

Raisi: TIBF focuses on 'book access for everyone'

President urges authors to portray confrontation of dignity, viciousness in Gaza

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi emphasized the importance of portraying the struggle for dignity amid adversity in Gaza during the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), urging authors and artists to depict the contrasting narratives of dignity and viciousness in the Palestinian territory. Addressing attendees at the 35th TIBF on Saturday, Raisi stressed the significance of cultural justice and broader access to literature, particularly emphasizing the efforts to provide access to books for those unable to attend the fair in person, president.ir reported.

He highlighted the government's commitment to advancing cultural policies, including the distribution of books across various provinces. "The Tehran International Book Fair serves as a dynamic platform for promoting dialogue among authors, publishers, and readers, facilitating the exchange of ideas," Raisi remarked during his visit to several exhibition booths. The president also outlined initiatives to strengthen book publishing and distribution, citing significant progress in domestic paper supply capacity, which now meets a substantial portion of the country's demand.

Raisi's presence at the joint pavilion of Palestinian students prompted a call for heightened attention to transnational issues, particularly Palestine and Gaza. He urged writers and artists to utilize cultural and artistic mediums, including literature and film, to document and portray the realities of the conflict, condemning the actions of the Zionist regime and its supporters. "Gaza represents both the resilience of its people in the face of adversity and the atrocities committed by the occupying forces," Raisi stated. "It is imperative to capture and preserve these contrasting narratives for future generations."



● president.ir

Iran's youngest author inspires with over 1,200 books read in a year



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's youngest author, Maneli Mahmoudan, shares her experiences into her high-volume reading habits, attributing them to her passion for writing. At just

ten years old and in the fourth grade, Maneli has already authored her second book, a comic strip publication. Maneli's literary life is remarkable; despite her tender age, she has penned multiple titles

and garnered various national and international accolades, including awards for storytelling and illustration in China and Japan, Persian-language Iran Newspaper reported. Her dedication to reading is evident, having devoured over 1,210 books in the past year alone, "Perhaps the reason I have become an author is the high volume of reading and my interest in book." She said. Her latest book, a bilingual comic strip, was initially intended for a comic festival but gained traction after winning first place in a literary festival. A comic strip is a form of sequential art that tells a story, typically produced by two people, one writing and the other illus-

trating. However, Maneli does both tasks alone. Maneli's mother proudly mentions that her academic performance hasn't suffered due to her extracurricular reading; in fact, she emphasizes the benefits of reading beyond textbooks. Maneli's teacher, Ms. Vafaei, encouraged her writing aspirations, leading her to pursue publication opportunities. On her publishing experiences, Maneli expresses gratitude for the support she received from her teacher and the Pishouk Publishing House. Maneli's story highlights the importance of nurturing a love for reading at a young age, challenging misconceptions about its impact on academic performance.

Archeologists discover Iron Age burial site during road construction



Arts & Culture Desk

A historical burial site dating back to the Iron Age was discovered during road construction operation in Ardebil province. The excavation work was halted and emergency archaeological excavations began after the discovery of a human burial site in the Ultan Qalasi area along the Parsabad-Sarband

highway, ILNA wrote. The project aims to explore ancient burial sites at risk of destruction due to construction projects. Mehdi Jahed, the head of the Ultan Qalasi Cemetery Archaeology Team, stated that one Iron Age burial site was uncovered, containing pottery vessels, a bone needle, and small agate, shell, glass paste, and obsidian beads. Further

exploration is ongoing to uncover more ancient remains in the area. The archaeological team has identified only one burial site from the Iron Age so far, suggesting it may have belonged to nomadic communities or travelers passing through the area. The importance of preserving such ancient heritage remains a priority as excavation continues.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
 Cartoonist



Iran's Rahbari to stage 'A Night with Tchaikovsky' in Russia

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian artist Ali Rahbari will stage a special concert 'A Night with Tchaikovsky' in Russia's St. Petersburg on May 24. Rahbari's previous concerts in St. Petersburg were well-received by Russian audiences. He has included works by famous Russian composers like Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, and Korsakov in his repertoire. Tchaikovsky, a world-renowned composer, spent his childhood and youth in St. Petersburg, where he also



studied and performed his works before passing away, IRNA wrote. Tchaikovsky's compositions are known for their melodic appeal, influential harmonies, and vibrant orchestrations that deeply

evoke emotions. Pieces such as 'Serenade for Strings,' 'Slavonic March, Symphony No. 6 (Pathetique),' and 'Polonaise' will be performed at the concert. The 'Serenade for Strings' is a tranquil and melancholic

piece that Rahbari conducted in Tehran at the age of 24. The 'Slavonic March' is meticulously organized and structured for a high-level performance. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, also known as the Pathetique, is one of his most famous works, characterized by intense emotions and a deep personal connection. The symphony is renowned for stirring a wide range of emotions in listeners due to its intensely emotional and personal nature. The 'Polonaise' is a Polish dance in a fixed 4/3-time signature that was popular in 18th-century Europe. Frederic Chopin evolved the Polonaise into a significant piano form.