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Minister: Tehran book fair, hub of unity, cultural tourism

35th TIBF opens doors to visitors

Arts & Culture Desk

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance emphasized the beginning of the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), stating it as a venue for unity and cultural tourism with diverse programs in place. Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili in a meeting on Wednesday invited everyone to participate in the fair, which began on May 8 at Tehran's Mosalla, IRNA wrote. The minister stated, "This year's fair is being held in

a space of 150,000 square meters for the first time, with over 25 countries and thousands of publishers in attendance." He further noted, "Cultural equity is significant. Every Iranian can purchase discounted books through the designated system and receive them free at home. Last year, over two million people availed themselves of this service, and we anticipate a similar response this year." The fair, themed "Read and Create," will run from May 8 to 18 virtually and in-person.

With over 2,619 publishers participating, all publishers this year are housed under one roof with no prefabricated structures. In addition, significant increases in allocated space have been made for university, educational, and children's publishers. Positive changes this year include increased credit for book purchases and subsidies allocated to students, seminarians, and university professors. The city of Semnan, known as the capital of Iranian books, is actively participating in this year's fair, in-

cluding various villages and tribes fond of books. Detailed programs have been arranged for book-loving communities in rural areas. For the first time, dedicated vehicles for the disabled are stationed at the Shahid Beheshti entrance, providing transport to different sections of the fair. The number of entry gates has also significantly increased, facilitating easier access for attendees compared to previous years. Various cultural programs are lined up for this edition of the book fair, including special programs related to

the people of Gaza, as well as programs tailored for women and girls. On May 13, 14, and 15, the fair will host an event aimed at introducing Iranian publishers to foreign publishers. Approximately 20 publishers and literary agents will attend, visiting printing centers and bookstores during their stay. This year, around 60 foreign publishers are present, showcasing about 50,000 foreign titles, compared to 45,000 titles last year. Yemen is the special guest of honor at this year's book fair.

Iran's future in hands of girls: Raisi



president.ir

Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi hailed the invaluable contributions of Iranian girls to the nation's development, stressing their important role in shaping the country's future.

He made the statement during a ceremony commemorating Girls' Day on May 8, president.ir wrote. The president said, "We do not accept isolating women. Our view of women is the same as Islam's, which believes that girls can be valuable wives and mothers and can also play a role in society." Addressing the gathering, Raisi highlighted the significance of recognizing the multifaceted roles girls play in society, highlighting their capacity as both nurturers and pioneers.

Rejecting any notion of marginalizing women, Raisi reiterated the Islamic perspective, which regards girls as capable of assuming diverse roles in society. "We refuse to confine women to a secondary status," he emphasized, advocating for their active participation across all fields.

Pointing to the remarkable achievements of Iranian women in various fields, including education, sports, and cultural endeavors, Raisi commended their notable contributions to the nation's progress. "We take pride in our female professors, teachers, managers, and innovators," he declared, citing their role in advancing the country.

Celebrating the accomplishments of Iranian girls in sports, Raisi highlighted their recent successes in international competitions.

"Yesterday [May 7], I stood among medalists, witnessing girls proudly raising the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he remarked. Reflecting on the significance of Girls' Day, Raisi drew parallels with prominent figures in Islamic history.

"Every day, week, month, and year, we must acknowledge the worth of our daughters," he asserted, urging for continued respect towards girls as precious entities.

"The advancement of our country lies in the hands of our young people, especially our girls, who can make the future of our nation," he concluded.

Raisi said, "I congratulate all of you and all the girls of Iran on Girl's Day, and I came here to say that a girl means affection, feeling, divine mercy, a source of pride and an invaluable and lovable existence, and I say that I love all the girls of dear Iran".

Iranian, Dutch visual artists collaborate in 'Spring Symphony'

Iranian and Dutch artists will hold a joint group exhibition titled 'Spring Symphony' featuring 70 Iranian artists in various visual arts and handicrafts. "The event will be showcased online on Saturday, May 11, ISNA wrote. Iranian painter Aynaz Zarei is the event's curator. Art enthusiasts interested in visual arts can view the 91 artworks featured in 'Spring Symphony' until May 17 on the Instagram page, as well as on the Telegram channel at and the Bloom Art Society's Instagram page.



Hungarian TV networks keen on broadcasting Iranian concerts

Hungary will welcome the broadcast of Iranian music concerts on official Hungarian TV networks, said the economic and cultural attaché of the Hungarian Embassy.

Mohammad Allahyari, CEO of the Rudaki Foundation, along with his colleagues, met with Róbert Németh, the economic and cultural attaché of the Hungarian Embassy in Iran, to discuss expanding bilateral cultural and artistic activities.

Allahyari introduced the Rudaki Foundation and explained its diverse cultural and artistic programs, as well as the technical facilities of its venues, mentioning its capacity to host events such as the Fajr festivals and international artists. He highlighted the collaboration between the Tehran Symphony Orchestra and Iran's National Or-



chestra under the Roudaki Foundation, stating that renowned international conductors have worked with these orchestras, performing internationally. Allahyari added: "With the available facilities, we can introduce the people of Hungary to the culture and civilization of Iran. Your presence and the organization of joint programs will help convey Iran's message of peace and friendship to Hungary and other coun-

tries." Németh expressed delight at visiting the Rudaki Foundation and recalled pleasant memories of artists performing at the Vahdat Hall. He said, "We welcome bilateral cooperation, especially in the arts and music sections, as these areas are easier to collaborate in compared to others." He added, "We welcome the broadcast of Iranian music concerts on official Hungarian TV networks. Television

coverage will have a broad audience reach for us, allowing us to utilize it as a gateway to initiate intercultural dialogues through music and engage with the Hungarian people." Collaboration between the Rudaki orchestras and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, as well as the proposal to sign a joint Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, were also discussed during the meeting.