

Honar Hall restored after Ramadan War, soon to resume activities

Arts & Culture Desk

Honar Hall, known as a specialized center for children and youth theater in the capital Tehran, after completing its post-war renovation, is ready to host artists, performances, and children and youth enthusiasts of performing arts once again, according to IRNA. The cultural and artistic complex, which suffered damages due to a missile attack in its vicinity on March 16, 2026, was quickly restored and repaired through the efforts and dedication of officials and experts. "We are committed to enhancing a safe and inspiring space for future generations," said Amir Mashhadi Abbas, the head of Tehran's Honar Hall. "The successful renovation of Honar Hall, in areas such as

replacing the hall's windows, refurbishing the waiting room furniture, upgrading the electrical post, and repairing damaged doors, reflects the spirit of sustainability and love for art among our colleagues, as well as the supportive attitude of cultural and artistic enthusiasts." The Honar Hall manager said it is actually during times of war that we should pay attention to arts like theater. "Our only recommendation is to keep children away from the war's atmosphere; in other words, to shield them from news. Instead of having them sit down to watch the news and constantly be stressed, let's encourage them to watch theater. It would be better to take them to cinemas and libraries." Mashhadi Abbas underlined that Honar Hall, with its specialized

spaces, will continue to host diverse theatrical performances, educational workshops, and special cultural events for children and teenagers, welcoming esteemed and discerning artists and audiences for children's and youth theater shows. Built around 1960 for artistic performances, Honar Hall initially focused on traditional theater and shadow plays. In the last decade, it has become a hub for puppet shows, children's and youth theater, and puppet and children's festivals. The hall has a capacity of 244 spectators across two sections, ground floor and balcony, and operates under the Department of Performing Arts of the Islamic Cultural and Guidance Ministry. The US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassi-



The photo shows the aftermath of US-Israeli aggression in the vicinity of Honar Hall in the capital Tehran on March 16, 2026. sahebkhavar.ir

nated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Iran's Armed Forces responded

by launching daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US military bases and assets across the re-

gion. Forty days into the war on April 8, a Pakistan-brokered temporary ceasefire between Iran and the US took effect.

Iran's chief rabbi: Jews are 'integral part of great Iranian nation'

Social Desk

Rabbi Younes Hamami Lalehzar, the leader of the Iranian Jewish community, emphasized on Monday that Iranian Jews consider themselves as an "integral part of the great Iranian nation."

The leader of the Iranian Jewish community made the remarks in an interview with ISNA in reference to the historical companionship of the community with the Iranian nation in various periods, including in the 1979 Revolution, the Sacred Defense era in the 1980s, and the latest acts of aggression by the US and Israeli regimes over the past year. Pointing to the presence of the Jewish community in defending the country during the Ramadan War, Hamami Lalehzar stated that, "Iranian Jews consider themselves as an integral part of the great Iranian nation and have been alongside the majority of society in all fields." The leader of the Iranian Jewish community, referring to the statements condemning the recent attacks, said, "During these days, various statements have been issued by myself, the representative of the Jews



Younes Hamami Lalehzar

in the Iranian Parliament, and Jewish associations in different cities such as Shiraz and Isfahan, condemning the enemy's attacks; attacks that led to the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and innocent children in Minab school, or attacked a synagogue in a dead-end alley in a residential area where there was no military zone around it, and martyred its members and individuals, showing that their enmity is with the Iranian nation." Hamami Lalehzar underlined that the Zionist regime introduces itself as the defender of the world's Jews, but it has shown that it has no respect even for Jewish holy sites. "Any place of worship for the

one God has sanctity. They attacked synagogues and Jewish religious festivals like the "Passover" festival (the festival of freedom and exodus from Egypt following the uprising of Prophet Moses and the defeat of Pharaoh). This shows that they are pursuing their own interests and are misusing the name of Judaism," he said. "We do not accept Zionists as representatives of Judaism, especially in this period with [Benjamin] Netanyahu, who has tried to cling to certain verses of the Torah. Their behavior is contrary to the Torah and the commandments of God. The main slogan of the Torah is "Love your fellow man," and these behaviors cannot be justified at all."

Gov't urged to ensure post-war secure Internet, support businesses

Social Desk

Iran's Content Production and Distribution Union in the Virtual Space, in a statement on Monday, supported secure access to the Internet for the public and, while backing sovereign decisions regarding the Internet in wartime, suggested that any plans should be drafted and implemented with the participation of private sector representatives.

"We believe that the interests of businesses in the virtual space and the integrity of the country's territory can only be preserved with the independence of the country's digital economy and the completion of the national information network," the statement read, as reported by IRNA. "Continuity of digital business operations in crisis conditions is a national necessity. Internet-dependent businesses are not only the source of livelihood for millions of Iranian households, but they also play a central role in maintaining social connections, providing public services, and



ensuring the continuity of the national economy. Therefore, we consider ensuring the sustainability of business Internet connectivity in emergency situations as a legitimate goal in line with national interests and support the will of the highest officials of the system to achieve it. We also consider the dual approach of some relevant actors and stakeholders in this field as harmful to the digital ecosystem of the country." The union also voiced readiness to actively and responsibly participate in the implementation, amendment, and optimization process of the Business Internet

Scheme as a partner. Pointing to support for war-affected businesses, the statement said, "Digital businesses have suffered significant losses during the periods of Internet instability. The union calls on the government and responsible institutions to consider financial support packages, low-interest loans, and temporary tax exemptions for them, while quickly identifying the affected parties." The union added that supporting the livelihoods of stakeholders in this field is not just a sectoral demand, but a necessity for the resilience of the country's digital economy.

Anti-Iran Hollywood project flops at box office

Arts & Culture Desk

The movie 'Desert Warrior', produced with a staggering \$150 million budget and a narrative against Iran, suffered a significant defeat at the global box office. Despite the presence of stars such as Ben Kingsley and Anthony Mackie, the cinematic work failed to attract audiences even in the Middle East markets and Saudi Arabia.

In the American market, the project only generated \$600,000 in sales, which is considered a financial disaster for a film of this scale. In Saudi Arabia, the movie did not even make it to the top-selling list and ranked at the bottom of the chart. Many experts believe that the Saudi cinema was confused in identifying the film's identity and presented a Hollywood narrative in an awkward format that lacks appeal for any

group of Eastern or Western audiences. The ambitious project, after five years of controversial production, has effectively lost its chance of profitability as negative feedbacks in test screenings and very low ratings on movie review sites showed that spending huge amounts without considering the dramatic quality and audience taste cannot guarantee the box office success of Desert Warrior.

Another point could be the political agenda of the film, as it has been described as an anti-Iranian work focusing on the attack on Iran during the Sassanid era, which could lead to the display of Arabian civilization and history being overshadowed by its political goals, especially during the days of US and Israeli war against Iran, and may deter audiences seeking to watch Arabic life and identity.

