

Iran's box office surpasses \$1.7m in a month



Arts & Culture Desk

According to the Cinema Organization of Iran, the total box office revenue for cinemas nationwide from June 22 to July 22 has reached \$1,772,220. Over the course of a month, the country's cinemas attracted a total audience of 2,084,459 attendees, Honar Online reported. Among the top-grossing cinemas, 40 theaters contributed more than \$1,160,000 to the overall sales. Daily sales statistics revealed that June 23 of the current year recorded the highest revenue in a single day, with earnings surpassing \$113,000.

Moreover, on June 27, during the mid-year ticket discount promotion, cinemas attracted an audience of 196,701 people.

The cinema industry's success during this period indicates positive momentum for the entertainment sector in Iran.

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Narration of Ashura portrayed through arts: *Minister*



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Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili stated that the school of Imam Hussein (PBUH) has been intertwined with arts, expressing that the narration of all aspects of Ashura has taken place through various art forms such as composing poems, chanting elegies, playing music, and creating visual works.

According to IRNA, Esmaili made the statement while attending the Ashura arts tent in Tehran. He mentioned that in recent years, with the in-

roduction of modern arts and changes in public space, there were concerns about the possible fading of some Ashura rituals. However, fortunately, over the past two years, Tehran's Municipality has taken proactive measures to preserve and revive ancient Ashura arts. As a result, many religious ceremonies and mourning rituals during the month of Muharram have been re-created.

The minister referred to the Ashura arts tent as a gathering place to demonstrate the deep-rooted mourning culture of the people for Imam Hussein (PBUH).

Esmaili emphasized that the significance of the event in Haft-e-Tir Square, as one of the bustling city centers where citizens with diverse tastes and perspectives gather, conveys the message that the culture of Ashura is a unifying and harmonizing factor for all the people of our country.



Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili, attends a Muharram mourning event in Tehran on July 24, 2023.

● BORNA

Serbian Parliament speaker presents five historical books



Arts & Culture Desk

Serbian Parliament Speaker Vladimir Orlic, along with his delegation, visited the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), exploring its vast collection of books and non-book resources. During the visit, Orlic generously donated five valuable and rare books on the cultural and social history of Serbia to the Iranian library.

According to IRNA, the donation included a significant historical manuscript belonging to Serbia's 19th-century Constitution, which served as the foundation for the country's constitutional law. Additionally, a book detailing the history of the Serbian Parliament from

its establishment to the present, a volume about the history of the Kosovo region, and a publication on Serbia's cultural heritage were also among the contributions presented to the Iranian library.

Alireza Mokhtarpour, the head of Iran's National Library and Archives, extended a warm welcome to Vladimir Orlic and his accompanying delegation, emphasizing the importance of strengthening cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Mokhtarpour highlighted the significance of implementing the memorandum of understanding between the national libraries of Serbia and Iran. As a gesture of reciprocity, Mokhtarpour presented a valuable edition of

the Divan of Hafez, the renowned Persian poet, to the Serbian guests.

Wrapping up the visit, Orlic and his delegation expressed their appreciation for the rich literary heritage preserved within Iran's National Library and Archives.

Iran and Serbia have a longstanding cultural relationship, exemplified by Serbia's selection as the special guest of the 31st Tehran International Book Fair in 2018.

In January, Tamara Vucic, the wife of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, also visited the NLAI. During her extensive tour of the library, Vucic generously presented a collection of 32 books on Serbia, which were showcased in a dedicated section.



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Correction:

In yesterday's issue, on page 8, we made two errors in the "Iran-Japan..." story. The correct name is Kenju Murakami, not Kenjo. And the correct title is 'minister', not 'chargé d'affaires' of the Japanese Embassy in Tehran.