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● Editorial Dept. Tel  
● Address  
● ICPI Publisher  
● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email  
● Website  
● Email  
● Printing House

+98 21 84711411  
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
+98 21 88548892-5  
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir  
irandaily@icpi.ir  
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



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# Iranian illustrators nominated for 2025 Bratislava Biennial

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has announced the nomination of ten illustrators for the 2025 Bratislava Biennial of Illustration, one of the world's most significant illustration events. The nominees were selected by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon), the Children's Book Council of Iran, and the Iranian Illustrators' Society, IRNA reported. The biennial, organized under the auspices of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), takes place in Slovakia's capital every two years, showcasing outstanding works from illustrators worldwide. A national selection process was held on March 2, 2025, in Tehran, where a jury of experts evaluated 40 submitted works. Among the nominated works are 'The Dal Girl' by Noushin Sadeghian, 'Bahram and the Seven Domes' by Narges Mohammadi, and 'Sweet Salt' by Negar Ourang. Other selected pieces include 'The Clever Fox's School' by Ghazaleh

Bigdelou, 'I Saw It Myself' and 'Let the Chick Have It All' by Pedram Kazerooni, 'A Sun in the Turkmen Desert' by Najla Mahdavi, and 'The Lion King' by Amir Shabanipour. In addition, 'The Uninvited Guest' by Maryam Tahmasebi and two internationally titled works, 'Dad Is Right Here' by Mahshid Raghmi and 'Milloon's Mind' and 'Imagine a Garden' by Hoda Haddadi, will also represent Iran. The selected works will be featured in the Bratislava Biennial catalog and compete for top prizes, including the Grand Prix (\$3,000), five Golden Apples (\$1,500 each), and five Special Medals (\$1,000 each). The top winner will also have the opportunity to present their work independently at the next exhibition. Illustrator Fatemeh (Parisa) Behabadi has been chosen to participate in the symposium, while Melika Jamali will join the illustration workshop at the biennial. The Bratislava Biennial, established in 1967, remains a platform for celebrating global excellence in children's book illustration.



## Iran backs private sector with free booths at ITB Berlin 2025



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's deputy tourism minister announced full support for the country's private tourism sector to participate in the ITB Berlin 2025, one of the world's leading travel trade shows. Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey stated that,

given the challenges faced by private tourism operators, particularly in inbound tourism, the government has provided free 100-square-meter exhibition spaces and booth construction services for Iranian travel agencies, ILNA reported. "In line with the admin-

istration's policy of maximum support for the private sector, facilitating their presence in global tourism markets remains a priority," he said. A total of 12 Iranian travel agencies are attending this year's event, which runs from March 14-16 in Berlin, Germany. The ITB Berlin, hosting exhibitors from 190 countries and drawing over 100,000 visitors, is a key platform for networking and business expansion in the global travel industry. Iran's participation aligns with the event's theme, "The World of Travel is Here", leveraging international exposure to enhance its tourism sector's global reach.

## Indian scholars honored with Sa'adi Award for Persian language contributions

The 10th Sa'adi Cultural and Literary Festival recognized the contributions of Indian scholars in the field of Persian language and literature. The event, held at Jamia Millia Islamia University, was attended by Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, head of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature and the Sa'adi Foundation, along with Iranian Cultural Attaché Fariduddin Farid Asr, and prominent Persian scholars, ILNA reported. For the first time, two additional awards were introduced: One for cataloging Persian manuscripts in India, presented by the Delhi-based Persian Research Center, and another for identifying Persian manuscripts, awarded by the Noor International Microfilm Center. This year's Sa'adi Award recipients included:



Syed Akhtar Husain, professor at the Center for Persian and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Professor Aziz Bano, faculty member at the Department of Persian, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. Sharif Hussain Qasemi was honored for his work in cataloging

and publishing Persian manuscripts, particularly the works of Bidel. The Sa'adi Award, established in 2007 to mark the 50th anniversary of modern Iran-India cultural relations, aims to honor scholars who have dedicated their lives to preserving and promoting Persian in India.

## DoE chief urge environmental education in schools amid growing ecological crises

### Social Desk

Shina Ansari, Vice President and Head of Iran's Department of Environment (DoE) emphasized the urgent need for integrating environmental education into school curricula, warning that neglecting ecological responsibilities would exacerbate the country's environmental crises. Ansari stressed that environmental protection cannot be the sole responsibility of the organization, calling for collective efforts from institutions. "If authorities remain indifferent, the result will be an increasing trend of environmental problems and damages," she stated at a national event on sustainable environmental education

on Tuesday. Highlighting the role of education, Ansari pointed to Article 50 of the Iranian Constitution, which enshrines environmental protection as a public duty. "We must all stand together to safeguard our natural resources; otherwise, the country's fragile environment will deteriorate further," she warned. She suggested environmental teachings to begin at an early age, emphasizing the significant role of schools. While formal education includes subjects like "Humans and the Environment," she noted that extracurricular and hands-on learning could enhance students' environmental awareness.

Hadi Kiadaliri, Deputy for Education and Public Participation at the Department of Environment, underscored the global urgency of environmental issues. "Iran's unique geography makes us particularly vulnerable, and any delay in addressing environmental concerns is no longer acceptable," he stated. Kiadaliri linked the crisis to broader ethical and behavioral shortcomings. "We have environmental knowledge but lack environmental behavior," he said, calling for a shift from a human-centered to an ecology-centered approach. The officials announced initiatives such as the "Environment Ambassadors" program in schools, green



management strategies, and the expansion of environmental vocational schools. "Environmental awareness is not just a subject; it's a way of life. If we fail to instill this mindset in students, we will face severe consequences in the future," Kiadaliri concluded.

## Tehran Int'l Book Fair unveils 'Read for Iran' as official slogan

The 36th Tehran International Book Fair selected "Read for Iran" as its official slogan, organizers announced. Ebrahim Heidari, spokesperson and deputy director of the event, said a public call for slogan submissions was issued on February 4, receiving approximately 1,500 responses.

"After expert review, the proposals were presented to the fair's policy council, which ultimately chose 'Read for Iran' as this year's slogan," Heidari stated. The 36th Tehran International Book Fair will take place from May 7 to 17 at the Imam Khomeini Molla in the Iranian capital.

