

**Minister:  
Over 3.7m  
books sold  
at TIBF**



**MEHR** – Iran’s Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, revealed that an impressive total of over 3.7 million books were successfully purchased during the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) held this year. Emphasizing the tremendous reception the TIBF received, Esmaeili underscored the exceptionally favorable volume of book sales achieved at this literary extravaganza.

According to Esmaeili, a staggering influx of at least seven million eager bibliophiles flocked to the book fair, collectively immersing themselves in a captivating celebration of knowledge. Moreover, the virtual domain of the TIBF, featuring the online section with complementary doorstep delivery, witnessed the sale of more than 1.7 million books, further augmenting the grandeur of this intellectual gathering.

**Int'l Booker  
prize announces  
first ever  
Bulgarian  
winner**



**THE GUARDIAN** – Georgi Gospodinov’s ‘Time Shelter,’ translated by Angela Rodel, became the first book written in Bulgarian to win the International Booker prize.

Chair of judges Leïla Slimani described ‘Time Shelter’ as “a brilliant novel full of irony and melancholy”, and added: “It is a very profound work that deals with a contemporary question and also a philosophical question: what happens to us when our memories disappear?”

The £50,000 prize, which is split equally between the author and translator, is awarded annually for a novel or short story collection in any language that has been translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

Slimani said the novel “questions the way in which our memory is the cement of our identity and our intimate narrative.

“But it is also a great novel about Europe, a continent in need of a future, where the past is reinvented and nostalgia is a poison,” she continued. “It offers us a perspective on the destiny of countries like Bulgaria, which have found themselves at the heart of the ideological conflict between the west and the communist world.”

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# Iranian myths, inspiring role models for global children’s films



● IRAN DAILY

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer  
**EXCLUSIVE**

In a recent interview with Iran Daily reporter, Mehdi Yari, a prominent producer and presenter of film and television projects for children and teenagers, highlighted

the importance of creating role models and introducing Iranian myths on the global stage.

Yari expressed that Iran’s rich history and literature offer a plethora of heroes, incredible figures, and legendary national icons, which have the potential to become central characters in children’s movies and cinema worldwide.

Yari pointed out that children today are familiar with popular heroes from films and animations, such as Spiderman, Batman, Superman, Barbie, Elsa, and Anna. However, they lack knowledge about Iranian national heroes and legends like Rostam, Sohrab, Gordafriid, and Kaveh Ahangar, whose place remains vacant in

children’s films and television series.

To address this issue, Yari stressed the need to domestically introduce these national characters and heroes through the production of films and television series. Furthermore, in order to broaden the reach of these productions, Yari proposed collaborating with foreign platforms to create joint works specifically aimed at children.

Regarding his own contributions in the realm of children and teenagers’ entertainment, Yari mentioned a recent comedy and musical series called ‘The Demon and the Forhead Moon,’ directed by Hossein Qena’at. This series draws inspiration from ancient Iranian legends, with Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece, the ‘Shahnameh,’ being recited at the beginning. The show aims to acquaint children with the renowned characters and myths found within this remarkable work of Persian poetry.

Yari also mentioned another series titled ‘Hashtag Auntie Cockroach,’ which explores the captivating stories of old Iran, underscoring the dearth of productions tailored

specifically for children and teenagers in the realm of cinema and television.

Yari emphasized that the current trend in Iranian cinema and television predominantly caters to adult audiences, leaving a gap in the market for children and teenagers. He advocated for greater efforts in producing captivating content that appeals to both young viewers and adults.

Furthermore, Yari acknowledged the challenges of selecting mythological and epic themes, such as the ‘Shahnameh,’ for adaptation. The production of such works often necessitates elaborate and unrealistic sets, rendering them financially demanding. Additionally, extensive usage of special effects is required to bring these stories to life on the screen.

In conclusion, Yari expressed optimism about the abundance of talented individuals in Iran with valuable expertise and professional knowledge in these fields. He asserted that the country has made significant advancements in special effects, resulting in the production of high-quality films that utilize cutting-edge technologies for image processing and staging.



## Iran pays homage to veteran writer Movahhed on his 100th birthday



● ISNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Nearly 2,000 people gathered at Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia on Tuesday to commemorate renowned Persian writer, translator, jurist, proofreader, and permanent member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Mohammad-Ali Movahhed, and celebrate

his 100th birthday. The grand event attended by notable figures such as Mostafa Mohaqeq-Damad, Mohammad Ali Abtahi, Zhaleh Amouzegar, Mohammad-Reza Shafiei Kadkani, Shahram Nazeri, Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, Ahmad Masjed-Jamei, Mohammad Ayyubi, and a large number of attendees, ISNA wrote.

Haddad-Adel said that “Professor Movahhed, with over 80 years of working, has been the source of creating scholarly and cultural works in the country. Alongside his scientific endeavors, his literary taste, moderation in thinking, and attention to circumstances in writing, translation, and speech, as well as his precision in expression, serve as valuable lessons for all of us. However, what truly shines in his character is his moral and humanistic ethics. Anyone who has had the privilege of knowing and engaging with him becomes aware of their noble and dignified nature. His presence is akin to an alchemical element that enhances the value of all other virtues.” Amoozgar, in a written note titled ‘The Golden Century of Unrepeatable Great

Ones,’ stated, the century encompassing the glorious life of Movahhed is a magnificent era of irreproducible figures who were born throughout Iran. With their brilliant talents, they firmly and resolutely took steps on the path they chose, laying the foundation for the development of our beloved Iran and striving to bring this land closer to the highway of progress as much as they could. They all carried the sorrow of Iran and the prosperity of Iran was their guiding light, and their goal was to serve rather than to accumulate wealth. Their teachings had granted them a particular independence.” Another speaker of the event Mostafa Malekian, a philosophy professor, stated that Movahhed does not require the admiration of individuals like himself and

possesses a great personality of his own. Referring to his previous discussions about this esteemed professor, Malekian highlighted the qualities of the generation from which Movahhed emerged and mentioned that these qualities are currently diminishing, fading away, and becoming rarer. “One of the most prominent characteristics of Movahhed’s generation, according to Malekian, is their diligence and extraordinary perseverance. They work hard but have grasped the essence of life. Research was not just a decoration in their lives; it was a necessity. Knowledge was not a means for them to achieve wealth, fame, respect, or popularity; rather, knowledge itself was valuable and inherently desirable to them.”