



# Poetic beauty of Ferdowsi's work to be introduced globally: *ECO CI chief*

## Arts & Culture Desk

During a media event honoring Ferdowsi on May 5, Mahmoud Shaloui, head of the Society for the National Heritage of Iran, and Saad Khan, the Pakistani president of ECO Culture Institute, highlighted the poetic beauty of Ferdowsi's work. Shaloui expressed that if the

Nobel Prize in Literature had existed during Ferdowsi's time, he would have deserved the honor, IRNA wrote. The event, attended by cultural heritage leaders, emphasized the importance of promoting Ferdowsi globally. Efforts to introduce Ferdowsi to new generations include creating TV series,

animations, and films. Collaborations with Farabi Foundation and the Cinematic Organization of Iran were also discussed. The focus on the Persian language has increased significantly, with plans to translate 'Shahnameh' (The Book of Kings) into various languages. In addition, a young translators' association will

be established to cater to the widespread youth interest in this field. Saad Khan stressed that ECO CI's cultural events aim to celebrate iconic figures like Ferdowsi and Rumi on a global platform. He emphasized that these figures transcend borders and belong to all. Ferdowsi's poetry was praised for its beauty, with

hopes for Urdu translations in the future, he said, adding that efforts to learn Persian have begun to facilitate this process. Collaboration between ECO CI and heritage associations has been ongoing since last year, with events like the tribute to Saadi being significant milestones, he concluded.

## Iranian literary researcher Oloumi dies at 63

Mohammad Ali Oloumi, an Iranian author, researcher, mythologist, and satirist, who researched 'Shahnameh' – a mythical story written by Ferdowsi about the Persian Empire – died at 63. Oloumi died at his house in Bam in southeastern Iranian province of Kerman due to illness on Sunday evening, IRNA wrote.



Graduated from Faculty of Law and Political Science at University of Tehran, Oloumi started journalism from Iran's Persian-language newspaper Ettela'at in 1980s and began his work in culture and literature more seriously from 1990s. He is said to have taught himself the principles of writing. For years, he was room-

mate of Iraj Bastami – a prominent Iranian singer who was killed in the 2003 Bam earthquake – in Tehran. Oloumi was awarded the prizes for the best book or best satirical book several times. 'Paribad' and 'Azarestan' are among Oloumi's books. He will be laid to rest in the Artists' Section of Bam Cemetery today (Tuesday).



## University of Tehran to open branches in Iraq

The University of Tehran is set to extend its reach into Iraq with a branch in Najaf, according to President Mohammad Moqimi. The branch aims to accept students in the near future, with plans for further expansion into other Iraqi cities. Moqimi emphasized the prioritization of scientific cooperation with neighboring countries, particularly Iraq, by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He highlighted the university's strategic approach to establishing branches abroad, focusing on three main regions: The Middle East and Africa, the Eur-

asian region, and the Indian subcontinent. In addition to the initiative in Iraq, Moqimi announced plans for a branch in South Africa, coinciding with an upcoming visit by President Ebrahim Raisi. He also said ongoing efforts to establish branches in Georgia and Dubai, with another branch slated for launch in New Delhi. Regarding the Iraq venture, Moqimi underscored the distinct approach, aiming to tailor programs to meet the needs of the Iraqi government and people. University of Tehran's deputy president for international

affairs Elham Aminzadeh, reported that currently, over 600 Iraqi students are enrolled at the University of Tehran, with the majority pursuing doctoral degrees. The Deputy Minister of Science in Iraq expressed support for the establishment of the University of Tehran branch in Najaf, indicating swift action in the evaluation process to facilitate its realization. The move reflects a broader strategy of academic expansion and collaboration, fostering ties between Iran and its neighbors while providing educational opportunities across borders.

## Iran increases penalties for poaching fourfold

### Social Desk

The amount of penalties for poachers increased to approximately four times the previous figure, the deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Iranian Department of Environment announced. Hassan Akbari added that various issues were discussed at the meeting, including determining the compensation for the loss of wild animals, which was agreed to be increased fourfold. The

adjustment had not been made since 2019, so efforts were made to ensure that the numbers were adjusted for inflation and reflective of market rates and societal conditions to act as a deterrent, IRNA wrote. While some suggested a tenfold increase in penalties for violations and the loss of species, the decision was made to stick with the fourfold increase after detailed discussions in various meetings leading up to the High Council meeting.

The Iranian President emphasized the need for further review to determine the effectiveness of the increase as a deterrent. The official stressed that the amount of compensation for different species is determined based on their conservation status. Endangered species like cheetahs, leopards, yellow deer, bustards, Houbara bustards, and various falcons had the highest compensation rates. Non-native species entering the country, such as orna-

mental birds and fish, were also categorized based on their population status and other relevant factors. He continued by explaining that a scientific process is followed to assess the impact on species, which may result in minor changes in their classification in the table and subsequently affect the penalty amounts. However, the most crucial aspect is that all species experienced an increase in their compensation for damages.



## Iran's 'Macbeth Zar' to be staged in Germany

Iranian theatrical production 'Macbeth Zar,' will be staged at the 34<sup>th</sup> German Shakespeare Festival on May 9. Ebrahim Poshtkoohi, the playwright and director, has crafted an exquisite adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth,' blending it with Iran's southern Zar ritual, ISNA wrote.

The 17-day festival will host 24 adaptations and plays on Shakespeare's works and Poshtkoohi's work will be the only work from Asia. The festival will annually host 15,000 audiences. The play's concept is rooted in Zar, a religious rite that involves an individual, usually female, being possessed by a spirit. Zar is the

term used to refer to a type of spirit, the malady they inflict when they descend upon a person, and the ceremony required to soothe the spirits and ease the patient's symptoms. The ceremony includes burning incense, playing music, and performing movement to appease the Zar, which will help relieve the afflicted person.