



Iran to celebrate Saadi Day

Iranians will celebrate Saadi Day on April 20, commemorating the completion anniversary of the renowned Persian literary work 'Gulistan' or 'The Rose Garden.' Festivities include cultural gatherings and artistic performances across the country, IRNA wrote. The Iranian Artists Forum

(IAF) hosted a special session at the Shahnaz Hall on Friday, featuring speeches and musical performances inspired by the works of Saadi, a prominent figure in classical Persian poetry and literature. Notable figures such as Abdolmehdi Rezvani, Abdolmehdi Mostakin, Ali Khodai, and Sha-

hou Andalibi participated in the event. Radio Saba is also joining the celebration with programs dedicated to Saadi. The broadcast will air music centered around Saadi's poems on Saturday. This musical program, produced by Ensieh Shamsollahi, is part of the radio's daily lineup.

In addition, the fourth calligraphy exhibition opened on April 18, in honor of Saadi's cultural and artistic legacy. The event, attended by guests including Yadollah Kaboli Khansari, Hamidreza Qanei, Kourosh Kamali Sarvestani, and Mohammadreza Khalesi, marks a significant tribute to the Persian poet and scholar. Saadi, the renowned Persian poet, is considered one of the greatest literary figures in Iranian history. Born in Shiraz, Iran in the 13th century, Saadi's works have stood the test of time and continue to inspire readers around the world.

Iranian books on display at Astana fair



Iran's book and publishing industry is taking part at the 7th Astana Eurasian Book Fair 2024 with an extensive five-day program, at the Congress Center in Astana from April 17 to April 21. "If you want to compare this year's fair to last year's, it's a lot different because this year we have two artists, a lot of books, and something to show," said Ali Akbar Talebi Matin, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Kazakhstan, Astana Times wrote. At the Iran stand, attendees can learn calligraphy and the Persian alphabet and even participate in a quiz with prizes. According to Ali Akbar Talebi Matin, Iran and Kazakhstan have many similarities. For example, there are more than 3,000 words that are similar in the Kazakh and Persian languages. The event brought together approximately 70 companies from countries such as China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Spain, Uzbekistan, and Türkiye, representing publishing, book trading, scientific, educational, and

printing industries. The main goal of the fair is to popularize reading, promote book culture, and showcase the best range of book products from leading publishers. The event served as a platform for studying the experience of the global publishing and printing industry and showcasing achievements in the publishing sphere. The fair's five-day program includes presentations of literature novelties, autograph sessions with renowned writers, roundtable discussions on current publishing issues and workshops for both children and adults. Since the fair has become an annual event, many publishing houses and countries are participating not for the first time. Among other local publishing houses, Almaty Kitap annually delights its readers with literature novelties at the exhibition. Last year, they presented "Welcome, Nauryz [Nowruz]," which was published in Kazakh, English, and Russian.

"This year, we have updated the edition of Mukhtar Auezov's 'Kokserek.' Previously, there were no illustrations and pictures. Therefore, we will present this book to our readers for the first time in the school library series," said Gulnur Kudaiberger, vice president of Almaty Kitap in Astana. The Astana Eurasian Book Fair 2024 offers a chance to learn new languages and cultures for those interested. At the stand of Spain, people can participate in Spanish language lectures and quizzes and buy textbooks. "Spain has been participating in the Eurasian Book Fair for a couple of years now. What the Spanish embassy wants to communicate here is the importance of learning new languages. Kazakhstan and Spain have not been historically related. That is why it's important to promote understanding between the cultures in this globalized area," said Gadea Albaladejo, political attaché from the Spanish Embassy in Astana.

Colombian festival to pay tribute to Iran's Farhadi



Arts & Culture Desk

The 63rd edition of the Cartagena International Film Festival in Colombia will feature a special tribute to Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi. The festival, scheduled from April 16 to 21 in Cartagena, Colombia, will showcase two of Farhadi's acclaimed films, 'About Elly' and 'A Separation,' as part of the tribute. Farhadi will be present at the event as a special guest, ISNA wrote. The Colombian festival will screen a total of 170 films, including 26 world premieres. The festival has previously hosted notable figures from the entertainment industry, such as Michael Douglas, Darren Aronofsky, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Susan Sarandon, Tilda Swinton, and

Gaspar Noé, who have also been honored with the festival's "Masters" award. Recently, the 52nd Belgrade International Film Festival has given its Belgrade Victor Award for Outstanding Contribution to Film Art to Farhadi. His debut as a director was with 'Dancing in the Dust' (2002). He achieved international recognition with 'A Separation' (2011), winning numerous awards, including an Academy Award. He filmed 'The Past' (2013) in France, winning awards such as Best Actress at Cannes for Bérénice Bejo. He returned to Iran to direct 'The Salesman' (2016). Farhadi is known for his ability to explore complex themes and his mastery of silence and pauses in cinematic narrative.

Iranian Film Week to be held in Sarajevo

Arts & Culture Desk

A week-long showcase of Iranian films, including animations for children and youths, photography exhibitions, and handicrafts, is set to kick off in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from April 23 to 26. The cultural event will feature screenings of Iranian films such as 'Sara and Ayda,' 'Henas,' 'Romanticism

of Emad & Tooba,' and 'The Painting Pool,' ILNA wrote. According to the cultural relationship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sarajevo, this event is organized in collaboration with the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), the Cultural Center Istočno Novo Sarajevo, the Soureh Cinema Organization, Sky Frame Studio, Farabi Cinema Foundation, and Tehran Picture Agency.

Iran's women unemployment rate drops by 2%: Official

Social Desk

Iran saw 2% decrease in the country's women unemployment rate, thanks to a growing trend in home-based businesses in the last Persian year ending March 19, Ensieh Khazali, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, announced. During a visit to Semnan Province and while attending an exhibition showcasing the achievements of women in the historic Tadayyon House of Semnan, Khazali highlighted the government's efforts in

promoting home-based employment for women, ISNA wrote. She stated that the significant increase in cottage industries in the past year has been effective in reducing the unemployment rate. Khazali further noted that 80% of the facilities provided last year were allocated to home businesses. Additionally, agreements have been made with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare to allocate 10% of facilities granted to provinces to female breadwinners.

Poignant shot from Gaza wins World Press Photo of the Year 2024

Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem won this year's prestigious World Press Photo of the Year award with a depiction of loss in Gaza. The heartrending photo depicts a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her young niece, Euro News reported. The photograph, taken on 17 October 2023 at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, shows 36-year-old Inas Abu Maamar holding five-year-old Saly, who was killed along with her mother and sister when an Israeli missile struck their home. Salem, 39, who is Palestinian, described this photo filed on 2 November last year, as a "powerful and sad moment that sums up the broader sense of what was happening in the Gaza Strip." "I felt the picture sums up the broader sense of what was

happening in the Gaza Strip," Salem said when the image was first published in November. "People were confused, running from one place to another, anxious to know the fate of their loved ones, and this woman caught my eye as she was holding the body of the little girl and refused to let go." The jury said Salem's 2024 winning image was "composed with care and respect, offering at once a metaphorical and literal glimpse into unimaginable loss." This is not the first time Salem has been recognized for his work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; he received a World Press Photo award more than a decade ago for another depiction of the human toll of conflict in the Gaza strip.

