

# Iran, Malaysia ink media collaboration deal to boost cultural ties

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cultural and artistic ties through a focus on multimedia technology.

Iran's cultural attaché in Malaysia, Habib-Reza Arzani, announced the signing of the MoU with Malaysia's Multimedia University (MMU), which he said would pave the way for enhanced cooperation in the fields of culture and arts between the two countries, ILNA reported.

According to Arzani, MMU is Malaysia's first private university to be recognized for its achievements in IT and multimedia, and

has a strong reputation in animation, short films, and visual arts. The university, he said, is a pioneering center for entrepreneurship with a focus on multimedia technology, offering courses in telecommunications, multimedia, computer science, digital arts management, animation, information technology, and software development.

Arzani emphasized the importance of developing media cooperation between Iran and Malaysia, citing the two countries' shared religious, cultural, and public diplomacy ties.

He noted that the MoU aims to promote cultural and artistic exchanges, including the organiza-

tion of cultural events, workshops, and exhibitions, as well as student and faculty exchanges in the fields of arts and culture.

The agreement, signed by Arzani and MMU President Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, also includes plans to co-host a festival of Iranian films, with a special guest appearance by a renowned Iranian filmmaker. The event will feature a screening of the filmmaker's work, followed by a discussion and critique session with students and faculty.

Arzani emphasized the crucial role of media in promoting culture and civilization, and highlighted the importance of leveraging this opportunity to showcase Iran's rich Islamic culture.



# Khomeini calls for 'enhanced military deterrence'

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

A recent live television appearance by Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, a grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has drawn widespread attention from various media outlets and social networks for his comments on Israel and suggestions for bolstering Iran's military capabilities.

Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, a 52-year-old cleric and a key figure among reformists and moderates in Iran, is the highest-ranking member of Imam Khomeini's family and enjoys considerable popularity among the people. Despite this, he has had limited opportunities to show up on official platforms, including state TV, in recent years.

Seyyed Hassan Khomeini's Saturday night TV appearance drew attention for his emphasis

on bolstering Iran's deterrence power, which he believes should encompass not only military effectiveness, but also economic power and popular satisfaction. He also made a specific appeal for increased military strength, saying, "I think it's time for our military deterrence to reach a higher level."

These remarks come at a time when tensions between Iran and the Israeli regime have reached their highest point in four decades. He stressed that Iran is not war-mongering and that war is a terrible phenomenon that should be avoided, but fear of war is worse than war itself. "We have not been and are not warmongers against Israel, and defense is our top priority, but if necessary, we will stand firm," he said.

Another part of the remarks by Ayatollah Khomeini's grandson that has generated significant buzz is his assertion that Israel has no right to kill Iranians, even those opposed to the Is-

lamic Republic. He stated, "Netanyahu is mistaken if he thinks he can kill an Iranian, even if that Iranian is opposed to the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the founder of the Islamic Re-

public. He has no right to raise his hand against an Iranian. Mr. Netanyahu should not try to make decisions for this country."

Imam Khomeini's scion also re-

called and defended the Islamic Republic's proposed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – a referendum – and criticized Western governments for only advocating for a so-called "Two-State" solution during times of crisis.

Khomeini's grandson questioned why Western governments only push for a two-state solution during times of turmoil, asking, "Why don't they talk about a two-state solution when things are calm?" He noted that 20 years have passed since the Oslo Accords, yet progress on a two-state solution has stalled.

He suggested the two-state solution is a means of legitimizing Israel, and that it's only been revisited by Western governments in response to pressure from Palestinians, particularly during times of heightened conflict like Operation al-Aqsa Storm.

Seyyed Hassan Khomeini's TV appearance came a day after

the Tehran Friday prayers, led by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which drew millions of participants and showcased national unity in the face of Israeli threats. Referring to the event, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini said, "All those who attended the Friday prayers, knowingly or unknowingly, boosted our security; we should thank them." Khomeini's grandson stressed the importance of building public trust and strengthening the bond between citizens and the government, saying, "If an external enemy is to come, unity is necessary. This requires empathy, cooperation, and listening to the people."

He added that increased public participation and engagement would fortify the Islamic Republic, saying, "The more people participate and have symbolic presence, the stronger the Islamic Republic will become, and the farther away the threats will be."



## Iran's globetrotting 'Anita, Lost in the News' awarded in US

Iranian animator Behzad Nalbandi racked up his sixth international award for his 17-minute film 'Anita, Lost in the News', which took home the prize for Best Animated Short at the 7th Cordillera Film Festival in Nevada, USA. The film, which has been making the rounds at global film festivals, has now picked up six international awards, including the Audience Award at the 6th Rising of Lusitania

– AnimaDoc Film Festival from September 10 to 23 in Łódź, Poland, IRNA reported. 'Anita, Lost in the News' tells the story of a Kurdish-Iranian family of four who lost their lives in the sinking of a migrant boat in the English Channel in 2020. The film is

created using puppets made from newspaper clippings. Nalbandi's latest triumph builds on his previous success, with his earlier film 'The Unseen' having already won several awards at film festivals around the world. His name is cropping up again on the international scene, with 'Anita, Lost in the News' picking up another accolade to add to his collection.



## Iranian conductor Rahbari to kick off Istanbul's new artistic season

Acclaimed Iranian composer and conductor Ali Rahbari is set to launch the new artistic season of the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra in Turkey with a concert at the Atatürk Cultural and Art Center on October 11. Rahbari, who has led numerous high-profile concerts with the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra over the past 30 years, will take the stage alongside Turkish pianist Gülsin Onay. This marks the 15th consecutive year Rahbari has held the title of principal guest conductor with the orchestra, IRNA reported.

Turkey boasts 22 state symphony orchestras, and Rah-

bari, former artistic director of orchestras in Brussels, Malaga, Zagreb, and Prague, is a popular choice among them. He has frequently collaborated with symphony orchestras in Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, and Antalya, and was invited to conduct the Antalya State Symphony Orchestra for seven consecutive years to enhance its quality. Rahbari is currently the principal guest conductor of the Mariinsky Opera Orchestra in St. Petersburg, Russia, and recently performed with the ensemble for the 19th time on October 5, kicking off the 2024-2025 artistic season. The concert featured works by

Austrian composer Franz Peter Schubert and Armenian composer Alexander Arutiunian, as well as 'Persian Echoes' by Iranian composer Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour.

