lynch's Lost Highway, released in 1997.

According to his niece, Blake spent his recent years "enjoying jazz music, playing his guitar, reading poetry and watching many Hollywood classic films." Blake married the actor Sondra Kerr married in 1961 and they had two children, Noah and Delinah. They divorced in 1983.

His fateful meeting with



SHUTTERSTOCK

Bakley came in 1999 at a jazz club where he went to escape loneliness. "Here I was, 67 or 68 years old. My life was on hold. My career was stalled out," he said in a 2002 interview. "I'd been alone for a long time."

He said he had no reason to dislike Bakley: "She took me out of the stands and put me back in the arena. I had something to live for." When Bakley gave birth to a baby girl, she named Christian Brando - son of Marlon - as the father. But DNA tests pointed to Blake.

UNESCO #Education #Sciences #Culture @UNESCO

What a historic moment of hope & solidarity this week in #Mosul! During @AAZoulay's official visit to the city, she took stock of progress on the different reconstruction sites and projects. This is how we bring hope to Mosul. This is how we #ReviveTheSpiritOfMosul.

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The Metropolitan Museum of Art @metmuseum

Did you know ancient Greek and Roman sculptures were once colorful? LAST CHANCE—Don't miss "Chroma: Ancient Sculpture in Color," which reveals the vibrant backstory of polychromy ("many colors" in Greek). Visit #MetChroma before it closes on March 26: [met.org/MetChroma](https://met.org/MetChroma)

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Xinhua CultureTravel @XinhuaTravel #ChinaCulture #ChinaTravel

Chinese archaeologists have discovered the ruins of a Neolithic settlement site dating back more than 7,000 years in Anyang City, central China, providing valuable insight into the lifestyle of prehistoric ancestors [xhtxs.cn/fyp](https://xhtxs.cn/fyp)

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