

Photographers display Muharram rituals across Iran in 'Red Flag' show

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Laleh Art Gallery and Azadi Cultural Complex in Tehran are currently hosting a photo exhibition titled 'Red Flag,' showcasing a unique perspective on the Muharram rituals and traditions across Iran. The exhibition, organized by the Alborz Visual Arts Association's Photography Council, features a curated selection of images captured by 28 professional photographers, offering a

glimpse into the diverse and rich cultural heritage of the country during the sacred month of Muharram. Mohammad Ali Saeedi, manager of Laleh Art Gallery, in his exclusive interview with Iran Daily reporter said that the exhibition presents 82 carefully selected photographs from 22 cities across Iran, each capturing the artistic and social dimensions of the Muharram rituals. "These photos go beyond simple documentary; the photographers have skillfully utilized artistic techniques, offering their distinct perspectives on the

traditions, thus, it carries both social and artistic dimensions," Saeedi explained. The images on display highlight the influence of regional cultures, ethnicities, and climates on the way Muharram is observed. Traditions such as Nakhil Gardani (palm-carrying) in Yazd and Abyaneh, and Alam Bandi in Masouleh, showcase the diverse and fascinating rituals that have evolved over time, each with its own rich history and significance. Saeedi noted that while the story and figures of Ashura (the day of Imam Hussein's martyrdom)

remain constant, the way Muharram is commemorated varies across Iran and "Each ceremony sheds light on a different aspect of the Ashura incident". In recent years, Muharram rituals have gained international attention, attracting tourists from around the world who are intrigued by the passionate displays of grief and devotion.

a social perspective, the photographs highlight how Muharram and Ashura serve as a reminder of the universal humanitarian messages of Ashura to humanity. The rituals during these days bring people together in a sorrowful gathering, attracting even those who are not Muslims. During this time, mourners from various faiths, including Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians, participate in the ceremonies, demonstrating their respect and admiration for Imam Hussein and the values of Ashura. Saeedi emphasized the impact these rituals have on foreign visitors, sparking curiosity about Imam Hussein and the enduring legacy of his sacrifice, even over 1,400 years later. The 'Red Flag' exhibition opened on July 12 and will remain open until August 1. Saeedi concluded that from



Hegmataneh symbolizes unity of ethnic groups: Pezeshkian



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian hailed the ancient site of Hegmataneh as a symbol of unity among Iran's diverse ethnic groups, following its inscription on the World Heritage List last week. In a message published Tuesday, Pezeshkian described the site, located in the city of Hamedan, as a reminder of the splendor of Iranian civilization, with a rich history dating back to ancient times. "Hegmataneh stands as a testament to the unity of Iran's ethnic groups, from the Medes to the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras," the president said. He congratulated Iranians on the site's inscription on the World Heritage List and pledged his administration's commitment to preserving Iran's cultural heri-

tage and boosting its tourism sector. "Hamedan has always been a cradle of science and religion, and we will strive to protect and promote its rich legacy," Pezeshkian added. The governor of Hamedan province, Alireza Ghassemi Farzad, echoed the president's sentiments, predicting that the inscription would spur a boom in tourism to the area. "Hegmataneh's recognition as a World Heritage site underscores the significance of this ancient hill and the city of Hamedan in the history of humankind," Farzad said. The site, which bears the marks of various civilizations, is expected to draw increased attention from historians, archaeologists, and tourists interested in exploring Iran's rich cultural diversity.

Iranian students bag four medals at 56th Int'l Chemistry Olympiad

Social Desk
 Iranian students proved their abilities in chemistry, bagging four medals at the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) held in Riyadh. The Iranian team, comprising Ramtin Moradi Mazhari, Mohammad Yassin Salehi, Amir Kia Salimi, and Alborz Rezaei, showcased their talent and knowledge, earning a well-deserved spot on the podium, IRNA reported. The Iranian delegation, led by head coach Ebrahim Kianmehr,

also included assistant coach Ahmad Amiri, scientific supervisors Ali Asghar Aghajani and Faezeh Moghzi, and executive supervisor Akbar Asadi Damnanab. Their guidance and support played a pivotal role in the students' success. The IChO, an international competition, brought together bright young minds from 86 countries. Over the course of the event, which ran from July 21 to July 30, participants showcased their chemical chops, with the Iranian team making their country proud.



Iranian 'The Runner' wins Best Actor Award in Russian festival



Mardin Sheikh Moradi, the young star of the Iranian short film 'The Runner,' has taken home the Best Actor Award at the 19th Within the Family International Festival of Family and Children's Films in Russia. The festival, which focuses on films that promote love, loyalty, and family values, is one of the largest of its kind in Russia. 'The Runner,' produced and directed by Seyyed Payam Hosseini, tells the story of a teenage boy named Hakim, who lives in one of Iran's marginalized neighborhoods. Hakim's

father engages in betting on running races, and the film follows the family as they navigate the challenges that arise when the rules of the game change unexpectedly. The film was selected to compete in the short film category at the 19th edition of the festival, alongside 75 other films from 39 countries. 'The Runner' has also made its mark on the international festival circuit, screening at the 62nd Zlin International Film Festival for Children and Youth and the 52nd Giffoni Film Festival in Italy.