

## Iranian poet Mohabbat dies at 80



IRNA – Iranian poet Mohammad-Javad Mohabbat, who is known to many Iranians, particularly school children, for his didactic poem, 'The Two Pines,' died of heart disease at the age of 80.

Mohabbat died on Tuesday at a hospital in Iran's western city of Kermanshah, where he lived most of his life. For more than 40 years, Mohabbat composed delicate poems in the two main forms of lyric and masnavi (series of couplets in rhymed pairs). 'The Two Pines,' a masnavi, which tells the story of friendship between two pine trees and its impact on communication lines outside a village, made Mohabbat famous in Iran after the poem appeared in schoolbooks. Since 1983, the poet was a member of a team of writers and contributors to the country's textbooks.

## Sculptor Phyllida Barlow dies at 78



FT – British artist Phyllida Barlow, best known for sculptures crafted of everyday materials that she described as "nonmonumental," died on March 12, at the age of 78 in London. Barlow found international acclaim in the early 2010s after retiring from a successful teaching career and went on to represent Britain at the 2017 Venice Biennale. Her site-specific sculptures evoke the destroyed landscapes of London in the immediate aftermath of World War II, when Barlow was a child, suggesting death, gore, and violations of the human body. Just as Barlow forced the viewer to make sense of her sculptures' subject matter, the artist also created optical illusions with weight and structure. She combined heavy materials such as cement and metal with low-cost commodities including styrofoam and plywood, building imposing, large-scale works that appeared to defy gravity and stand at risk of falling over.

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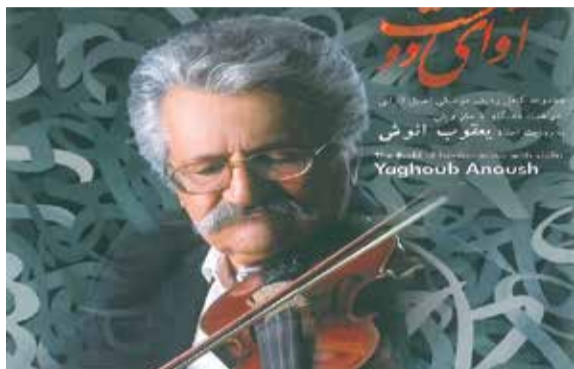
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## Complete collection of Iranian radif published



A complete collection of Iranian radif titled, 'Avay-e Doust' (Sound of a Friend), performed by violin maestro Yaghoob Anoush, was published by Switzerland-based music company SUISA.

The album is performed in seven dastgahs, and is produced by Kourosh Anoush, the Iranian and international vocalist of the Swiss National Orchestra, according to IRNA.

In Iranian music, a set of notes, their special characteristics, and an associated group of tra-

ditional melodies that constitute a basis for an improvised performance is called dastgah. The total collection of more than 200 gushehs (traditional melodic motifs), in all 12 dastgahs, is known as radif.

It took Iman Hojjat two years to record, mix, and master the project at Raga Studio in Tehran. The reference work is the result of 50 years of Anoush's musical research and playing the violin.

A noteworthy feature of the album is the voice of

the late maestro Bahman Boustan, a researcher of Iranian music and Persian literature, in praise of music.

The album is a complete collection of authentic Iranian radif, in six compact discs, the first of which is dedicated to dastgah-e Mahur, the next to Homayoun and Isfahan, the third to Bayat-e Turk and Dashti, the fourth to Chahargah and Segah, the fifth to Shur, Abu Ata, and Afshari, and finally, the last disc focuses on Nava and Rastpanjgah.

## Minister: Nowruz most ancient human festival



Nowruz is the most ancient human festival and its history is tied to nature, said Ezzatollah Zarghami, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism. Nowruz does not belong only to 12 countries that contributed to its registration on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, however, it is associated with all the people of the world, he added.

The minister made the statement during the ceremony to commemorate

the International Nowruz Festival, held on Tuesday at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center.

The ceremony was attended by Iranian officials and ambassadors of a number of countries including Tajikistan, India, Iraq and Turkmenistan.

Deputy Tourism Minister Ali Darabi said that the intangible heritage is a phenomenon that is related to human beings, motivations, desires and hopes, and the global registration of Nowruz, as one of the greatest human heritages, is the symbol of

people's hope, desire and bond with nature.

Speaking on China and Mongolia's proposal to join the global registration of Nowruz, Darabi said that the proposal is highly welcomed because the development of Nowruz is in fact the development of peace.

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Nizamuddin Zahedi said Nowruz is one of the most ancient rituals of the country and do not fade into oblivion because the nations celebrating it will protect this ancient tradition.

## Int'l Booker prize announces longlist to celebrate 'ambition and panache'

One of Ukraine's best known writers, a novelist back from the "dead", and an author who dictated her book are among the long listed writers for this year's International Booker prize. The list, said French Mo-

roccan novelist and chair of judges Leila Slimani, "celebrates the variety and diversity of literary production today". The £50,000 prize is awarded annually for a novel or short story collection written originally

in any language, translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. The prize money is split equally between the author and translator of the winning book. This year's 13-strong longlist contains three

languages – Bulgarian, Catalan and Tamil – that have never appeared before. In total, the list comprises 11 languages with three writers – GauZ, Zou Jingzhi and Amanda Svensson – whose work has appeared in English

for the first time. Maryse Condé, who is the oldest writer ever to be longlisted for the prize at the age of 86, dictated her nominated novel 'The Gospel According to the New World' to her husband and translator Rich-

ard Philcox, as she has a degenerative neurological disorder that makes it difficult to speak and see. Condé and Philcox are the first wife-and-husband author-translator team to be longlisted for the award.

## Book thief who stole over 1,000 manuscripts 'wanted to cherish them'



The former publishing employee who stole manuscripts of books by Margaret Atwood, Sally Rooney and Ian McEwan said he had a "burning

desire" to feel like he was a publishing professional, and had no intention of leaking the books he stole. Filippo Bernardini pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in New York in January, encompassing the theft of more than 1,000 manuscripts, the Guardian reported. Bernardini worked as a rights coordinator in London for Simon & Schuster, which has not been implicated in any of his crimes. He impersonated agents and publishers over email to obtain novels and other

works from writers and their representatives. According to The Bookseller, in court papers published last week Bernardini said he never leaked the manuscripts he obtained, but "wanted to keep them closely to my chest and be one of the fewest to cherish them before anyone else, before they ended up in bookshops". Detailing how he began his scheme to obtain manuscripts, Bernardini said he saw them being shared "between editors,

agents and literary scouts or even with individuals outside the industry", and wondered why he could also not get them. Beginning in August 2016, and continuing up to his arrest in New York in January 2022, Bernardini impersonated hundreds of people in the world of publishing by sending emails from fake accounts. Bernardini wrote that he knew how "egregious, stupid and wrong my actions were" and that he would forever be associated with his crime.

His lawyer Jennifer Brown wrote in a sentencing submission that Bernardini grew up as a lonely, bullied, child in a conservative part of Italy and was comforted by books. She argued that he had "suffered professional and reputational ruin", and that being "effectively banned from the publishing industry" was "particularly painful" for him because of "his desire to feel like an industry insider". Bernardini will be sentenced on 5 April.

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This #TravelTuesday, step back in time & marvel at the stunning Baroque art & architecture of Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Congonhas in. This UNESCO #WorldHeritage site features exquisite sculptures & frescoes that tell the story of the Passion of Christ: [whc.unesco.org/en/list/334/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/334/)

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