

# Iran's 'Kalila and Dimna' in spotlight at Abu Dhabi Int'l Book Fair



various creative fields and Mahfouz's exceptional literary legacy, which has enriched Arab literature and introduced Arab culture to the world.

figures like French poet Jean de La Fontaine and Arab poet Ahmed Shawqi. Furthermore, the fair celebrates the selection of Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian novelist, as the central figure for this year's event. Mahfouz, the first Arab Nobel laureate in Literature (1988), is renowned for his exceptional literary contributions spanning over 70 years, including over 50 novels, five plays, 350 short stories, and numerous screenplays. The ADIBF continues to serve as a platform for cultural exchange, intellectual discourse, and literary exploration, reaffirming its commitment to promoting global cultural heritage and fostering dialogue among diverse communities.

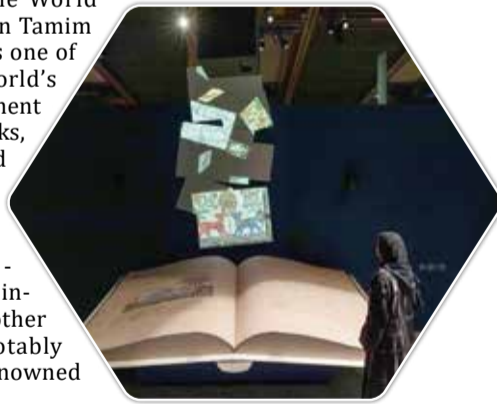


## Arts & Culture Desk

The 33rd edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) showcases a special focus on the renowned literary work 'Kalila and Dimna' as one of the world's most influential literary pieces. 'Kalila and Dimna,' translated by Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa, takes center stage at this year's event, alongside an engaging art exhibition titled 'From Kalila and Dimna to La Fontaine: Travelling through Fables,' hosted by the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The book fair began on April

29, and will continue until May 5 at the Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center, ISNA wrote. The Cultural Programme of this year introduces innovative sections, including the "Book of the World" section highlighting prominent works that have shaped human civilization over the years and influenced cultures uniquely. Ali bin Tamim, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), emphasized the significance of honoring influential cultural figures. He highlighted Egypt's pioneering role in

Regarding the selection of 'Kalila and Dimna' for the newly launched "Book of the World" program, bin Tamim praised it as one of the Arab world's most prominent literary works, recognized for its representation of cultural amalgamation and its influence on other cultures, notably inspiring renowned



## Iranian traditional tile making receives global recognition

### Arts & Culture Desk

Isfahan's traditional skill of "Seven-color Tile Making" was registered globally and earned an international geographical indication mark, announced by the Director General of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization of Isfahan Province. Amir Karamzadeh stated that after enamel work and qalamkari (Persian hand-painted fabric), Isfahan's seven-color tile making has become the third craft of the province to receive an international geographical indication mark, IRNA wrote. He mentioned ongoing efforts to register more crafts from Isfahan internationally, highlighting that once these crafts receive international geographical indication marks, they will be recognized globally under the name of the region. Comprehensive information regarding the art of seven-color tile making, including its history, techniques, and the number of active workshops in the past year, was gathered, leading to the successful acquisition of the international geographical indication mark in April of this year. Previ-

ously, Isfahan's enamel work and qalamkari were internationally registered in May of last year, receiving international geographical indication marks. While many workshops across Isfahan are involved in producing seven-color tiles, the neighborhood of Dehno in the city boasts over 100 workshops, serving as a hub for this type of tile production. The Safavid era witnessed a peak in the use of seven-color tiles, although this art form dates back even further to the Timurid period. Iconic structures in Isfahan, such as the Imam Mosque and Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Naqsh-e Jahan Square, showcase remarkable decorations made of seven-color tiles. Isfahan became the first Iranian city to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of handicrafts and traditional arts in 2015. Additionally, it was granted the title of "World Craft City" by the World Crafts Council. Out of the 602 identified crafts worldwide, 299 belong to Iran, with Isfahan alone accounting for 200 of these crafts, highlighting the province's historical significance and artistic heritage.



**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
 Cartoonist



## Iran, Russia to enhance cultural collaboration

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Iran and Russia are expanding their cultural and artistic cooperation, as discussed in a meeting between Russian cultural attaché and the CEO of Roudaki Foundation. During the meeting, Mohammad Allahyari, the CEO of the

Roudaki Foundation, highlighted the artistic capacities of both countries and emphasized the potential of the Roudaki Foundation as a venue for cultural exchanges between Iran and Russia. He mentioned the successful international programs jointly held with Russia, such

as the participation of symphony orchestras in the 2018 World Cup and the performance of the Iranian National Orchestra during Iran's Cultural Week in Russia. Allahyari expressed the importance of establishing connections and introducing cultural foundations that align with the Roudaki Foundation's activities, envisioning significant steps in cultural diplomacy and increased cultural interactions. Lilia Vladimirovna Votnova, the cultural attaché of Russia, welcomed the meeting and praised the Roudaki Foundation's capacities. She expressed readiness to ex-

pand cooperation in various artistic fields, including the possibility of joint programs. Votnova mentioned the exploration and implementation of agreements to enhance collaboration, aiming for mutual cultural exchanges. Proposed collaborative efforts include establishing connections with Russian artistic foundations, mutual participation in prestigious festivals, organizing performances for symphony orchestras, holding various art exhibitions, inviting guest conductors for the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, and conducting joint cultural weeks.

