

Husseini Infants Ceremonies held in 46 countries

Arts & Culture Desk

Forty-six countries, including Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, India, and Turkey, hosted the Husseini Infants Ceremony, a global event commemorating the martyrdom of Ali Asghar (PBUH), the six-month-old son of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims. The event, held on the first Friday of the Islamic month of Muharram, brought together mothers from diverse backgrounds to mourn the tragic loss of the youngest martyr of the Battle of Karbala, Mehr News Agency reported. In Iran alone, the ceremony took place in over 8,500 congregations, with an additional 400 sessions in Pakistan. Davoud Manafipour, the secretary of the World Assembly of Ali Asghar (PBUH), emphasized the significance of the event, stating that it provides an opportunity to answer the questions of the current generation about the tradition of mourning. He highlighted that the ceremony

transcends geographical boundaries and is not limited to Shia Muslims, as even Christian mothers participate. Manafipour emphasized that Imam Hussein (PBUH) belongs not just to the Shia community but to all, as his message of reform and justice is universal. The Husseini Infants Ceremony, first held in Tehran in 2003, has grown exponentially, with this year's event expected to reach over 15,000 sessions in the next 25 years. The largest gathering in Iran took place in the province of Fars, with 800 sessions, while Tehran hosted over 300 congregations. The Battle of Karbala, which took place in present-day Iraq in the year 680 AD, holds great significance for Muslims worldwide. It was during this battle that Imam Hussein (PBUH), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his small band of followers were martyred by the army of the Umayyad caliph Yazid, an event that has come to symbolize the triumph of justice and the power of sacrifice.



An Iranian infant, in her mother's arms, participates in the Husseini Infants Ceremony, held in Tehran on the first Friday of the Islamic month of Muharram, which falls on July 12, 2024.
 ● IRNA

Iran seeking more cultural cooperation with Russia



Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani (3rd R) discuss cultural cooperation with Russian officials during a meeting held at Iranian Language and Cultural Centre at Moscow State Linguistic University.
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Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani expressed Tehran's desire for enhanced cultural cooperation with Russia during a visit to Moscow. Kanaani, who is in the Russian capital for a meeting of BRICS foreign ministry spokespersons, made the remarks at the Iranian Language and Cultural Centre at Moscow State Linguistic University. Referring to the growing relations between the two countries, Kanaani emphasized the importance of developing scientific, academic, and cultural

ties alongside political and economic relations. He stated, "We believe that scientific, academic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries should develop simultaneously with political, economic, and trade relations." Kanaani highlighted the historical experience of the bond between the people of Iran and Russia, noting that strengthening these ties can help sustain the relationship between the two nations even during fluctuations in political relations, IRNA wrote.

The spokesman also mentioned the increase in tourism exchange between Iran and Russia following the implementation of a visa waiver agreement for group tours. He expressed hope for further expansion of bilateral relations through joint efforts by Tehran and Moscow. During his visit to the Iranian Language and Cultural Centre, Kanaani expressed satisfaction with the teaching of the Persian language at the university, noting its positive outcomes.

He announced the Iranian Foreign Ministry's readiness to strengthen Persian language chairs in various universities worldwide, including in Russia. Kanaani also reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to facilitating the exchange of professors and students, as well as enhancing academic cooperation with friendly countries like Russia. He assured that the ministry would actively pursue providing the necessary Persian language textbooks and educational resources to support these initiatives.

Iran's 'VAR' in the limelight in Tehran

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Iranian director Hamed Rahimi Nasr has brought his latest work, 'VAR,' to the historic Nofel Loshato Theater in Tehran. The play is on stage from July 2 to August 2. The play, written and directed by Rahimi Nasr, is an absurdist and grotesque piece that continues the director's exploration of psychological and social themes, following the success of his previous plays, 'Schizophrenia,' 'Alzheimer,' and 'Overdose.' 'VAR' stars Amin Zare, Hossein Partovi, Ramtin Soleimani, Amir-Pouria Masoudnia, and Aram Nikbin. The play's title, 'VAR,' refers to the video



assistant referee system used in football, and the story revolves around the theme that a tree is just an image, and one cannot climb it.

'In the End of the Throat' on stage at Tehran City Theater

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An adaptation of 'In the End of the Throat,' a play written by American-Arab playwright Elyas El-Gendi and directed by Seyyed Mohammad-Javad Seyyedizadeh, is on stage at Tehran City Theater. The play will run from July 4 to 21 in the theater's Qashqai Hall, Mehr News Agency reported. According to the director, the play centers around the idea of guilt and innocence, with a focus on the fine line between the two. The story challenges



the notion of guilt and innocence and explores the complexities of human

nature. The cast of the play includes Mersedeh Afshar,

Ali Peyman, Omid Rahbar, Alireza Shoaee, and Amirbahador Gharhani.