

## Minister: Free healthcare for children under 7, investment in future



### Social Desk

Iranian Health Minister, Bahram Einollahi, announced a significant investment in the nation's future health by making medical services free for children up to the age of seven in state-run healthcare centers. Speaking during a weekly government meeting, Einollahi emphasized the importance of addressing health needs at various stages of life, highlighting that many human illnesses originate during the first seven years of life. He stressed that preventive measures taken during childhood could lessen the burden of diseases in adulthood. "The developmental growth of the human body occurs during the first decade of life. Therefore, any incident, especially within the first seven years of a child's life, can have lasting

effects," Einollahi said. The decision to provide free medical services for children up to the age of seven in government medical centers was approved by the Parliament. Einollahi described the initiative as a point of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite facing challenges and sanctions, the country has committed to offering free healthcare to children up to seven years old in state facilities. Einollahi framed the initiative as an investment in the country's future, acknowledging that while its impacts may not be immediately visible, its benefits will become apparent in 10 to 20 years, ultimately ensuring the nation's health security. Responding to concerns about drug shortages for thalassemia patients, Einollahi outlined plans to strength-

en domestic pharmaceutical companies to meet the country's medication needs. He noted an increase in the production of thalassemia drugs domestically but acknowledged a preference for foreign medications, leaving the decision to prescribe them to physicians. Highlighting the significance of producing bandages for Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) patients, Einollahi underscored government support for startups, noting an increase in the number of knowledge-based companies from 700 to 1,400 as of August 2021. He cited the development of these companies, particularly in producing specialized bandages, as a significant achievement, albeit still in the research phase, with hopes for commercialization in the future.



## Iran fosters cultural diversity: Minister

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister emphasized Iran's role in accepting cultural diversity during the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku. In his speech at the forum, the minister highlighted Iran's historical commitment to acknowledging cultural, ethnic, and religious differences, IRNA wrote. "Religious and ethnic minorities in Iran enjoy equal rights and freedoms alongside all citizens," he said. The minister stressed the importance of sincere dialogue and tolerance among societies, advocating for peaceful coexistence and convergence among religions and cultures globally. He outlined Iran's priorities, including developing cultural relations,

particularly with neighboring countries, establishing balanced connections across Asia, Africa, and other regions, and enhancing collaboration through international organizations. He underscored the significant impact of international organizations in promoting peace and resolving conflicts. Addressing current global issues, the minister criticized what he described as hypocritical behaviors by Western institutions, particularly regarding the situation in Palestine. He also criticized what he saw as the fake nature of Western concepts like freedom of expression, suggesting that Western universities demonstrate insincerity by limiting free speech on issues such as human rights. Furthermore, the minister emphasized Iran's long-standing tradition

of respecting cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, asserting that Islamic teachings emphasize respect for human dignity and individual and social rights, which should guide interactions with cultural diversity. He called for appropriate policies, programs, and multilateral intercultural projects to foster sustainable cultural development and promote acceptance of cultural and religious differences. He stressed the need for extensive research, increased education, and universal attention to facilitate intercultural dialogue and peace-making efforts. Baku will host various cultural figures, political leaders, and dignitaries from around the world from May 1 to 3 for the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.

## Iranian animations to compete in Russian festival

The Voronezh International Animation Festival in Russia has announced its lineup, including 10 Iranian works. According to reports, the Iranian entries include 'Feather' directed by Sadeq Javadi, 'Figured Out What to Do' by Reyhaneh Kavosh, 'Presentation' by Fariba Abdolkhani, 'Above the Light' by Somayeh Nili,

'Melody' directed by Ahmad Arabani, 'A Passenger from Ganora' by Seyyed Ahmad Alamdar, 'Inverted' by Fahimeh Qaedi, 'Swollen' directed by Zahra Khorshidi, 'Retirement' by Sara Hanif, and 'The Journey' directed by Nahid Elhami. The festival in Russia is scheduled to take place from May 30 to April 2 of this year.



## Iranian composer Hosseinpour wins at LA Sun Film Festival



Ramin Hosseinpour, the writer, director, and composer of the video art 'Sculpture,' was honored with the Best Composer Award at the 26th edition of the LA Sun Film Festival in April 2024. The festival aims to provide an international platform for independent filmmakers and support their work, ISNA wrote. The video is listed among the top 50 selected documentaries on IMDb in 2023-2024, showcasing its international acclaim. Media outlets globally have recognized Hosseinpour as a

multi-talented artist with numerous talents. 'Sculpture,' has also won awards for Best Animated Animation at a festival in Russia, Best Short Documentary and Experimental Film at a festival in New Jersey, Best Documentary Screenplay at a festival in Tottenham, and the Best Directorial Award in London. Furthermore, it was recognized as the Best Mixed Media Video at the Berlin Art Festival. 'Sculpture' was produced in 2021 with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's

Music Office. Hosseinpour was responsible for the composition, arrangement, vocals, and electric guitar performance. Hosseinpour, educated in architecture, music, and cinema, has left his mark as a designer, educator, writer, poet, composer, arranger, and performer in the fields of architecture and music. His contributions to cinema, as a writer, director, producer, and conceptual artist, have been acknowledged in the international Euro Art House Cinema Day magazine in Germany.