

New Section Added to Iran's Holy Qur'an Competition



TEHRAN -- Iran's National Holy Qur'an Competition will have a new section in its 47th edition this year, an official said.

Hamid Majidimehr, head of the Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization's Qur'anic Affairs Center, told IQNA that the new section includes competitions for boys and girls aged 12 to 18.

They will compete in the categories of memorization of the entire Qur'an and Qur'an recitation, he said.

The other two sections include competitions on Qur'an recitation and memorization as well as Qur'anic concepts for adults, he stated.

Majidimehr noted that registration for the preliminary round of this year's competition has started and will run until June 8.

The registration deadline will not be extended, the official stressed.

He further said that the value of prizes in this edition will see a significant rise compared to previous years in order to increase the motivation of the contestants.

Majidimehr also pointed out that in the preliminary stage of the competition, the contenders will be asked to submit recorded files of their performance in some categories.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's National Quran Competition is annually held by the Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization with the participation of top Quran activists from across the country.

It is aimed at discovering Qur'anic talents and promoting Qur'anic activities in society.

The top winners of the competition will represent Iran in the international Quran competitions across the world.

Translator Passes Away at Age of 34

TEHRAN -- Iranian translator and journalist Niloufar Amraei has passed away at the age of 34.

Amraei, who died on Saturday morning, has translated many books for children and young people including "Ms. Cherry's Kitchen",

What Can Be Done with a New Idea", and "Learning at Home".

Amraei was a famous translator of English literary works.

She was the daughter of Asadollah Amraei, a renowned Iranian translator.

Iranian Scientists Develop Electrodialysis for Water Treatment



TEHRAN -- A scientist, presiding over a team working in the field of applying nanotechnology in the water industry, said that after two or three failed attempts, the team had finally built an electrodialysis device that removes water-polluting ions.

"We initiated our work in a laboratory that could provide infrastructure for metal nanomaterials," Bahare Kaviani told ANA.

"Our strategy was to expand nanomaterials. In 2010, we started water treatment to achieve drinking water. For that, we produced a product with new methods to solve the problem of traditional methods. One of these problems is wastewater treatment and water recycling."

Kaviani said as a small knowledge-based company, "we contacted water and sewage compa-

Celebrities Voice Solidarity With Palestine at Cannes

CANNES (Anadolu Agency) -- Celebrities at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in France expressed solidarity with Palestine with the use of the Palestinian flag and watermelon motifs on their attire.

World-renowned personalities attending the film festival from May 14 to 25 silently conveyed support for Palestine through outfits and accessories as they walked the red carpet.

Bella Hadid drew attention with her red dress designed using keffiyeh. Hadid, who has expressed support for Palestine on numerous occasions, garnered praise on social media for displaying her solidarity with Palestine with her keffiyeh-inspired dress.

Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett, who attended the festival, became a trending topic on social media with her outfit reminiscent of the Palestinian flag.

Blanchett, who had previously demanded a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, caught attention as the combination of a black front and open pink and green back of her dress, merged with the red carpet, evoking thoughts of the Palestinian flag.

Social media users commended Blanchett's "clever" show of solidarity with her dress.

British actress Pascale Kann wore attire with Arabic writing that read "Palestine."



Actors Mahmood Bakri and Aram Sabbagh pose with Palestinian flags at the premiere of Mahmood Fleifel's "To a Land Unknown" at the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes, on May 22, 2024.

Indian actress Kani Kusruti attended the premiere of her film at the festival with a purse shaped like a watermelon slice.

French actress of Algerian origin, Leila Bekhti, wore a watermelon motif brooch, a symbol of solidarity with Palestine.

The brooch on the collar of her black dress as she walked the 60-meter (200-foot) red carpet before the screening of her film re-

ceived admiration on social media.

Italian actress Jasmine Trinca showed her support by wearing a brooch with the Palestinian flag pattern.

Australian actor Guy Pearce wore a bracelet made up of the colors of the Palestinian flag.

Moroccan director Asmae El Moudir posed for journalists, showing off the Palestinian flag sewn onto her glove.

Iranshahr Theater Stages French Writer's Play

TEHRAN -- The play 'Art' written by the French writer Yasmina Reza has begun its performances at Iranshahr Theater in Tehran from May 16.

The play has been translated and directed by Alireza Koushk-Jalali. The comedy, which raises questions about art and friendship, concerns three long-time friends, Serge, Marc, and Yvan.

Serge, indulging his penchant for modern art, buys a large, expensive, completely white painting. Marc is horrified, and their relationship suffers considerable strain as a result of their differing opinions about what constitutes art. Yvan, caught in the middle of the conflict, tries to please and mollify both of them.

Sam Kaboudvand, Mohamad Sedighi-Mehr, and Armin Rahimian are the three actors in



Koushk-Jalali's play which was temporarily cancelled due to the passing of President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions in a helicopter crash on May 19.

At the beginning and end of the play, and for most of the scenes set in Serge's flat, the large white painting is on prominent display. It

focuses on the meaning of art and friendship, to both the man who bought the painting and the two friends who came to see it.

The Tony Award-winning play 'Art' premiered in 1994 at Comédie des Champs-Élysées in Paris and went on to win the Molière Award for Best Author. The play subse-

quently ran in London in 1996 and on Broadway in 1998. The London production received the 1996-97 Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award. In the past 30 years, the play has been produced internationally and translated and performed in over 30 languages.

Yasmina Reza, 65, is a French playwright, actress, novelist, and screenwriter best known for her plays 'Art' and 'God of Carnage'. Many of her brief satiric plays have reflected on contemporary middle-class issues.

Koushk-Jalali, 66, is an Iranian theater director and playwright. Currently, he resides in Cologne, Germany, where he has also staged several plays.

'Art' will be performed until June 21 at Iranshahr Theater located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Picture of the Day



The house of Mirza Kuchak Khan Jangli in the Ostadsara neighborhood of Rasht is one of the historical houses of Gilan province, where the native architecture of northern Iran is clearly visible.

Photo by ISNA