

Iran partakes in Karbala book fair with 320 book titles



● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has participated in the 10th "Tarateel Sajjadiya" book fair in Iraq's holy city of Karbala with 320 book titles spanning various religious, cultural, artistic, poetic, and political themes. The ongoing exhibition is coincident with the martyrdom anniversary of the fourth Shia Imam, Imam Sajjad (PBUH), on August 9 with the participation of ten countries in Karbala,

IRNA reported.

Among the other Iranian works displayed at the exhibition are newly published books in the fields of Iranology, Islamic sciences, jurisprudence, principles, beliefs, and ethics, available in both Persian and Arabic. Addressing the opening ceremony, Abdul Mahdi al-Karbalaee, the Friday prayer leader and custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Hussein, the third Shia Imam (PBUH), said that the primary objective of this

cultural event is to focus on the esteemed legacy of Imam Sajjad (PBUH) in Islam, as well as his intellectual, doctrinal, jurisprudential, ethical, and social perspectives, and the role of this legacy in the reformative path of the Islamic community and the opening of new horizons.

The book exhibition is taking place at the Bab al-Qibla of the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and will continue until August 10.

Russian delegation's ...

Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian has clearly emphasized the importance of strengthening relations with Russia and China, both in his announced plans and in an article outlining his government's foreign policy. Therefore, Shoigu's visit to Tehran shortly after the Iranian government's inauguration should be viewed as a sign that both countries remain committed to fostering their relationship.

As a former defense minister, Shoigu is well-versed in the two countries' collaboration in the military sector, as well as the regional developments and tensions. This provides an opportunity to highlight another aspect of the Russian delegation's visit to Iran and its significance. The Russians have maintained a

clear stance during the months-long Gaza war as well as the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. They have condemned the targeted killing and called for restraint on both sides, striving to prevent an escalation of tensions.

Given Tehran's announcement that it will respond to Israel's terrorist act, it is understandable that many countries, including Russia, would be keen to weigh the dimensions and repercussions of such a response.

It is true that the Gaza war and its prolongation served as a "breather" for Russia in the Ukraine war. It shifted the media and public attention from Ukraine to the Gaza Strip and redirected some of the Western aid, particularly from the US, from Ukraine to Israel. If forced to choose between Ukraine and Israel, the US

would naturally opt for Israel. Thus, the Gaza war somewhat eroded the West's position in the Ukraine conflict, and Russia took advantage of this opportunity. However, this does not imply that Moscow supports the escalation of conflict in the West Asian region.

Currently, the world, particularly West Asia, is fraught with tensions that could spark larger wars, drawing in major powers, including the US, which might be compelled to step in directly to support Israel. Such a scenario would not only be detrimental to the region but also to the powers influencing West Asian developments, such as China and Russia. Their interests in this region would also be put at risk by escalating conflicts. Therefore, the Russians are keen to dial down the tensions.

'The Breath' stands as finalist at Italian festival

Arts & Culture Desk

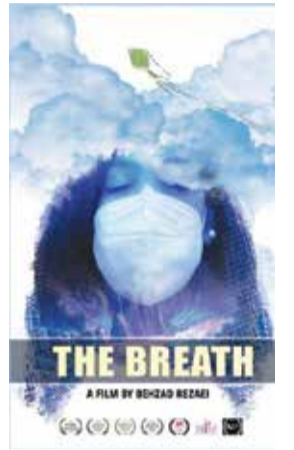
The Iranian documentary film "The Breath" has become the finalist of an Italian festival.

Directed and produced by Behzad Rezaei, the documentary film "The Breath" entered the final phase of the 8th Nebrodi Cinema DOC International Festival in Italy, Mehr reported.

The festival will be held in Italy from October 7 to 13, aiming to support independent filmmakers focusing on social and environmental issues. The documentary depicts

the loneliness and lack of communication between people during the COVID pandemic era and its impact on personal life, solitude and creativity of artists in different countries across the world.

"The Breath" has previously won Best Other Cinema Award, at the 43rd Paladino d'Oro Sport Film Festival, in Agrigento, Italy in 2023. It was also a finalist at the 11th Silk Road Film Festival in Turkey, as well as being nominated for Best Documentary at the World Music & Independent Film Festival in



the US and the Jaipur International Film Festival in India.

1st band music festival in Tehran: A platform for discovering talents



● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

A cultural official from Tehran Province has said that the first band music festival, which will take place in February and March 2025, serves as a valuable opportunity for identifying talents.

Addressing the unveiling ceremony of the festival's poster at a press conference on Monday, the general directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance Organization of Tehran Province, Ali Forouzanfar, said the festival will feature two main categories: Iranian music and world music, along with a special section dedicated to piano performances,

IRNA reported.

Forouzanfar added that the aim of the festival is to discover, identify, and place special emphasis on talented musical groups which are active across Tehran, particularly in its municipalities.

The official expressed gratitude to the Music Association of Tehran Province, noting that the association has significantly contributed to the holding of the festival. He stated that the Cultural and Islamic Guidance Organization of Tehran Province, in collaboration with the Music Association, jointly oversees the planning and organization of the festival.

The official also emphasized that Tehran, in addition to being the political capital of the country, serves as a host and a fertile ground for the interaction and activities encompassing the diverse cultures of all Iranian ethnicities.

In this regard, he added that Tehran can also be regarded as the cultural capital of the nation. "Due to the cultural diversity and various ethnic groups being present in Tehran Province, cultural and artistic movements, especially artistic festivals in the year 1403, assume particular importance for us," he concluded.

Hur al-Azim Marsh sees 5% increase in water levels

Social Desk

Head of the Khuzestan Province' Department of Environment said as aerial monitoring data until July 21 show, Hur al-Azim Marsh in the southwestern province has accumulated water by as much as 57%.

Davoud Mirshekar, in an interview with IRNA on Monday, described the condition of Hur al-Azim Marsh compared to the same period last year

as "more favorable," noting that last year it was only 52% filled, indicating a five percent increase in water levels.

He also said that, given the intense heat and the looming of wildfires in the wetland over the next two months, communication has been established with the Crisis Management Department and the Urban Development Office of the Khuzestan Governorate to ensure that water releases proceed in a controlled manner.



● IRNA

The head of Khuzestan's Department of Environment expressed hope that by securing water rights for the marsh, there would be minimal reduction in water levels.

The border wetland of Hur al-Azim, spanning over 300,000 hectares, is the last remnant of the marshlands of Mesopotamia, with one-third located in Iran and two-thirds in Iraq.

This unique habitat is situated in the southwest of the

country, in Khuzestan, at the end of the Karkheh River. The water crisis in the Karkheh basin has posed challenges to this marsh for the past three years.

In recent years, due to the drying of vast areas of Hur al-Azim, the wetland has experienced widespread wildfires, particularly in the Iraqi section, leading to thick smoke that affected several counties in Khuzestan on certain days.