

Iraq welcomes launching Iranian university branches

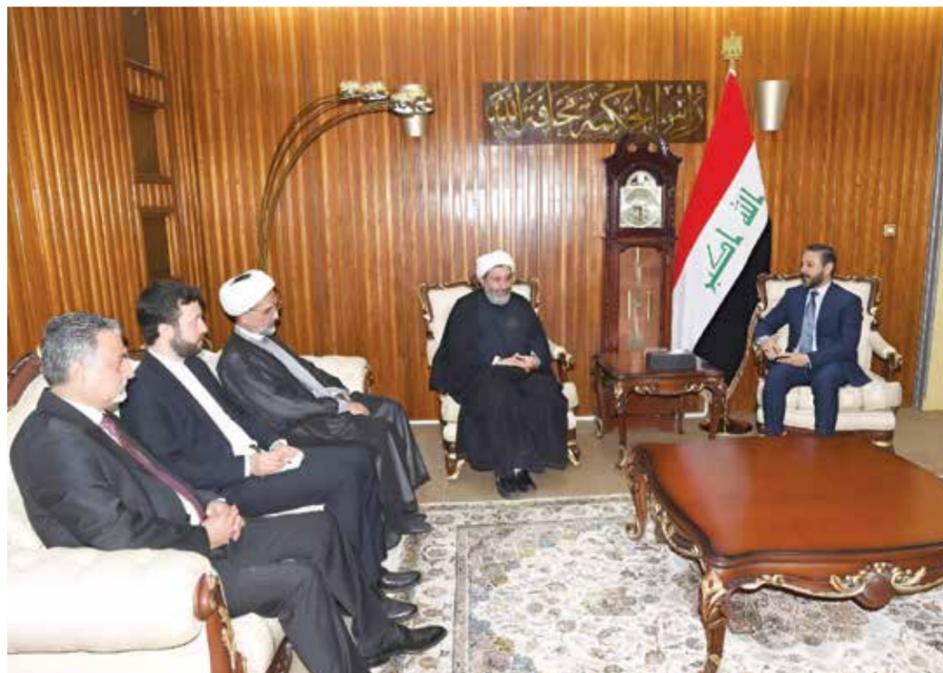
Arts & Culture Desk

The Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naim Al-Aboudi, expressed his country's willingness to host branches of Iranian universities and to have Iranian students enroll in Iraqi universities. In a meeting with Head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Hojjatoleslam Mehdi Imanipour, Al-Aboudi offered condolences on the passing of Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi, calling it a significant loss for the Iranian nation. Al-Aboudi acknowledged the positive collaboration with the Islamic Republic's cultural center in Baghdad to resolve challenges in the scientific and academic fields. He mentioned that Iraq was prepared to host a joint Iraq-Iran Science Week before the tragic incident that caused a delay.

The Iraqi minister welcomed the establishment of Iranian university branches in Iraq, citing the successful collaboration between the Al-Sabtain University for Medical Sciences and Tehran University of Medical Sciences as an example. Al-Aboudi further highlighted Iraq's desire to cooperate with Iran in fields such as artificial intelligence, nanoscience, and other emerging disciplines. He also supported the idea of sisterhood relationships between universities in the two countries. The head of ICRO commended the constructive collaboration between the two countries in the scientific and academic fields, particularly during Al-Aboudi's tenure. He emphasized the need to enhance cooperation daily and drew attention to the importance of facilitating Iraqi students' access to art education in Iran's fine arts faculties.

Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Naim Al-Aboudi (R) and Head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Mehdi Imanipour meet in Baghdad, Iraq on June 6, 2024.
● ICRO

Imanipour also mentioned that a few outstanding issues regarding university relations between the two countries are being addressed through necessary follow-ups. He proposed facilitating the establishment of a civilization studies program at reputable Iraqi universities, emphasizing the need to plan for the future of the world amid its historical turning point. Imanipour underscored the importance of dialogue among scientific and academic elites to build a new Islamic civilization. He suggested that joint scientific research should be facilitated to create a shared future.



Iranian animation 'Feather' awarded at Russian festival

Iranian animation 'Feather', directed by Iranian director Sadeq Javadi, was awarded at the Russian Voronezh International Animation Film Festival. Feather narrates the story of the life of a father and son who bet on a rooster. The Voronezh International Animation Festival is a review of modern professional domestic and world animation films for

children, teenagers and families. A feature of the festival is its workshop format, which will include not only screenings and discussions of animated films, but also master classes, round tables and creative meetings for a wide audience from leading specialists of the Voronezh Animation Studio and recognized professionals of the international animation industry.

The 'Feather' has been showcased at various international film festivals including the Portland Festival of Cinema, Animation & Technology in the United States, Animadeba in Spain, ANIMANIMA in Serbia, Chania Film Festival in Greece, Taichung International Animation Festival in Taiwan, and Catalina Film Festival in the United States.

World Food Safety Day

Iran takes strict measures to ensure food safety

Social Desk

The Iranian Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is taking strong action to ensure food safety and protect consumers' health.

Abdolazim Behfar, the head of the FDA's Food and Drinks Products Department, outlined recent efforts to enforce regulations and crack down on violations on the occasion of World Food Safety Day (June 7).

Food safety is a crucial element of public health and global food security. Unsafe food containing bacteria, viruses, parasites, or harmful chemicals can cause more than 250 diseases.

According to a report from the World Health Organization, it is estimated that annually 600 million people fall ill after consuming contaminated food, leading to the death of 420,000 of them.

Behfar stated that the FDA is closely monitoring food and drinks production units and imported shipments, including raw materials and final products. In the last Iranian year, the FDA addressed 4,884 complaints regarding food products. As a result of their inspections,



approximately 5,100 cases of violations were referred to the judicial authorities.

The FDA works closely with universities of medical sciences across Iran, which serve as the executive arms of the FDA. These universities have dedicated departments that inspect and supervise the distribution centers of health-oriented products, Behfar added.

When unauthorized production or importation is detected, the products are confiscated, and the owners are referred to the judicial authorities. Cases are pursued until a resolution is reached.

Behfar also addressed the increasing number of small workshops in the country, stating

that traditional workshops have a supervision ID and submit their products to FDA-approved laboratories for testing. As they operate within legal boundaries, they are monitored by the FDA and are considered trustworthy by consumers.

The FDA encourages food production units to prioritize the production of healthier food items that exceed standard criteria. This focus on consumer safety is reflected in the stringent measures taken by governments worldwide to ensure food hygiene as a critical health indicator, the health official added.

The scope of food hygiene has expanded significantly. While it was previously defined as "from farm to fork," recent scientific advancements in food hygiene have extended this scope from the genetic level and the production of plant and animal raw materials to the cellular level in consumers, covering a much broader range.

He concluded that in addition to production-level supervision, products are also monitored at the distribution level. Regular and surprise inspections are conducted at food production units nationwide.

Iranian violinist Minoo Oftadeh dies at 65



Minoo Oftadeh, a renowned Iranian violinist, and *kamancheh* (an Iranian spiked fiddle) player, died on June 6 after a prolonged illness. She was 65. Born in 1958, Oftadeh began her musical journey at the age of 10 when she enrolled in the National Music School, where she studied under the tutelage of renowned

violinist George Martirosian. During her high school years, she expanded her musical repertoire by learning to play the piano and the *tombak* (goblet drum), ISNA wrote. Oftadeh continued her musical education at the University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts. At just 16 years old, she joined the

Culture and Arts Orchestra, the Women's Orchestra, and the *tombak* group under the guidance of master musician Mohammad Esmaeili. She performed extensively across Iran and began teaching violin and *kamancheh* at the Center for the Preservation and Propagation of Music.

Oftadeh remained active in the music scene, performing with various groups and contributing to audio productions. She held concerts both within Iran and internationally. In recent years, she dedicated much of her time to teaching at Tehran universities, the Rudaki Foundation, and independent classes.