

## Six countries compete in Iran's children's theater festival in Hamedan



### Arts & Culture Desk

The 29th International Theater Festival for Children and Youths officially began on November 1, 2024, with a grand opening ceremony at the Imam Ali Sports Complex in Hamedan, Iran. The festival, which runs from November 1 to 7, has brought together six international groups from Uzbekistan, Armenia, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, and Russia, as well as local artists and officials. Hamedan's Mayor, Seyyed Masoud Hosseini, welcomed the guests, saying, "This opening ceremony has been met with



an unprecedented enthusiasm from children and youths, which is a good omen for the rest of the festival."

He added, "You are guests in Hamedan, the capital of Iran's history and civilization, which has nurtured great figures like

Martyr Hossein Hamedani, and is home to valuable assets like these children." Hosseini emphasized that this

is the second major event of the year in Hamedan, which has been recognized globally, and that the city is proud to host the festival. He also expressed gratitude to the representatives of the people of Hamedan and Famenin for their efforts in bringing the festival back to Hamedan. The Director General of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Hamedan province, Masoud Vjeh, told IRNA that the festival is unique in that it engages the general public and families, creating a wave of joy among children. He noted that last year's festival had over 100,000 attendees in

various venues. Vjeh added that their goal is to hold events not only in Hamedan but also in nine other counties of the province. He mentioned that two mobile units will cover marginalized areas and villages, and TV networks will be activated to reflect the festival's activities. Hamedan has been a hub of artistic heritage in Iran, with many national artists hailing from the city. The first spark of international theater was ignited in Hamedan with the first International Children's Theater Festival, held in 1991.

## Iran-India cultural heritage 'treasure trove for humanity': Envoy

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Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, emphasized the significance of the historical and cultural ties between Iran and India, stating that the two countries' cultural heritage is not only a treasure for the two nations but also a valuable asset for humanity. During a meeting with B.R. Mani, the Director General of the National Museum of India, Elahi highlighted the deep historical relations between Iran and India, saying that the two countries have enjoyed mutual respect and admiration since ancient times. He noted that cultural and literary exchanges have played a crucial role in strengthening the bond between the two nations, IRNA reported. Elahi added that the history of

Iran and India is replete with shared stories, artistic and literary works that are not only a heritage for the two nations but also a treasure trove for humanity. He emphasized the need to further strengthen these ties, as they represent a deep connection between the two nations. B.R. Mani also underscored

the importance of constructive and historical interactions between Iran and India, saying that the cultural heritage of the two countries goes beyond geographical boundaries and is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. He noted that Iran and India have had a profound impact on each other and that their



cultures, arts, and literature are intertwined, showcasing a cultural solidarity. The Indian official also pointed out that the shared cultural heritage of the two countries is a symbol of the extensive interactions that have taken place throughout history and have continued to this day. He said that the people of India have always looked at Iranian culture and art with respect and admiration, and this cultural bond has been passed down through generations. Mehdi Khajeh Piri, the Director of the International Microfilm Center, referred to the joint cultural projects between the two countries, particularly in the fields of digitalization, cataloging, and restoration of written heritage. He explained that the center aims to provide a suitable plat-

form for future studies and research by preserving and digitalizing the shared heritage, hoping that this cooperation will help create a sustainable cultural bridge between Iran and India. The meeting was followed by a visit to the activities of the International Microfilm Center at the Iranian Cultural House in New Delhi. The visit aimed to familiarize the guests with the center's efforts in preserving, digitalizing, and promoting the written heritage of Iran and India. The participants in the meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation to promote and protect these cultural treasures, highlighting the historical and cultural ties between Iran and India as one of the strengths and shared assets of both countries.

## Iranian actress Fatemeh Mokhtari awarded at US festival

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Iranian actress Fatemeh Mokhtari won the Best Actress Award at the IndieFEST Film Festival in the United States for her role in the short film 'Stupid', directed by Meysam Mohammadkhani. According to IRNA, 'Stupid' made its international debut at the festival and managed to scoop up



the award for Best Actress, marking Mokhtari's first international award for her performance in the film. Mokhtari has previously won numerous awards at global film festivals and is no stranger to recognition for her talent. The IndieFEST Film Festival, which was launched in 2008, aims to introduce independent filmmakers and unique voices from around the world to serious film enthusiasts. The film's plot revolves around Marzieh, a short-statured university student who lives in a dormitory and discovers that she is being mocked by her roommates. However, as the story unfolds, Marzieh's patience wears thin, and she reaches her breaking point. Mokhtari, who has previously spoken about her role in the film, said: "Marzieh is a character who lives a normal life with utmost honesty and innocence until she receives a shock from her roommates that pushes her to her limits. I was able to showcase a range of emotions and performances in this role, and I'm thrilled about it." 'Stupid' boasts an ensemble cast, including Saeedeh Roodbaraki, Kimia Khalaj, Mahna Meraji, Mohaddeseh Mohammadzadeh, and Behnaz Heydari, among others.

## 50 Iranian scholars attend international school course in Malaysia

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Fifty Iranian professors and students are set to attend the third round of international mutual school courses in Malaysia, which will take place at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. The event, scheduled to run from November 3 to 11, aims to bring together young global scientists and leaders to tackle new international challenges, IRNA reported. According to Mohsen Sarraf, the education attaché at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia, the course is the result of an agreement signed between Iran's University of Isfahan and Malaysia's University of Malaya (UM) on the sidelines of the Developing Eight (D8) Summit. The course will feature six topics, including the impact of artificial intelligence on privacy and security, integrated water management, Islamic heritage and civilization, sustainable climate governance, crisis management, and the balance of reasoning and faith in lifestyle. Sarraf noted that extensive collective programs have been planned to promote scientific and academic diplomacy during the event. The Uni-

versity of Malaya will host the course, which is designed to provide education to foreign students or Iranians who have completed part of their studies abroad. Applicants are encouraged to check the registration requirements and eligibility criteria for the course, which include having residency or citizenship in Iran.

