



Culture minister hails Beyhaqi as model of truth, integrity

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister has cited 11th-century historian Abu'l-Fazl Beyhaqi as a model of integrity in documenting history. Abbas Salehi called Beyhaqi's approach relevant as information spreads rapidly and leaves less time for verification. In a message to a conference held to commemorate Bayhaqi in his hometown Sabzevar, in northeastern Iran on Saturday, the minister said 'The History of Beyhaqi' stood out for both its literary quality and its author's

commitment to truth. Salehi stressed the need to verify reports, assess narrators' accounts and keep personal motives out of historical narratives. "Such principles deserved greater attention at a time when the speed of information dissemination often limits opportunities for scrutiny and judgment," he added. Beyhaqi, an Iranian historian of the 11th century, chronicled events under the Ghaznavid dynasty (977-1186). His work remains an important source on the dynasty's history and is recognized for its careful narration, critical assessment of sources and

contribution to classical Persian prose. Salehi linked Beyhaqi's legacy to contemporary concerns about information credibility, emphasizing fairness and responsibility in reporting events. His message underscored the relevance of these principles to modern media as well as historical writing. Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, head of Iran's Academy of Persian Language and Literature, and Mahmoud Shalouei, head of the Association for Cultural Works and Distinguished Figures attended the conference held at the Hakim Sabzevari University in Sabzevar.



● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA

Maternal mortality sharply down in Iran over four decades



Social Desk

Maternal mortality in Iran has fallen from more than 220 deaths to about 20 per 100,000 live births over the past four to five decades, the head of the country's Medical Council said on Saturday, IRNA reported. Mohammad Raeeszadeh, speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Iranian Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said access to safe childbirth services in Iran now exceeds 95%. Worldwide, the

maternal mortality ratio stood at about 197 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023, down from 328 in 2000, according to the World Health Organization. The global target for 2030 is to bring the ratio below 70 deaths per 100,000 live births. "Iran has 6,012 obstetrician-gynecologists along with nearly 280 perinatology specialists, about 300 fellowship-trained specialists in infertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF), and nearly 160 specialists with fellowships in gynecologic

oncology surgery," Raeeszadeh said. According to the official, the number of women specialists across clinical fields has also risen sharply, from about 770 in 1981 to more than 30,000 women specialists, subspecialists and fellowship holders across all fields today. "That represents an increase of more than 40 times, while Iran's population has grown about two-and-a-half times over the same period," he said. At the ceremony, Soudabeh Kazemi, head of the Iranian Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, called for maintaining the quality of medical training, expanding research, upholding professional ethics and protecting women's dignity and health. She said scientific associations should provide a forum for professionals to exchange experience, discuss workplace concerns and involve younger generations.

Tehran's Tabiat Bridge turn blue for United Nations Day

Social Desk

Tabiat Bridge, a landmark pedestrian bridge in northern Tehran, illuminated in blue on Saturday evening to mark United Nations Day. The bridge changed color to highlight messages of peace, solidarity and cooperation among nations, IRNA reported. United Nations Day is observed on October 24, the anniversary of the organization's official founding in 1945. The occasion highlights the UN's aims, including maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, promoting cooperation among countries and seeking peaceful solutions to disputes. Blue is the United Nations' signature color and a key part of its visual identity. The organization's flag features a white emblem depicting a world map surrounded



by olive branches against a blue background, symbolizing peace and the unity of nations. The blue lighting of Tabiat Bridge is intended to echo those themes in Tehran's public space, using one of the Iranian capital's best-known architectural landmarks to mark an international observance. Located in the Abbasabad area of northern Tehran, Tabiat Bridge is a two-level structure designed exclusively for pedestrians. It

crosses Modarres Highway and connects Taleghani Park to the east with Ab-o-Atash Park to the west. The bridge is among Tehran's prominent urban and tourism landmarks. Its design links two public parks across a major highway, making it a recognizable feature of the city's landscape. The event connected Tehran's urban architecture with the UN's annual message, emphasizing the role of international cooperation in efforts to promote peace and security.

Pakistani, Uzbek publishers seek rights to Iranian children's books

Arts & Culture Desk

Publishers from Pakistan and Uzbekistan have sought rights to publish Iranian children's books following talks at the 12th Baku International Book Fair in Azerbaijan. Pakistan's National Book Foundation (NBF), a government body under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, has formally requested permission to publish five Iranian children's

titles, according to Iran's Book and Literature House. The titles are 'A New Friend', 'The Little Key', 'Look at This Way', 'The Rose on the Rug' and 'Once Upon a Time'. They were published by Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults and Beh-Nashr Publishing House. The NBF wants to publish the books in Urdu or English. It has offered to cover translation, printing, publication,

promotion and distribution costs. The Pakistani foundation also says the published editions will identify the Iranian publishers and include intellectual property information. An Uzbek publisher has separately expressed interest in acquiring rights to two Iranian books: 'The Golden Wheat Stalk' and 'The Ancient Promise of Tomorrow' published by Beh-Nashr. The requests followed

discussions between the manager of Iran's booth at the fair, a representative of Iran's Book and Literature House and participating publishers. Initial contacts have been established, and talks are continuing on the terms for transferring publication rights, the report said. The requests could help introduce Iranian children's and young adult literature to readers abroad through translation and international publishing partnerships.

