

Minister Outlines Plans to Promote Persian Language



TEHRAN -- Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Muhammad Mehdi Esmaili said Sunday the Persian language has been dynamic in all periods, especially the contemporary era, and is still expanding in the cultural climate of Iran.

“One of our missions is to help this expansion without any interruption and with full force,” he said here in an interview with the news headquarters of the 30th Book Week of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Touching on the Persian language and its importance in Iran’s soft power, he recounted his trip to Tajikistan and meeting with the country’s writers, literati, artists and poets.

“Mrs. Golrokhshar Safieva, who is one of the famous poets of the country, told me that we have been separated from Iran for 300 years, but we still name our daughters Irandokht or Irangol,” Esmaili recounted.

“In my opinion, Persian language and Persian poetry cannot be erased. Even in Türkiye, you can see works in Persian language.

“Today, the Persian language is powerful, and we at the Organization of Is-

lamic Culture and Communication are facing the logjam of requests. However, we have to do more in this field to spread and protect the Persian language in the best way,” he added.

The minister touched on the geographical spread of the Persian language, saying that India has chosen Persian as its second official language.

“The ignorant deeds and statements of some groups in the world against the Persian language, which shows their cultural ignorance, do not harm the greatness of the Persian language.”

Esmaili touched on the importance and necessity of teaching Persian language in other countries.

He said, “We have made the necessary arrangements with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and the sending of professors is increasing. Many professors have also announced their readiness to help us. We have also increased allocations for teaching Persian language abroad several times.”

The 30th Book Week of the Islamic Republic of Iran started on November 14 and will continue until Nov. 21.

Ammar Festival Sets the Tone for New Narrative

TEHRAN -- The first press conference of the 14th Ammar Popular Film Festival (APFF) was held at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Arts here Sunday amid the ongoing Israeli genocide against the people of Gaza.

Hamas representative Khalid al-Qadumi and APFF secretary Sohail Asad attended the conference.

Ali Khalili, a Palestinian student in Iran, said Palestine is now at a turning point in history where before Operation Al-Aqsa Floods cannot be compared with after it.

“The Palestinian resistance movement has been completely successful in its operations,” he said.

Khalili said there is also a media war underway, adding when Hamas publishes a picture of the bravery of its fighters, such as setting fire to an Israeli bulldozer, the fear and terror of Israel and America is unprecedented.

The Hamas operation, he said, brought about an unprecedented change in the Palestinian issue.

“After Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, global empathy took shape around Palestine, and the world’s famous universities expressed their sympathy with Palestine and its people. That’s why Reuters news agency reported that the rallies in support of Palestine are seven times more than those in support of Israel.”

Ali Muhammad Moddab, a poet and one of the former APFF judges, said many people of culture and art, such as Naji al-Ali, Mustafa Akkad, Ghasan Kanfani and others have



been martyred in the cause of Palestine, which befits the festival to focus on introducing these people.

Hamid Salehi, the executive secretary of the festival, new themes such as the new world order section has been added to this year’s festival. He said filmmakers can send their works to the secretariat until December 1.

Salehi said so far 2000 works have been sent to the festival’s secretariat. The main focus of the festival this year is videos sent by Palestinians, he said, adding more than 350 works clips have been sent to the secretariat so far.

“We invite all people, especially teenagers, to shoot videos with hand-held cameras or mobile phones and send them to the festival’s secretariat.”

Qadumi cited a part of a Hollywood movie, which says “an idea cannot be killed”.

He said millions of people came to the streets in defense of

Palestine in New York. “We believe that we should go after the truth to build a narrative, but the Israelis go after marketing.”

He touched on the recent meeting of 57 Arab-Islamic countries, saying nothing more than a statement came out of the meeting.

“While diplomacy has more effect than rockets, the leaders of these countries are not even willing to cut ties with the Zionist regime,” he said.

“There is no Arab ruler who dares to support Hamas or associated with it and no Arab ruler has taken a position in this regard, but the people of the world are alert and with the Palestinian nation,” Qadumi added.

He said creating a narrative is primarily very important, and then marketing it essential.

“Today, the narrative of Palestinian children is not result of the media game, but the sympathy with the victims and rebuttal of falsehoods. Until now, we did not have an Islamic

search engine, and on Google’s search page, before Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, the first search brought up Israel, but now the mass killing of the people of Gaza comes up.”

He said the beheading of children by Hamas is a big lie, adding French occupiers in Algeria cut off children’s heads and took pictures with them.

“The image of Americans with naked Viet Cong women is in our minds. Thank God we won on October 7, but today the oppressed victims are the cause of the enemy’s helplessness and the enemy’s only military achievement is the siege of hospitals,” he added.

Saeed Khorshidii, the head of APFF Policy Council, said the festival is the voice of the people who are censored and ignored.

“We consider it our duty to represent the ideals, concerns and issues of this group of people, who are not seen by the media.”

Latin American Cartoon Exhibition Extended



TEHRAN -- The exhibition of cartoons and caricatures of prominent Latin American artists has been extended until December 24 at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts.

Hence its opening on November 2 under the direction of Masoud Shojaei Tabatabai, the exhibition has received warm

response from enthusiasts.

It features about 400 works by artists from 15 countries such as Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and Nicaragua, Brazil and Guatemala with anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist themes

as well as topics related to Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and Palestine.

It has been organized in collaboration with the Islamic Propagation Organization and the General Department of Visual Arts of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and includes the works of prominent artists such as Ares, Adan Iglesiasoldo, Brady Rodriguez, Ramiro Zardvias, Luis Carlos Fernandez, Marcos D’Souz and Raul Fernando Zolta.

Those interested can visit the “Cartoons and Caricatures of Latin American Artists” exhibition at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art until Dec. 24, except Mondays, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Picture of the Day



The “Colonel” directed by Amir Bashiri and produced by Amin Ashrafi, is a story about the life and time of Muhammad Taghi Khan Pesian and a lost romance in Iran’s contemporary history, staged at Vahdat Hall.

Photo by IRNA