



Rahbari to stage works of int'l composers

Iranian composer and conductor Ali Rahbari is set to lead performances of renowned classical music composers' works on July 14 and July 21. In July 2022, Rahbari was invited by Valery Gergiev, one of the world's most famous conductors, to perform two programs at the Marinsky Opera in St. Petersburg, Russia. Rahbari conducted compositions by Dmitry Shostakovich, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Babolsar, a coastal city with a charming river in northern Iran



On the way to Mazandaran Province from Tehran, the winding road which snakes around the mountain brings you to the land of the sea. Humid air, paddy fields, intact forests, and nice, pure people call you. No one can know Mazandaran Province merely by photos. You have to pick up your backpack and leave freely for the land in order to understand the beauty of the northernmost province of Iran. At the end of the road, coming down a hill, the humidity is the first thing to greet you. You sense that you are approaching your destination.

The road turns green and, suddenly, you find yourself in the middle of a forest, in2iran.com wrote. On the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, Babolsar is bordered by Babol in the south, Juybar in the east, and Fereydunkenar in the west. The city has humid subtropical climate, with warm summers and cool, humid winters. Babolsar was formerly known as Mashhadsar (the way to Mashhad) because the only road connecting the northwest of Iran to the city of Mashhad in the northeast passed through the city.

The founder of the Safavid Dynasty, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629 CE), is said to have visited the city twice and written about the many ships docked at its pier waiting for the right time to set sail. During the Qajar era (1781-1925 CE) the city served as a port for the market town, Babol. From Babolsar goods such as cotton, silk and rice were transported to Russia, and Russian goods were brought back to Iran. The city lost its status as a commercial port when Anzali Port in Gilan Province gained more popularity.

Babolsar is a city with a charming river, crowded with fishing and recreational boats. In fact, the main part of the city is located along this river. Walking alongside the river, you can see old buildings of the city built in Russian style. Modern buildings are visible next to the ancient ones. Local people have tried to preserve the antique style of the city's bazaar. Many farmers and fishermen bring their products here to sell. People with dark skin and sweet accents tell you everything you want to know about the town. At the end of the river, you

reach the Caspian Sea. The confluence of the river and the sea creates an inimitable scene of which one should have first-hand experience. The city is full of beautiful stylish coastal villas, which are so gorgeous that you will imagine for a moment that you have traveled to Spain. These villas are for rent, and everyone can enjoy the sea and the beach. The city is popular because of its many hotels and villas as well as Darya Kenar town, located five kilometers from Babolsar, where many Iranians vacation.

Blood donations up 3% in Iran in spring



Social Desk

The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) revealed on Saturday a 3% increase in the number of blood donations during the first three months of the current Iran year (started March 21), compared to the same period last year, according to a statement by the organization's spokesman. IBTO spokesman Dr. Bashir Haji-Beigi said approximately 600,000 units of blood were donated during the spring season, ISNA reported. Haji-Beigi pointed out the provinces which experienced growth in blood donations. Lorestan Province emerged as the frontrunner, with a remarkable growth rate exceeding 44%. Golestan Province closely followed with an increase of over 17%, while North Khorasan witnessed a rise of more than 16%. Notably, Tehran Province managed to collect almost 100,000 units of blood from volunteers during the spring period. Commenting on the continuous blood donation index, he revealed that the index for the first quarter of the year stood

at 54%, indicating a slight increase compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, Haji-Beigi shared the current rankings of provinces with the highest continuous blood donation index. Semnan, Yazd, and Golestan provinces demonstrated remarkable indices surpassing 66%, 63%, and 61%, respectively. Noteworthy is the growth observed in Ilam, North Khorasan, and Khuzestan provinces, signifying commendable efforts to retain blood donors in those regions. He emphasized that the national index of women's blood donations exceeded 4% during the first three months of this year. Lorestan Province showcased a particularly high index nearing 9%, while North Khorasan reported an index of over 7%. South Khorasan boasted a remarkable index of women's blood donation in the country, reaching nearly 7%. These findings highlight the ongoing efforts to encourage and facilitate blood donations in Iran, with provinces across the country contributing to the overall increase in the blood supply.

Maryam Nashiba: A timeless voice connecting generations on 'Good Night Kids'

Arts & Culture Desk

Maryam Nashiba, an experienced storyteller, has been captivating children with bedtime stories on the radio program 'Good Night Kids' since 1990. With pride, Nashiba shares her recognition when taxi drivers identify her voice, which is familiar to children. This recognition represents the simple expectation that television and radio authorities should listen to the people's desires and engage more closely with their audience. In May 2019, Radio Iran celebrated Nashiba's lifelong accomplishments during a special ceremony. In an interview with ISNA, Nashiba, reflects on her early radio experiences, concerns, affection for children, and her demands from television and radio officials.



Recalling the inception of her collaboration with the program, Nashiba states, "Good Night Kids' commenced on June 30, 1990, following an earthquake in the northern part of the country. Thanks to Mostafa Rahmandoust and an Azerbaijani poet whose name currently eludes her memory, Mrs. Khorasani and Mr.

Kazemzadeh were part of the children's group at the time, and this program began. Fortunately, it has persevered to this day." Nashiba also emphasizes the connection she feels with her audience, expressing her happiness and satisfaction that, without any special efforts, she has garnered a

host of beloved individuals who warmly respond to her greetings and show their affection towards her. When questioned about her current involvement in other programs, both on the radio and television, Nashiba clarifies, "I solely host 'Good Night Kids.' I do not have any television programs. It has been two years since I last participated in dubbing. Former colleagues, such as Gholamali Afshari, who relocated to the north, are no longer active. Personally, I prefer remaining in my comfort zone and not venturing outside of it." Addressing the continuity of her programs' audience, Nashiba explains, "Most of those who are at home and seek entertainment and solace around 3 pm tune into the 'Golbaang' program. Although with rapid technological ad-

vancements, everything has undergone significant transformations. Each passing day and moment bring about change. Technology has progressed immensely, both in the realm of radio and television. Consequently, we must keep pace with these developments. We must acquaint ourselves with new forms of art, novel techniques, and be willing to learn them anew." Concluding the interview, Nashiba expresses her expectations from officials, emphasizing the importance of utilizing individuals with intellect and ideology. She discourages individuals from assuming positions of responsibility solely out of personal interest. Disregarding even the slightest of people's opinions should be avoided, while paying considerable attention to their demands is crucial.