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32nd International Holy Qur'an exhibition opens in Tehran

Qur'an lasting miracle to guide humanity: *Minister*

Arts & Culture Desk

The 32nd edition of the International Holy Qur'an Exhibition began on Wednesday at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran, inaugurated by Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader, Hojatoleslam Mohammad-Hassan Aboutorabi Fard, and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi. During the opening ceremony, minister Salehi emphasized the Qur'an's unique and enduring nature, describing it as a divine miracle that continues to guide humanity, IRNA reported. "The exhibition should help us understand the miraculous aspects of the Holy Qur'an and bring us closer to its profound intellectual and spiritual dimensions," he added. He said that while other divine scriptures were revealed in a single instance, the Qur'an's gradual revelation nurtured both the Prophet and his fol-

lowers over time, shaping Islamic civilization step by step. Salehi further elaborated on the Qur'an's unparalleled nature, saying, "the miracles of past prophets were witnessed by specific communities, and their accounts were passed down through narration. However, the Qur'an remains a perpetual miracle—observable and accessible to all." He stressed that the Qur'an's wonder is not confined to any one aspect but encompasses sensory, intellectual, and spiritual realms, elevating human consciousness in multiple dimensions. Under the theme "The Qur'an, the Path of Life," the exhibition features participation from government officials, lawmakers, religious scholars, and cultural figures, IRNA reported. Hojatoleslam Hamidreza Arbab Soleimani, head of the exhibition, emphasized the importance of such events despite technological advancements,

describing the exhibition as a continuous effort for spiritual growth rather than a repetitive initiative. "Qur'anic activities strengthen our connection with the divine message and guide us towards a righteous life. Holding this exhibition during Ramadan provides an opportunity for self-improvement," he said. The event spans 20,000 square meters and includes 37 content-focused sections. Fifteen governmental institutions, 40 public organizations, and 120 religious publishers are participating, showcasing over 4,300 books. The international segment hosts delegations from 15 countries. Running until March 16, the exhibition will feature 58 specialized sessions, 26 Qur'anic gatherings, and a closing ceremony honoring Qur'anic figures, attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian. This year marks a unique scheduling overlap, as the



31st edition was held during Ramadan in March-April 2024, while the 32nd edition aligns with the early days of the holy month, concluding just before the Iranian New Year.

Iran bans 'Muawiya' series over historical narrative concerns

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Audiovisual Media Regulation Authority (SARTA), has officially banned the broadcast of the TV series 'Muawiya,' by Saudi broadcaster MBC. The series, which presents a new narrative of the life of Muawiya, the founder of the Umayyad dynasty, is accused of attempting to whitewash the reputation of the Umayyad family, IRNA reported. SATRA has prohibited its air-

ing across all national audiovisual platforms and banned the dubbing or distribution of the series on both user- and publisher-based media outlets. The ban also extends to several Islamic countries, including Iraq and Egypt, where the series has been blocked due to concerns over its potential to cause social unrest and undermine national cohesion. On March 3, SATRA sent a formal notice to licensed platforms, warning that any further dub-



bing or distribution of the content would be considered illegal. In addition, user-generated media outlets had uploaded the original version of the first two episodes, but these were removed in collaboration with the Attorney General's office.

Tehran, Vienna cultural relations a bridge between two nations: *Deputy FM*

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-e-Ravanchi said that cultural ties with Austria are a bridge between the two nations, and the presence of educated Iranians in Austria can be a factor for bringing the two countries closer to one another. "On March 5, at the conference titled 'History of Cultural and Diplomatic Relations between Iran and Austria,' held at the University of Tehran, I spoke

and emphasized that one of the important dimensions of Iran-Austria relations is their cultural cooperation, which can serve as a bridge between the peoples of the two countries," wrote Takht-e-Ravanchi on Tuesday on his X account, formerly known as Twitter. The presence of educated Iranians in Austria can be a factor in bringing the two countries closer, the official said. He also emphasized that the cruel sanctions imposed by



the United States and the European Union, which target the cultured people of Iran, must be lifted to enable greater and more effective cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian tourism potentials on display at ITB Berlin 2025

Iran is making a strong push to position itself as a top global travel destination at ITB Berlin 2025, the world's leading travel trade show, with a culturally inspired pavilion highlighting the country's historical, artistic, and natural attractions. Mostafa Shafiei Shakib, chairman of the Iranian Tour Operators Association, emphasized that Iran's presence at the event is not just about tourism promotion but also about fostering cultural exchange and strengthening international ties, IRNA reported. "Our participation is a major step in revitalizing Iran's tourism sector and showcasing it as one of the world's top 10 travel destinations," Shakib said. The Iranian pavilion, designed to reflect the country's rich heritage, aims to captivate visitors with its distinctive architecture and im-

mersion displays. "It provides a glimpse into the diverse beauty of Iran, from its historical landmarks to its breathtaking natural landscapes," Shakib noted. Representatives from Iran's leading tour operators and tourism firms are attending the event, engaging with international stakeholders to expand partnerships and attract more visitors to the country. "Our goal is to stimulate Iran's tourism industry by establishing new commercial and international collaborations," Shakib added. "We see this as an opportunity to enhance Iran's image and economic prospects through tourism." Iran's tourism sector, which boasts UNESCO-listed heritage sites, diverse landscapes, and cultural attractions, is positioning itself for growth despite global



challenges. Shakib expressed optimism about the future, stating that Iran has the potential to rank among the world's top destinations. ITB Berlin 2025, running from March 4-6, is the premier global tourism industry event, drawing thousands of exhibitors and professionals from around the world. Participants showcase their countries' travel offerings, fostering economic development and international tourism exchange.

Tehran, Islamabad seek stronger academic ties, student exchange in medical sciences

Social Desk

Officials from Iran and Pakistan convened at the Iranian Cultural Center in Lahore to discuss strengthening educational cooperation, with a particular focus on medical student exchanges. The gathering was attended by Asghar Masoudi, head of the Iranian Cultural Center in Lahore, and Ahsan Waheed Rathore, president of Pakistan's University of Medical Sciences. Masoudi emphasized the deep cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan, stating that academic cooperation would further enhance these relations. "The Iranian Cultural Center in Lahore has always served as a bridge for scientific and cultural exchanges between the two nations and is ready to facilitate collaborations in this regard," he noted. On Iran's scientific advancements, Masoudi pointed out the country's progress in medical sciences, nanotechnology, surgical robotics, and nuclear medicine. He stressed that Iranian universities offer excellent facilities for international students and expressed hope that Pakistani students would take advantage of these opportunities. "The Leader of Iran and the President Masoud Pezeshkian have a positive outlook on strengthening ties with Pakistan, and student exchange programs

represent one of the most effective ways to enhance academic and cultural cooperation," he added. Rathore acknowledged Iran's remarkable achievements in medical sciences and expressed Pakistan's keen interest in learning from Iran's expertise. "Iran has attained a position in medical research, and its universities rank highly in various scientific fields. We are eager to benefit from Iran's experiences, particularly in organ transplantation programs," he added. He proposed that Pakistan's University of Medical Sciences be included in Iran's list of recognized institutions, allowing Iranian students to enroll. Rathore further announced that reserved seats for Iranian students would be allocated at his university to facilitate academic exchange. Another key point of discussion was the organization of entrance exams for medical and dental programs in Tehran, enabling Iranian students to apply to Pakistani universities without difficulty. The meeting concluded with a proposal for joint seminars and academic conferences to allow researchers and students from both nations to exchange knowledge. On the sidelines of the event, Iranian achievements in medical sciences post-Islamic Revolution were showcased through banners and video clips, which received significant attention from attendees.