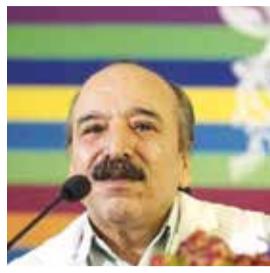


Actor Esmaeil Soltanian die



Arts & Culture Desk

Esmaeil Soltanian, a film and television actor and member of Iran's Veteran Artists Institute, has died. Soltanian died at the age of 69, on June 13, due to a heart attack, IRNA quoted Seyyed Abbas Azimi, the head of the Veteran Artists Institute as saying.

Azimi further expressed his condolences to the family and announced that details of the funeral and farewell ceremony for the late artist would be forthcoming, to be held in the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Soltanian was born in 1954 in Kermanshah and graduated in acting and directing from the Drama Arts School.

He began his artistic career in 1970 in theater as a writer, actor, and director. In the same year, he also completed a six-month course at the Kermanshah Center for Dramatic Arts under the supervision of the Iranian theater, cinema and TV actor, Atash Taqipour. He started his work in cinema in 1985, with his role in the film, 'The Hunting of Hunter'. He also performed in several theaters on the front lines during the Iraq-Iran War (1980–88).

Iran media delegation tours Iraq to expand cooperation



MEHR

A media delegation arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday to discuss expanding media cooperation with Iraqi officials.

The senior Iranian media delegation, hosted by Iraq's Wisdom Movement, visits the neighboring country to develop cooperation between Iranian and Iraqi media groups.

Holding a meeting with the leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, and paying a visit to some Iraqi news agencies are parts of the plan of the three-day trip, Mehr news agency reported.

The delegation will meet with the heads of the Federation of Journalists of Iraq, the Iraqi news agency, and Al-Sabaah News.

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Iran appointed as deputy to UNESCO's Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has been selected as the Deputy to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, according to reports from the country's permanent representation at UNESCO in Paris. The country was unanimously chosen as the Deputy of the Assembly and a member of the Convention's Bureau for a two-year term, IRNA reported.

Iran officially joined the convention in 1999 with the primary objective of establishing effective international collaboration in the preservation of underwater heritage within international and territorial waters. In addition to scientific and technical cooperation, member states are required to share advanced technological resources related to underwater heritage protection, subject to specific conditions, with other member states. Under the purview of UNESCO's definition, "Underwater Cultural Heritage" encompasses all aspects of human existence that possess cultural, historical, or archaeological significance and have been submerged, either partially or entirely, for a minimum of one hundred years. This includes sites, structures, buildings, human artifacts, human remains, as well as their corresponding archaeological and natural contexts. Moreover, it comprises ships, aircraft, and other vehicles, along with their cargoes and associated contents, and their relevant archaeological and natural contexts. Prehistoric objects also fall within the scope of this definition.

This recent appointment highlights Iran's commitment to the preservation and safeguarding of underwater cultural heritage, as well as its active engagement within the international community to protect and promote shared historical legacy.

Iranian traditional oral storytelling nationally registered

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian storytelling was nationally registered during a Tuesday ceremony attended by cultural officials. Officials from Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization as well as the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults attended the ceremony with Farhad Fallah, the deputy director of cultural affairs of the institute announcing, "Iranian storytelling was nationally registered on the eve of the 25th edition of the International Storytelling Festival".

Fallah added that the cultural body is reviewing the global registration of storytelling as well, IRNA reported. *Naqqali* (Iranian Dramatic Storytelling) and narrating the 'Shahnameh' is one of the intangible cultural heritages of Iranians registered in UNESCO.

Referring to the actions of the 25th international event, Fallah said the festival aims to popularize storytelling as a deep culture among families.

During the 24th edition of the international event, ten storytellers from across the world attended the festival to share tales from their folk cultures.

Addressing the registration ceremony, Deputy Adviser of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Alireza Tabesh said that the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, added storytelling to the national register.

"The important element of literature and storytelling is part of Iran's national identity and cultural attraction; we must transfer literature with its capacities to future generations," Tabesh concluded.



Envoy urges Spanish Iranologists to convey positive image of Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Ambassador to Madrid Reza Zabib on Wednesday called upon Spanish Iranologists to present a good image of Iran to their nation and Spanish-speaking peoples. "I call upon you to help create an Iranian-Spanish narrative based on facts that serve mutual interests," Zabib told a group of Spanish Iranologists, as well as cultural and scientific elites in Madrid, according to IRNA.

At the meeting which took place at Iran's diplomatic

mission, Zabib said that the image currently depicted of Iran is based on a distorted "American perspective".

"This narrative is heavily influenced by politics and lacks depth, making it incapable of serving the best interests of either Iran or Spain," the envoy added.

He pointed out that intellectuals play a key role in altering the perception that the United States has created of Iran by painting a dark picture of it.

"Iran, as a nation, possesses inherent cultural values and traditions. It is

striving to chart its path of progress in alignment with these values."

Zabib hailed the 400-year relationship between Iran and Spain, which is founded on "lofty principles".

"Stable international relations are nurtured through the embrace of lofty ideals and principles such as peace, justice, friendship, and mutual respect."

The enduring bond of over 400 years of amicable ties between Spain and Iran serves as a prime illustration of this approach," he concluded.

Environment activists smear paint on Monet work in Stockholm

Environment activists on Wednesday smeared red paint and glued their hands to the protective glass on a Monet painting at Stockholm's National Museum, police and the museum said. "Two women around the ages of 25 and 30 were arrested," police said, as the organisation Aterstall Vatmarker (Restore Wetlands) claimed responsibility for

the action in an interview with AFP.

The museum told AFP it was "not yet known" if the painting itself had been damaged.

The artwork was Monet's "The Artist's Garden at Giverny" from 1900.

The painting "is being examined by the museum's curators to see if there has been any damage", the mu-

seum said in a statement, while spokeswoman Hanna Tottmar said they hoped to "have more information" today.

Aterstall Vatmarker posted a video on Facebook where the two women, one a nurse and the other a nursing student, could be seen smearing the paint and then gluing their hands to the glass.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT/insiderpaper.com