

## Tehran's Vali-e Asr dead trees to become artworks



● IRNA (FILE PHOTO)

IRNA – During the “Dera-khtestan” event, abstract artworks will be created on the trunks of 11 dried, dead trees of Tehran’s Vali-e Asr Avenue, said an official with Tehran Municipality.

Majid Qaderi-Azar clarified that the selected trees are all dried out, and the woodturning method ensures that the tree on the whole will not be destroyed, but rather visually improved.

## Schoolchildren of UK missing out on poetry



THE GUARDIAN – Schools in the UK have “limited poetry book stock,” and there are “many barriers” to the teaching of poetry, new research has found, with teachers most familiar with poets that they themselves studied at school.

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) and Macmillan Children’s Books carried out a survey of primary school teachers that found poetry is read aloud less than once a week in 93% of schools.

In nearly 20% of schools, children never have the opportunity to hear a poem read aloud.

## 3m books to enrich kids’ libraries



MEHR – Three million volumes of books are to be added to the libraries of Iran’s Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, said the CEO of the institute.

Hamed Alamati described the restocking of books as “new blood that is injected into the veins of these libraries”.

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# Government set to finish cultural projects at over 50% completion

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili promised that his ministry will do everything in its power to complete all culture and art projects with more than 50% progress.

Speaking at a meeting with senior directors of the ministry on Tuesday evening, Esmaeili announced that the incumbent government has attained a large part of its predetermined goals in the area, according to farhang.gov.ir.

“Even though different sectors of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance have had a year full of ups and downs, their significant achievements cannot be easily overlooked,” he said.

Categorizing the measures taken by the ministry in the previous Iranian calendar year into the two groups of “infrastructural, supportive, and welfare measures” and “content-based” measures, Esmaeili emphasized that the regulating approach should be replaced by the guiding approach to facilitate the creation of sublime products and the



realization of the concept of Islamic civilization. The member of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution stressed the need to review and reinvent the methods and regulations of various cultural and artistic fields in Iran, stating that the process of drafting regulations has already started and in some cases,

is going through the final stages. Pointing out that the ill-wishers of the nation seek the collapse of Iranian families, the minister maintained: “Perhaps no institution is exposed to the hybrid, cognitive warfare against the Iranian nation like the Ministry of Culture because West-erners are always hostile

to the culture and civilization of dear Iran.” Esmaeili predicted that his ministry will be at the forefront of the fight against the promotion of the Western lifestyle. In another part of his speech, he announced several plans for creating special cultural zones in Iran where cultural activities will be pointedly pur-

sued along with economic and innovative activities in the coming Iranian calendar year. The minister expressed hope that significant necessary steps will be taken in the near future to reach goals in line with the orders and goals set by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution about the culture sector.

## Iran, Venezuela sign two cultural MoUs



### Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian minister of culture announced the signing of two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Venezuela to boost bilateral cultural ties.

On the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili told reporters that under the MoUs, Iran and Venezuela will open a joint paper

factory, according to Iran Press.

Noting that the paper factory project has witnessed an 80% progress, he added that holding cultural weeks between Tehran and Caracas was also planned as part of the agreement.

Esmaeili cited the exchange of media training staff and the establishment of a joint educational working group to combat media terror-

ism as other areas of Iran-Venezuela cooperation.

The minister revealed that the groundwork for signing the MoUs was laid during his recent visit to Venezuela where he attended the joint cultural and art exhibition and unveiled the Leader of the Islamic Revolution’s commentary on the book “Cell No. 14”.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the

glorious commemoration ceremony that was held for the great Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi, promising that a statue of Nizami will be installed in Vanak Square in Tehran soon.

While Iranians commemorate Nizami and his works on March 12 every year, the fact that the Iranian poet is very popular in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan manifests unity in the region.

## Oman offers visa-free entry to Iranian tourists

Oman has opened its doors to tourists from over 103 countries including Iran by offering visa-free entry for up to 14 days, local media reported.

According to the Royal Oman Police (ROP), Iranians do not need to obtain a visa to see Oman’s tourist attractions, Gulf Insider wrote.

An ROP official clarified that tourists from the 103 countries have the option to extend their visa-free stay for more than 14 days, with a fee applicable for

the extension. Additionally, following the specified period, travellers from these countries must apply online for an e-visa for a fee of OMR 20 for a period of one month.

They can also apply for a multi-entry visa for one year, provided that their stay on each visit is not more than a month, and that certain conditions are met.

ROP noted that some Indian tourists can also obtain a visa on arrival, provided they have an entry visa

from the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, Schengen countries, or Japan, or have a resident permit of one of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and work in a profession approved by the Oman government.

This decision was made to support the tourism industry in Oman, and according to the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the Sultanate of Oman saw a massive 348 percent increase in tourists in 2022 compared to 2021, with



2.9 million tourists arriving in Oman in 2022.

A top official at Omran Group, Mohammed Al Ghafaili, said that the growth

can be attributed to integrated steps, some of which include free entry visas to more than 100 countries.