

Iran's president calls for promoting literary treasures shared with Turkmenistan

Pezeshkian: Eastern literature demonstrates knowledge, ethics

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the need to introduce the common literary treasures and outstanding figures between Iran and Turkmenistan, highlighting the significance of cultural exchange in fostering peace and sustainable development.

Speaking at an international conference in Ashgabat commemorating the 300th birthday anniversary of renowned Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy, Pezeshkian praised the poet's contributions to the Turkmen language and literature, drawing parallels with the impact of Persian poet Ferdowsi on the Persian language. Pezeshkian noted that the literary works of Magtymguly Pyragy, which encompass moral, political, social, and cultural themes, serve as a manifestation of the poet's emphasis on spirituality, morality, justice, and freedom.

He added that distancing oneself from spirituality has created numerous problems in the contemporary world. The Iranian President expressed hope

that strengthening cultural cooperation and holding similar ceremonies would facilitate the introduction of "shared literary treasures", underlining the importance of cultural exchange in promoting mutual understanding and peace. Pezeshkian also highlighted the long-standing amicable relations and friendship between Iran and Turkmenistan, which he described as "constructive" and based on mutual interests.

He emphasized that the two nations have a growing and balanced trend in all fields, despite having diverse languages and cultures. Pezeshkian pointed out that the cultural heritage of Iran and Turkmenistan serves as a foundation for peace and sustainable development, showcasing the unique aspects of knowledge and ethics in Eastern literature.

He emphasized that the cultural structure of the region, which encompasses various ethnic groups and languages, has been shaped by a shared cultural foundation, resulting in similarities in arts, literature, and culture.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (8th L) poses for a family photo while attending an international conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on October 11, 2024, to commemorate the 300th birthday anniversary of Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy. president.lir

Pezeshkian explained that the vast geographical area, which includes Iran and Turkmenistan, has been home to people living in peace and harmony, despite their diversity in ethnicity and language. The Iranian President praised the role of literary figures, including Ferdowsi, Rudaki, Saadi, and Khayyam, in introducing the rich culture of the East, and hailed Magtymguly Pyragy as a champion of Turkmen culture and language. He acknowledged that the poet's works have had a profound impact on the growth of valuable human concepts and have enriched the literary heritage of the region. Pezeshkian emphasized that the exchange of ideas and cultural interactions

between human groups have taken place outside of government control and have transcended borders.

He noted that the works of great poets and writers have played a significant role in introducing the rich culture of the East, and that Magtymguly Pyragy's poetry has been a "shining example" of this cultural phenomenon.

The Iranian President also acknowledged that many of the reasons for the endurance of Iranian customs, traditions, and languages are due to the efforts of great individuals who have made sacrifices for their preservation.

He noted that the Persian language owes a debt to great poets such as Ferdowsi,

just as the Turkmen language and literature owe a debt to poets and writers such as Magtymguly Pyragy.

Pezeshkian concluded by emphasizing the importance of cultural exchange and the need to recognize the shared cultural foundation of the region, which has been shaped by the interactions of various ethnic groups and languages over time.

Hafez' legacy beacon of hope for more harmonious world: *Minister*

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, emphasized the significance of Hafez thought in achieving peace and friendship, calling on the world to tap into the Persian poet's philosophy to overcome today's turmoil. Speaking at a ceremony commemorating Hafez at his mausoleum in Shiraz on Thursday, Salehi Amiri said, "We have gathered here once again to loudly proclaim that we have Hafez, and as long as literature remains, we will remain." He described Hafez as a "treasure trove of ethics and sincerity," whose thought is essential for today's generation and a necessity for the future, IRNA reported.

The minister highlighted Hafez' significance as Iran's greatest cultural

asset, stressing that in an era where material wealth is often prioritized, the country must turn to Hafez and another renowned Persian poet, Saadi, to "breathe life into society."

Salehi Amiri warned that a society without cultural heritage is merely a lifeless body, citing the numerous social ills and family problems plaguing Iranian cities as evidence of the country's detachment from its cultural roots.

He emphasized that revisiting Hafez thought is a return to dignity and humanity, ensuring a vibrant life. The minister also praised Shiraz as a cultural hub, not only for Iran but for the world, and expressed gratitude to scholars who keep Hafez's legacy alive.

Salehi Amiri noted that Hafez's po-



etry has a universal appeal, with his divan being a staple in Iranian homes and major libraries worldwide, making his verses a remedy for all ages and a source of life for humanity throughout history. The minister concluded by expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to visit the Hafez mausoleum, vowing to remove obstacles and strive to make the site shine like a gem globally.

Curtains down on 36th Int'l Children, Youth Film Festival

The 36th International Children and Youth Film Festival came to a close in Isfahan, Iran, with a ceremony honoring the winners of this year's competition.

The event, held at the Isfahan International Conference Center, was attended by Iranian film industry officials, including Mohammad Khazaei, head of the Cinema Organization of Iran, and Majid Zeinolabedini, director of the Farabi Cinema Foundation.

In his speech, Zeinolabedini praised the festival's success, saying it had attracted over 24,000 viewers and featured 496 films from around the world.

He also expressed hope that next year's festival would be even more successful, ILNA reported. The ceremony also paid tribute to the late Iranian actor Houshang Harirchian, who was remembered for his contributions to Iranian cinema.

The winners of the festival's national section

were announced, with 'Bambolak', directed by Arash Mo'ayyerian, taking home the award for best film.

In the International Section, the Mexican film "The Dog Thief" won the award for best film, while a Serbian film took home the award for best director.

The festival also honored several Iranian filmmakers, including Mohammad Reza Aliqoli, who was recognized for his contributions to Iranian cinema.

In his speech, Khazaei praised the festival's role in promoting Iranian cinema and encouraged filmmakers to continue producing high-quality films for children and youth.

The ceremony concluded with a call to action from Khazaei, who urged Iranian filmmakers to create more films about the struggles of the Palestinian people and to raise awareness about the importance of cinema in promoting social justice.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



South Korean author Han Kang wins 2024 Nobel Prize in literature

South Korean author Han Kang has won the 2024 Nobel Prize in literature "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life".

Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee, announced the prize in Stockholm on Thursday.

Han, 53, is the first South Korean writer and 18th woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize.

Malm said he was able to talk to Han by phone after announcing her as the winner. "She was having an ordinary day it seemed - had just finished supper with her son. She wasn't really prepared for this."

"I'm so surprised and honoured," Han said, adding, "I'd like to have tea with my son. I'll celebrate it quietly."

Nobel committee chairman Anders Olsson praised her "physical empathy for the vulnerable, often female lives" of her characters.

"She has a unique awareness of the connections

between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose," Olsson said.

Anna-Karin Palm, a committee member, said Han writes about "trauma, pain and loss", whether individual or collective, "with the same compassion and care" and called her lyrical prose "both tender and brutal".

The 2023 prize went to Norwegian author and dramatist Jon Fosse, who was honoured for "his innovative plays and prose, which give voice to the unsayable".

The literature prize has long been male-dominated. The last woman to win was Annie Ernaux of France, in 2022.

The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1m) from a bequest left by the award's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. Alongside the cash prize, the winners will be presented with a medal on December 10.

