

# UNESCO adds ancient Hegmataneh to World Heritage List

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's ancient archeological site of Hegmataneh, also known as Ecbatana, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, according to an announcement by Iranian officials on Saturday. Located in the western Iranian city of Hamedan, Hegmataneh

dates back to the Median kingdom and the Achaemenid empire. Ali Darabi, Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, who is currently in New Delhi for a UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting, described Ecbatana as the "mother city" of

ancient Persian civilization. "Hegmataneh, with its unparalleled evidence of the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sasanian periods, has been inscribed as Iran's 28th property on the World Heritage List," Darabi stated. The site boasts valuable artifacts and unique evidence of urban

planning from the Parthian period, along with significant remnants from the Achaemenid and Sasanian eras. Darabi congratulated the people of Iran, especially the residents of Hamedan Province, on this achievement. He also mentioned that there are no restrictions on registering the historical center of

Hamedan in the future, as it already falls within the protected buffer zone of the newly inscribed World Heritage site. Iranian officials, including Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, expressed their gratitude to the cultural heritage experts and congratulated the nation on this recog-

niton, which shines a light on Iran's rich historical and cultural legacy. The inscription of Hegmataneh on the UNESCO World Heritage List highlights the global significance of this ancient site and underscores Iran's diverse and profound contributions to world civilization.



## Iran ranks fourth in 54th Int'l Physics Olympiad



Iranian physics student team finished fourth in the 54th International Physics Olympiad (IPHO 2024), with one gold and four silver medals, following China, Russia, and Romania in the rankings. The competition, hosted by Isfahan University of Technology, saw over 200 students from 47 countries compete, IRNA wrote. According to Mahmoud Bahmanabadi, advisor to the minister and head of the Physics Olympiad organizing committee, this year's event was one of the best-organized in recent years, despite challenges. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome, especially with Iran's return to gold medal standing after a hiatus. Iranian students have a strong track record in the International Physics Olympiad over the past four decades, having amassed 36

gold, 68 silver, and 39 bronze medals. The university previously hosted the event in 2007. The 54th edition of the Olympiad witnessed a tight competition among the top teams, with China emerging as the winner with five gold medals. Russia and Romania followed with impressive medal hauls, and Iran's team showed significant improvement, climbing up from their previous ranking of 17th place. Rajdeep Singh Rawat, the president of the International Physics Olympiad, praised the hosting of the event, stating that it fostered competition among young students and strengthened scientific ties between nations. The 54th International Physics Olympiad began July 21, bringing together 198 gifted students from 46 countries for an intense competition.

## Iran stands up for Palestine at Venice Biennale

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Iran was the only country to stand up and speak out for Palestine at the Venice Biennale, according to Mohammad Khorasanizadeh, acting director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. During the opening ceremony of the redisplay of Iranian artists' works on the theme of "Children of Gaza," which was previously displayed at the 60th Venice Biennale, Khorasanizadeh highlighted Iran's commitment to using art as a platform for advocating for the freedom and rights of the Palestinian people. The event was attended by high-ranking Iranian officials, including Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, who expressed his gratitude to the artists for using their talent to raise awareness about the plight of the people of Gaza. Esmaeili also criticized the hypocrisy of Western nations, con-

demning their silence in the face of horrific crimes committed against Palestinians. The exhibition, now on display at Gallery 6 of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran, showcases the works of five Iranian artists who donated their pieces to stand in solidarity with Palestine. The Iranian pavilion at the Venice Biennale, with the theme "Art Without Borders," featured a powerful message centered on the poetry of Saadi, emphasizing the country's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. Looking ahead to the next Venice Biennale, which will focus on architecture, Esmaeili emphasized the importance of continuing to bring attention to the injustices faced by the oppressed, including the people of Gaza. He expressed his hope that art would continue to serve as a powerful medium to raise awareness and inspire action toward a more just world.

## Iranian contestant wins third place in Russia Qur'an competition



Omid Hosseinejad, representing Iran in the international Qur'an competition held in Russia, secured third place in the recitation category. The event, organized by several Islamic institutions with support from the Republic of Tatarstan, featured contestants from 22 countries, including BRICS members. Mohamed Samir Mohamed from Bahrain claimed first place, while Mohamed Abdelkarim Kamil Atiyah from Egypt impressed the judges by memorizing the Qur'an despite being blind since birth, earning him second place. Hosseinejad, a Qur'an reciter

from Mashhad, qualified for the Russia competition by achieving a top rank in Iran's 46th National Qur'an Competition. The judging panel, comprised of esteemed Qur'an experts from various countries, assessed the contestants based on their adherence to Tajweed rules and the beauty of their recitation. The Russia Qur'an Competition is held biennially, alternating between recitation and full Qur'an memorization categories. This year's focus on recitation means that next year's competition will center around Qur'an memorization. Among the judges was Iranian Qur'an expert, Gholamreza Shah Miveh Isfahani. The competition, hosted in the city of Kazan, Russia, showcased the participants' dedication and talent in reciting and memorizing the Qur'an, highlighting the importance of this religious tradition across the globe.

## Kamancheh virtuoso Alizadeh to hold concerts in European cities

Hossein Alizadeh, the renowned Iranian musician and composer, will be holding a series of concerts in European cities this coming fall. Accompanied by his musical group, 'Hamavayan,' Alizadeh is set to showcase the beauty of Iranian music to audiences across

the continent. According to the tour schedule, the group will perform in Zurich, Munich, London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Berlin, Cologne, Stockholm, Madrid, and several other cities during the months of October to December. The ensemble for these concerts

includes Hossein Alizadeh on *tar*, Ali Bostan on *setar*, Saba Alizadeh on *kamancheh* (Iranian spiked fiddle), Parisa Pouladian on *rabab* (Arab fiddle), Mehdi Emami on vocals and *daf*, Houshmand Ebadi on *ney* (end-blown flute), Behnam Samani on *tonbak* (Iranian goblet drum) and *daf*, and other talented musicians.

