



Over 3,000 people attended Ashura performance in City Theater

Over 3,000 people gathered at Tehran's City Theater to welcome the Ashura performance during the special program titled, 'Navay-e Arshian va Mashq-e Farshian,' that took place over the first ten nights of the month of Muharram. According to statistics, the event saw the participation of over 330 artists and an audience of approximately 3,000 people.

Ashura Tent in Tehran hosting mourners of Muharram



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Iranica Desk

A large tent, called kheyemeh-ye Ashura, has been set up in Haft-e Tir Square in Tehran in cooperation with Tehran Municipality's Beautification Organization to host the people participating in the mourning

ceremonies held on the occasion of Ashura, the tenth day of the month of Muharram, which is the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and his companions. Due to the fact that the arts related to Ashura have their roots in the

country's culture, the tent is paving the way for Iranian artists to display their religious works for enthusiasts during the lunar months of Muharram and Safar. Managing Director of Tehran Municipality Beautification Organization Reza Sayyadi said,

"We are holding various programs during these two months, such as singing of religious hymns and performing Ta'zieh (a ritual dramatic art that recounts religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales), pardeh khani (narration of epic stories painted on a screen) and poetry read-

ings". Meanwhile, Head of Tehran's Islamic City Council Mehdi Chamran stated, "This tent, established to show our respect for Imam Hussein (PBUH), will definitely help create a spiritual atmosphere in Tehran during Muharram and Safar".

Iran introduces two writers for IBBY-iRead Award



Iran's Children's Book Council, after a rigorous evaluation process, introduced Alireza Seyyed-Abadi and Nader Mousavi as nominees for the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award. This award, established by the Shenzhen iRead Foundation and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), aims to recognize individuals who have shown a strong commitment to promoting reading and inspire others globally to do the same. Nominees for this award are required to have actively engaged in innovative and creative efforts to promote reading among children and young adults for a minimum of three years. The Children's Book Council, as the Iranian branch of IBBY, selects

and nominates candidates for this prestigious accolade. The jury will consider a range of criteria when evaluating the nominees, including the implementation of exceptional reading promotion projects, effective strategies for advocating reading policies, and a commitment to advancing children's right to read. Factors such as sustainability, influence, innovation, and inspiration will also be taken into account during the judging process. Seyyed-Abadi was previously nominated by the Children's Book Council for the same award in 2019 and has received the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) in both 2023 and 2024.

Iran's SWO turns to small-scale care centers for the disabled

Social Desk

Deputy of rehabilitation affairs at Iranian State Welfare Organization (SWO) highlighted several plans aimed at improving care center operations and staff training while discussing the supervision of care centers for people with disabilities. "One plan involves implementing preventive programs to provide necessary training for staff members who work in non-governmental centers," said Fatemeh Abbasi, according to ILNA. She then pointed out that there will be a focus on caregiver training due to their constant proximity to patients. "A specialized program has been developed to ensure caregivers receive appropriate training and also caution is exercised when selecting caregivers for the centers," she said. Addressing concerns about inexperienced and underqualified caregivers being employed at care centers, Abbasi clarified that special expertise is not necessarily



required. "Individuals who possess a diploma and have received relevant training related to caring for sick individuals can fulfill these roles effectively," the official proclaimed. Abbasi emphasized that family-based caregiver training is another part of their programs as maintenance and care for people with disabilities are highly important. "Regular monitoring of the centers occurs through monthly visits by city officials, quarterly visits by provincial capital representatives, as well as annual or semi-annual inspections conducted by colleagues from central headquarters sent out to provinces and cities," she noted. The deputy pointed out that during the

COVID-19 pandemic, these visits faced challenges due to the conditions; however, revised circulars now allow inspections conducted by both specialized vice-chairs and organization inspection departments. To address safety concerns associated with bigger care centers, Abbasi noted that efforts are being made towards downsizing them into smaller facilities. "All provinces have been informed about separating large-scale centers and transitioning towards smaller ones. However, one challenge they face is a lack of applicants interested in establishing facilities for mental patients in some regions," she said. Abbasi also mentioned a preference for maintaining patients within their families whenever

possible. "Currently, approximately 93 percent of targeted groups are kept within their families while offering nursing rights along with home-based care services, home visits, and provision of sanitary supplies to ensure their dignity is upheld. The goal is to minimize the need for attending care centers by providing adequate support within a home environment," she said. Abbasi also noted an increase in homeless or abandoned individuals on the streets. "They are mainly the elderly or the mentally challenged," she said, adding that families unable to afford care for these individuals often abandon them. Abbasi acknowledged the necessity of establishing centers for such cases but highlighted that accidents occur more frequently in large-scale centers and may compromise individual dignity. "Therefore, our solution is to establish smaller centers as an alternative," the SWO official said.



Iranian documentary nominated for Chinese prize

Iranian documentary filmmaker Saeid Nabi's film 'Stand with the Wolf' received a nomination for the Golden Panda Award for Best Film at the renowned Sichuan TV Festival (SCTVF) in China. The festival, scheduled to take place from September 23 to 25, aims to promote the establishment of a better society by emphasizing sustainable development and a shared, intelligent future for humanity, as reported by IRNA. 'Stand with the Wolf' depicts the true story of Hadi Jalali, an environmental activist who miraculously survived more than 99 shotgun pellets fired at him by hunters, with many of them still embedded in his body. Despite receiving a presidential award for his sacrifice, he remains a stranger in his own village and town. His dedication to the environment has led him to believe that education is a potent tool for preserving nature, but he encounters numerous obstacles in pursuit of his aspirations. Nabi, the film's director, boasts 22 years of experience in producing compelling environmental and social documentary films and television programs. The Sichuan TV Festival is among the largest and most esteemed film festivals in Asia. Every two years, it bestows the Golden Panda Award, symbolizing China's recognition of outstanding films. Only films that stand out for their excep-



tional quality and have been broadcast or distributed in specific countries or regions are eligible for submission. The central vision of this Asian television and film festival is to foster a superior society through sustainable development and a shared, intelligent future for humanity. By showcasing remarkable cinematic and television works, the festival encourages reverence for humanity and its future through artistic expression.