



## Iranian voice dubber Ashkbus dies

Ali-Mohammad Ashkbus, a veteran figure in Iran's dubbing industry, sadly passed away. Ashkbus began his career in voice dubbing at the age of 18 in the year 1961. Over the years, he excelled not only in dubbing and voice acting but also contributed as an assistant to dubbing directors, showcasing his multifaceted talent. Among his notable vocal performances, Ashkbus lent his voice to the series 'Zero Degree Turn' and the animated works 'The Adventures of Hutch the Honeybee' and 'Ganbare, Kickers!'.

## Lar National Park, a magnificent protected area



The magnificent Lar National Park is located at the foot of the Alborz Mountains, near the southwestern foothills of Mount Damavand. It's between Mazandaran and Tehran provinces, about 70km northeast of Tehran, and has an overall area of 73,500 hectares.

This breathtaking Iranian national park includes two different ecosystems: the aquatic and the montane. Being the natural habitat of various animal and plant species, due to its special features and unique wildlife, Lar National Park is protected by the Department of the Environment, cheetah-adventures.com wrote.

There are no cities or villages inside or in the vicinity of this park, giving you the opportunity to admire the beauties of this intact paradise on Earth.

The mighty Damavand summit and its western ridge – the most symmetrical face of the mountain – are visible from Lar National Park. Furthermore, Lar Lake, or the so-called Lar Dam, is one of the best

attractions of this national park, located 20km from the city of Lar. On clear days, Lar Lake can be seen from the Damavand summit; it is a sign pointing to the west. This beautiful lake is also visible from Damavand's southern route, when you reach nearly 4,000m of elevation.

### Wildlife

Lar National Park is the natural habitat of many animal and plant species due to its climate and the existence of several rivers. Almost all animal species found in the central Alborz Mountain region can also be seen in this area. The variety of wildlife in Lar National Park is one of its most interesting features.

### Fauna

Lar National Park is home to a total of one hundred bird species, with the most famous one being the golden eagle, a unique bird found only in Iran. Various bird species such as par-

tridges, Caspian snowcocks, great egrets, grey herons, cormorants, kestrels, cranes, common buzzards, and eagles can be seen in different seasons. This makes Lar National Park a very attractive destination for birdwatching.

Lar National Park is also the natural habitat of many mammals such as red mouflons, sheep, wild goats, leopards, wolves, bears, foxes, wild boars, and jackals. The population of some of these mammals has grown in the past few years as a result of living in a safe environment. Furthermore, many reptiles and amphibian species, and aquatic animals can be found in Lar area such as Latifi's vipers (Lar Valley viper), meadow vipers, monitor lizards, frogs, lizards, Montpellier snakes, and brown trout, which is a unique species of fish.

### Flora

A total of 400 plant species, belonging to 48 plant families, exist in Lar National Park. Among these various species, 338 live in the area

permanently and 35 are found only in Iran.

The variety of plants found in Lar National Park is one of its unique and interesting features. Some of these plants are edible and have medicinal properties. In addition, Lar National Park is covered with beautiful flowers such as iris, woolly buttercup, and Lar poppy, turning it into a stunning scenery. This region is also used for beekeeping due to the existence of meadows and a variety of plants. The beekeeping season in Lar National Park is usually from June to September.

Lar National Park and its surrounding area is a popular ecotourism destination because of its breathtaking landscapes, amazing natural attractions, and wildlife. This region is also used for research projects. If you have some time after climbing mount Damavand, or on your way to Mazandaran Province, don't overlook the astonishing beauty of Lar National Park and Lar Lake.

## Iran's national cord blood bank saves five-year-old

### Social Desk

The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization has reported a significant milestone in the field of transplants using umbilical cord blood. The organization has successfully performed 28 transplants using stored umbilical cord blood, allowing individuals to experience a renewed lease on life. One particularly heartwarming case involves the life-saving transplant that enabled five-year-old Arshia to embark on a new journey of health and vitality, IRNA reported.

tra-low temperatures within the umbilical cord blood bank. Cord blood therapy has proven effective in treating various diseases, ranging from blood malignancies to congenital anemias such as thalassemia and Fanconi anemia. Moreover, the emergence of this treatment method within the realm of regenerative medicine and cell therapy has sparked extensive research aimed at addressing spinal cord injuries and cerebral palsy. However, it is crucial to note that cord blood transplantation relies on the compatibility be-



Umbilical cord blood, recognized as a valuable source of stem cells, is the blood that remains in the placenta after childbirth. If not collected, this precious resource is unfortunately discarded as biological waste. However, studies have revealed that umbilical cord blood harbors hematopoietic stem cells with remarkable potential in treating various immune disorders and hematological malignancies in children.

These versatile cells serve as a replacement for hematopoietic cells in patients grappling with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. By harnessing the power of cord blood stem cell transplantation, numerous patients are being infused with newfound hope. The Iran National Umbilical Cord Blood Bank spearheads the mission to provide stem cells to individuals in dire need of transplantation. As a public cord blood bank, it houses cord blood units available for compatible patients, ensuring that the donated cord blood unit is not exclusively preserved for the respective donor's family. Instead, the cord blood stem cells, carefully collected from healthy infants, undergo rigorous testing, processing, and are ultimately stored at ul-

tween the patient's histocompatibility antigen and the corresponding cord blood histocompatibility antigen. Consequently, medical and transplant centers play a pivotal role by facilitating the request for suitable cord blood units for transplantation.

### Arshia's remarkable journey to recovery

Arshia's story beautifully exemplifies the impact of tissue matching and blood transplant facilitated by the national cord bank of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization. This five-year-old child, afflicted with a hereditary immunodeficiency disorder known as hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), was bestowed with a newfound sense of hope for a healthy and prosperous future. HLH is characterized by severe inflammation and organ dysfunction, potentially culminating in fatality. Arshia's critical condition was met with a hematopoietic stem cell transplant utilizing a cord blood unit meticulously preserved in the Blood Transfusion Organization's cord blood bank. This groundbreaking procedure marks the 28th successful transplant using cord blood units stored by the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization.

## Winners of Havva International Film Festival announced

### Arts & Culture Desk

The first Havva International Film Festival concluded with a grand ceremony on Friday, where the distinguished winners were announced and commended.

The festival, which commenced on July 7 and coincided with Iran's "Family Day" observance, aims to highlight the crucial role of women and family in society and the influential impact of families within the social fabric.

Under the motto, "We Stand for the Family," this significant event strives to provide a prominent platform for the distribution and showcasing of films that center

around women and families, both within Iran and globally. Collaborating with various cultural centers and organizations, the festival endeavors to broaden the pathways for these cinematic works.

According to Hanna Polak, a producer and one of the directors of the Polish Film Festival, who came to Tehran for the festival with the film 'Angels of Sinjar,' said, "I am familiar with Iranian cinema. Women in Iranian cinema hold significant positions in directing, producing, and acting, and the Iranian cinema scene in this regard is similar to the global cinema scene." She stated, "As women, we have a more emotional perspective on the



world, which gives us a more artistic outlook. There are great Iranian and international female filmmakers and screenwriters who bring a feminine and dramatic gaze to their work, in a way that many men may not be able to present such works."

A member of China Theatre Association Bayin, who was among the jury members of the festival, said, family and women are important issues in all societies and Iranian filmmakers have been very successful in addressing these works.

## Iranian satirist Kioumars Saberi commemorated



### Arts & Culture Desk

The late Iranian writer and satirist Kioumars Saberi was honored in a ceremony on Friday, graced by the presence of Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili.

During the event, Esmaeili emphasized the importance of cultivating a

spirit of humor within the country, harnessing the Iranian people's innate poetic and literary prowess to effectively convey messages through irony, metaphor, and humor, according to IRNA.

He stressed the need to fortify this distinctive characteristic of Iranian society with a dedicated approach. Minister Esmaeili made these remarks on the occasion of the 7th National Satire and Media Festival, known as "Tanz Pahlou."

He lauded Saberi's exceptional ability to captivate audiences with his artistry and creativity, as evident

in the monthly satirical magazine 'Golagha,' which left readers eagerly anticipating each new issue. Saberi's writing demonstrated a polite and noble style, 'Golagha' conscientiously observed the boundaries of religious traditions and societal decorum.

Highlighting the approaching 20th anniversary of Saberi's passing, Esmaeili emphasized the importance of ensuring that future generations will remember Saberi's contributions even more than the present one.

Minister Esmaeili underscored that humor serves as a universal language, fostering understanding and

providing a shared means of communication between people and officials. Expressing social demands through humor allows for the articulation of concerns without causing harm.

Born in 1941 in Gilan Province, Kioumars Saberi, widely known by his pen name "Golagha," was a prominent contemporary writer and satirist.

After battling leukemia for an extended period, Saberi passed away in Tehran in 2004.

His influential work, 'A Couple of Sensible Words,' served as the impetus for the creation of the national festival.