

Austria to Host First Iranian Book Award in 2025



TEHRAN -- The first Iranian book award will be held in Austria in 2025 in a bid to further expand cultural ties between Tehran and Vienna.

Organized by the cultural representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna, the first edition of the Iran book award in Austria is to be held to expand cultural exchanges between Iran and Austria.

The event aims to support Austrian Iranologists and other German-speaking regions in the world.

The award is dedicated to the best books written in German

over the past 20 years.

The award addresses one of the nine main topics, including Islamic wisdom and philosophy, Shia religion, Iranian-Islamic culture, Iranian art and literature, Persian language, Iranian history, Iranian antiquities, tourist attractions of Iran, and the Islamic Revolution.

The entries could be submitted to the secretariat of the cultural event until September 31, 2024.

The closing ceremony will be held in Vienna in February 2025.

Smallpox Virus Used by Iran Researchers to Treat Brain Cancer



TEHRAN -- A group of researchers from a knowledge-based company in Iran has found that the weakened smallpox virus can be used in the treatment of brain cancer.

"The virus that we produced is based on the vaccinia virus from the oncolytic group of viruses. The origin of the virus is from the weakened vaccinia smallpox virus, whose pathogenic factors have been destroyed and useful and therapeutic genes have been placed in it," Nassim Mirbahari, a PhD student at Royan Research Institute and the director of research and development department of an Iranian knowledge-based company, told ANA.

She explained that oncolytic virus specifically reproduces in cancer cells and destroys them and does not harm healthy cells, adding, "It can be used as a new treatment for all types of cancers."

"In this method, in addition to ability to destroy cancer cells in the brain as a single treatment, the virus can increase

the effects of complementary treatments in combination with other treatment methods like chemotherapy," Mirbahari said.

"This method can be used as an independent treatment method or it can be used as a complementary method along with other methods. In our company, we have performed the cell and animal phase, and in the next phase, we will start the human clinical phase," she noted.

While pox viruses call to mind images of pus-filled blisters and painful sores, a few clever genetic tweaks turn these viruses from deadly villains into cancer-fighting heroes.

Best known as the live virus present in the smallpox vaccine, vaccinia virus is surprisingly good at killing cancer cells.

With a natural affinity for tumors, a fast replication time, and a good safety profile, pox viruses have the potential to treat deadly and treatment-resistant cancers, including pancreatic and brain cancers.

Leader's Letter to U.S. Students Draws Global Enthusiasm

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khamenei's recent letter to American university students, praising their defense of the Palestinian people and highlighting the ongoing struggle against the Zionist regime, has sparked a wave of reactions from around the world.

Here are some of the responses published by iFilm.

Gulistan Hussein from India

The global awakening Ayatollah Khamenei mentions in his letter gives me hope that the Resistance Front will indeed grow stronger and that we can stand united against oppression.

Kelly from Zimbabwe

The historical context Ayatollah Khamenei provides about the establishment of Israel and the ongoing suffering of Palestinians is eye-opening. His critique of the U.S. government's hypocritical stance is spot-on. As students, it's empowering to know that we are part of a global movement fighting for justice and that history is turning a page in favor of the oppressed.

Francis from Nigeria

Ayatollah Khamenei's letter is a powerful call to action. His emphasis on the 'awakened conscience' of young people and the



role we play in the Resistance Front is motivating. It's crucial to see how our efforts on American campuses are part of a larger global struggle against the brutal Zionist regime.

Shalom Moyo from Zimbabwe

The letter's historical insights on the Palestinian struggle and the role of Western powers are compelling. It's time we challenge these narratives and stand

Dear university students in the United States of America, this message is an expression of our empathy and solidarity with you. As the page of history is turning, you are standing on the right side of it.

From Imam Khamenei's Letter to American University Students
May 25, 2024

firm in our support for Palestinian rights.

Kai from Pakistan

I appreciate Imam Khamenei's solidarity with American students. His acknowledgment of our 'honorable struggle' against our government's support for the Zionist regime is encouraging. We must continue to raise awareness and support the Resistance Front's fight for justice.

Muhammad Hussain Wazeeri from India

The critique of the media's portrayal of the Palestinian resistance as terrorism while defending Israeli actions as self-defense is a crucial point. Let's stand steadfast as the Qur'an teaches.

Fazcerah from Malawi

Imam Khamenei's letter is a reminder that we are not alone in this struggle. His message is both hopeful and motivating. We must keep pushing forward, inspired by the unity and perseverance he speaks of.

Mahboud from Canada

I found the letter so informative. God bless the Leader.

Muhammad Ali from Bahrain
I am on the right side of history just as the leader. Long live Palestine.

Elham Abedini
I stand on the right side of history since I support Palestine.

Fatima Salari from Ireland

This is a letter of a leader to the youth whose awakened conscience has inspired them to defend the oppressed children and women of Gaza. Many consciences in the world have been awakened and history is turning its pages.

DOE Official: Iran Wildlife Populations Improve

TEHRAN -- A senior official at Iran's Department of Environment has announced a 35% increase in wildlife population in different areas of the country over the past two years.

Gholamreza Abdali, the director general for the Wildlife Conservation and Management Bureau of the Department of Environment, told IRNA Saturday the Persian onagers, chinkaras, gazelles, and fallow deer are among the wildlife species whose populations have increased.

The increase, however, does not relate to their population in the wild but rather to reproduction centers for endangered species, he said.

Abdali said the growth is expected to positively impact the overall wildlife population, and several of the animals will be released into their natural habitats.

He said there are 105 reproduction centers across the country, with

32 of them being state-run and the rest operated by the private sector.

Based on the report, the population of the Persian fallow deer has increased from 288 to 344 during the past two years.



Picture of the Day



The Shiraz-Isfahan Highway is among the major projects carried out and commissioned under the administration of Martyr President Ebrahim Raisi, which cuts the distance between the two major cities by 130 km.

Photo by ISNA