

Millions of Muslims worldwide commemorated Ashura, a remembrance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Shia Muslims in Iran and other countries are taking part in mourning rituals for Imam Hussein who was martyred along with his 72 companions in the Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD after fighting courageously for justice against the much larger army of the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I, Press TV reported. Ashura mourners, who are dressed in black, beat their chests, march in mass processions, listen to elegies, and hold noon prayers, with benefactors distributing votive foods. Every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from different countries head to the city of Karbala, which hosts Imam



Shia Muslims unite in grief on Ashura

Hussein's holy shrine, to mark Ashura in ultimate magnificence. Ashura is the culmination of 10-day mourning ceremonies that are observed in the lunar month of Muharram. The Muharram rituals symbolize the never-ending and unwavering stance of truth against falsehood and humanity's struggle against injustice, tyranny and oppression, the cause for which Imam Hussein was martyred. On the eve of Ashura, known as Tasu'a, mourners remember Abbas ibn Ali (PBUH), Imam Hussein's half-brother, who was martyred shortly before Imam Hussein as he tried to bring water to women and children in Imam's camp, who had had no water to drink for days due to a siege by the enemy forces.

Farshchian's 'The Evening of Ashura' added to Nat'l Cultural Heritage List



Arts & Culture Desk
 Iranian master miniaturist Mahmud Farshchian's renowned painting, 'The Evening of Ashura,' has been added to the country's National

Cultural Heritage List. The decision was announced by the General Director of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of Khorasan Razavi, Seyed Javad Mousavi. The painting created in 1976,

depicts the tragic events of the day of Ashura in 680 AD, when Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions were martyred in Karbala. The painting is a powerful expression of grief and a significant work of art in the Persian miniature style. Farshchian, a celebrated artist, donated the painting to the Astan-e Qods Razavi Museum in Mashhad, Iran, in 1990. The museum currently holds 13 of his paintings, including other works related to the tragedy of Ashura, such as 'Ali-Asghar (PBUH)' and 'The Standard-Bearer of Truth.'

Iran battles Aedes mosquitoes, diseases they carry

Social Desk
 The spread of the Aedes mosquito in Iran has become a growing concern for health authorities, with 40 cities now affected and active mosquito control efforts underway in 87 locations across the country. The Aedes mosquito is a vector for several diseases, including dengue fever, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika, none of which have a vaccine or definitive cure, IRNA wrote. According to Shahnam Arshi, head of the Center for

Infectious Disease Management, environmental improvement, public education, and awareness are the most important ways to prevent Aedes-borne illnesses. Arshi noted that the Aedes mosquito, specifically the Aedes aegypti species, has the potential to cause explosive epidemics, as seen recently in Bangladesh where 2,600 patients were hospitalized in a single day. Iran has a long history of battling malaria, and climate change has once again made it a concern in

several provinces. Arshi highlighted the differences between the Aedes and Anopheles mosquitoes, emphasizing that the former bites during the day, typically outdoors, in the early morning, or at dusk. He advised people in affected areas to stay indoors during these times and wear long-sleeved clothing if they must go out. The Aedes mosquito has already infected 149 people in Iran since April 26, with 130 of those cases being imported from the

United Arab Emirates. The mosquito is particularly attracted to dark environments, such as discarded car tires in waste dumps, and its eggs can survive for up to a year and a half. Arshi emphasized the importance of environmental improvement and individual protection measures, as the number of health workers and resources for spraying are limited. The Aedes mosquito has already reached southern Iranian islands, including Kish, Bandar Lengeh, Hormuz, and Qeshm, and there are concerns that an outbreak could lead to the closure of these areas and restricted travel.

Millions in tears for Imam Hussein

