

# Ilam Province brings handicrafts to Iraq's Kut in push for regional ties

## Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition of Ilam provincial handicrafts formally opened October 10 in Kut, the capital of Wasit Province, on the occasion of Iraq's National Day. The week-long event features 15 standout Iranian artisans, placing on display kilims, leather marquetry, pottery, woven fabrics, copperware, local dolls and other traditional works, IRNA reported. The exhibition is jointly organized by Ilam's governorate and its Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, with collaboration from Wasit provincial authorities. The aim is to showcase Ilam's creative strengths and bolster trade, tourism and cultural exchange between the two neighbors. Abbas Mirzad, Ilam's deputy coordinator for economic affairs, called the

event a "bridge" to connect markets and minds. He said the provincial delegation held talks with the governor general of Badreh and local officials, during which issues of export, tourism and university cooperation were weighed. He noted that both sides "stressed the need" to finalize a memorandum of understanding soon. Head of Ilam Cultural Heritage Department Farzad Sharifi described handicrafts as a "common language" across borders. He added that this was the third time Ilam had arranged such trade-cultural exhibitions in Iraq — once in Sulaymaniyah, twice in Wasit already. He said the government is keen to see its border provinces play an active role in regional trade. Mirzad also announced that Wasit of-

ficials have been invited to participate in a fam-tour in Ilam, to visit its tourist and cultural sites. The intention is to familiarize Iraqi delegates with Ilam's potential and lay the groundwork for sustained cooperation. At the opening, Ilam's delegation—comprising Sharifi, Mirzad, deputies, and Qazi Zahedi, head of the Foreign Ministry's office in Ilam—was greeted by Wasit dignitaries, including Jafar Malekshahi, the governor general of Badreh. Ilam shares about 430 kilometers of border with Iraq, touching Wasit, Maysan and Diyala provinces. Cultural, linguistic and religious commonalities have long connected border communities on both sides. Many residents across the line trace ancestry to Ilam, speak Southern Kurdish (known in Iraq as Feyli), and hold strong ties to Iran.



● BORNA

## Iran's 'Punishment' globetrots from Sharjah to US screens



## Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian short film 'Punishment' by director Pouya Mofid was selected for screenings at three international festivals this autumn, beginning in Sharjah on October 5 and culminating in the US in November. From 5 to 12 October, 'Punishment' will screen three times at the Sharjah International Children's and Youth Film Festival in the UAE, at Vox City Centre Al Zahia, where Mofid will walk the

red carpet, ILNA reported. The film then moves to Orange County, for the 26th Newport Beach Film Festival, held from October 16 to 23. Its US screening is scheduled for October 23 at 15:30. Next stop is Delaware for the 27th Rehoboth Beach International Film Festival, running November 3–9, where 'Punishment' will be shown on November 8. 'Punishment,' produced and distributed worldwide by Madakto Pictures, had earli-

er been screened in Ningbo, China, and at DokuFest in Kosovo. Mehdi Asghari Azghadi, who penned the screenplay, described the film as arising from "a few human questions" including how the next generation reflects what we have handed to them, and whether silenced voices echo back a mirror of ourselves. He pondered whether a seemingly simple "punishment" might cause the collapse of character in a child or adult. He added that Mofid, on his first directorial venture, embraced the emotional complexity of the script, navigating the challenge of working with child actors and sensitive scenes. The film stars Mohammad Sedighi Mehr and Sahar Aghasi. It centers on an incident in an elementary school where a Black child—after harsh correction by a teacher—develops a severe stutter traced by doctors to psychological trauma. The family pursues legal action against the teacher.

## Hungarian novelist Krasznahorkai wins 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature

Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai, 71, whose works including 'Satantango' and 'The Melancholy of Resistance' were translated into Persian, was awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "compelling and visionary" body of work that reaffirms the enduring power of art amid apocalyptic fear. The Swedish Academy said the prize recognized his creation of "works that, in the midst of apocalyptic dread, emphasize the everlasting force of art." Born in Gyula, Hungary, on January 5, 1954, Krasznahorkai is celebrated as one of the foremost living postmodern writers. His prose is marked by extraordinarily long, flowing sentences, often without traditional paragraph breaks, producing a musical, relentless narrative rhythm. Critics highlight his unflinching depiction of societal collapse, existential despair, and the anxieties of modern Eastern Europe. Krasznahorkai first gained international attention with 'Satantango' (1985), a novel portraying the disintegration of a remote Hungarian village. The story was later adapted into a celebrated 1994 film by director



Béla Tarr. His other major works include 'The Melancholy of Resistance' (1989), 'War and War' (1999), and 'Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming' (2016). In 2015, he became the first Hungarian author to win the Man Booker International Prize, cementing his global literary stature. Several of his novels have been translated into Persian, including 'Satantango,' translated by

Sepand Saedi and Zahra Vossoughi, 'The Melancholy of Resistance' by Ali Masoumi, and 'Animalinside,' 'The Last Wolf,' and 'Chasing Homer,' translated by Nikzad Norpanah. Krasznahorkai's work has drawn comparisons to Franz Kafka, Thomas Bernhard, and Herman Melville, and continues to influence contemporary literature, film, and the visual arts worldwide.

## Coral revival as Chabahar reefs show recovery after three years

## Social Desk

Director General of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Protection at Iran's Department of Environment Shahrnam Fadakar announced that a three-year monitoring effort has confirmed the successful revival of coral reefs planted in the Gulf of Chabahar. Over the past four days, Fadakar's expert team, along with regional coastal offices, carried out fresh underwater surveys at the transplantation sites in Chabahar Bay, along Iran's south-

eastern coast. Those reefs were first planted in late 2022. The results have exceeded expectations, IRNA reported. "All three coral species are showing excellent growth and full health," Fadakar reported. He said extensive, vibrant colonies now cover large areas, and even the natural seabed surrounding the plantings has become colonized. Concrete blocks left on the seabed from earlier efforts are now "completely covered" by brain corals,

transformed into living reef structures. The natural recovery process, he said, is unfolding on its own. In the same survey, the team recorded a "substantial" return of reef fish populations, benthic species and invertebrates—clear signs that the habitat is regaining its vitality. To bolster this, they planted about 200 new coral fragments on spider-style frames, enhancing structural complexity and long-term stability. Based on current data, Fadakar believes the region's natural capacity for

reef regeneration has been restored. The next step is to formally designate the area as a marine protected zone to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use. The revival comes despite decades of pressure on Chabahar Bay corals—from port construction, dredging and bleaching linked to warming waters—documented in scientific studies on local reef decline. Nevertheless, this new success offers a rare marine conservation win in the Gulf of Oman region.

