Kayhan

Art, Science & Culture

Iran Attends Books for Children Congress in Italy



TEHRAN -- Iran is attending the 39th International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Congress, which opened in the Italian city of Trieste on Thursday.

The IBBY is a non-profit organization which represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together.

The congress, which runs until September 1, brings together dozens of speakers from around the world to share research and perspectives on children's and young adult literature. Iranian representatives are among the participants, with six speakers scheduled to present three papers during the event.

Iran's participation at the congress highlights the country's growing engagement with international literary events. The IBBY Congress is one of the largest gatherings of its kind, with speakers from five continents, including Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, and South America

The congress is being held under the theme "Join the Revolution! Giving Every Child Good Books!" and features a range of workshops and discussions on children's literature.

German Scholar: Iran Far Ahead in Science

TEHRAN - Professor Thomas Braun of Germany, who was awarded the Kazemi Prize over his studies in stem cells, has hailed Iran's progress in science, saying that the country is really far ahead in Wes Asia.

Professor Braun is a principal investigator at the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research. He graduated in medicine in 1987 and then received a specialized doctorate in cell biochemistry from the University of Hamburg in 1993.

"If I compare it to other countries in the Middle East, you are really far ahead," Braun said in an interview with IRNA on the side-



lines of Kazemi Prize ceremony here in Tehran.

"If you see PhD students from

Iran, they are really well-trained and their outstanding researches indicate successful education system in Iran," he added.

"It is an indication that you value knowledge, science and research and that you can sustain research and development to win the world of tomorrow you have to stay ahead.'

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Braun said communication is crucial in a situation when it is not easy to ship material to Iran. "If the situation is improved a little bit, it will be possible in the future to facilitate interaction."

Kazemi Prize is an international Prize which was established in 2010 to respect the efforts and revive the memories of Dr. Saeid Kazemi Ashtiani, the late founder of Royan Institute.

Prominent Iranian Poet Passes Away



TEHRAN - Prominent Iranian poet and songwriter Mohamad Ali Bahmani has died at the age of 82 in Tehran after a stroke.

Bahmani passed away at a hospital in Tehran on Friday evening, marking the end of a tumultuous period that began in late June 2024, when he suffered a stroke.

His condition had taken a turn for the worse on August 31 after a second brain hemorrhage.

Born in 1942 in Dezful, Khuzestan province, Bahmani wrote his first poem for his mother at the age 10, and "Roshan Fekar" magazine published it in 1952.

Bahmani started cooperation with the National Iranian Radio in 1966 and presented the poetry page program in cooperation with the Persian Gulf Provincial Network.

He had lived in Bandar Abbas since 1973. After the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979 he returned to Tehran and left for Bandar Abbas again in 1984.

He is one of the most renowned poets and songwriters who has collaborated with many musicians and singers such as Iranian vocalists Naser Abdollahi, Homayoun Shajarian, and Alireza Ghorbani.

Bronze Age Game Board in Azerbaijan Raises New Questions

BAKU (Arkeonews) -- A new archaeological study revealed that an ancient board of a game, known as "Hounds and Jackals" or the "Game of 58 Holes", found in 2018 on the Absheron peninsula in present-day Azerbaijan, is the oldest known.

For a long time, most have believed that the oldest board games originated in ancient Egypt. That presumption has been contested by a recent study, though. Analyzing board games found on Azerbaijan's Absheron Peninsula indicates that they might have originated in Asia rather than Egypt.

The study is published in



varied with the region, and they moved in this pattern. Certain holes had lines connecting or marking them, indicating intricate game rules. In the tomb of el-Asasif in Egypt, the earliest known dis-

a rock shelter known as Çapmalı

> By studying the site, researchers determined that the "game pattern on stone... can be associated with the shelter's earliest, Middle Bronze

found in south-western Asia and Egypt," write Walter Crist and Rahman Abdullayev.

Other examples of the game were found at sites in Ağdaşdüzü, Yeni Türkan, and Dübəndi.

The arrangement of the boards at sites like Çapmalı indicates that the game might have been an integral part of daily life, possibly used during the winter months when shepherds settled in shelters like Gobustan.

This theory is supported by the analysis of the pottery discovered at these locations, which points to the seasonal occupation of these areas by pastoral communities. Along with older artifacts from the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, the discoveries include ceramic fragments from the Khojaly-Gadabay culture, which date from the 13th to the 7th century B.C. The combination of these materials suggests that the Capmalı site and others in the area were occupied over and over for centuries, maybe by the same groups of people who had similar cultural traditions.

These results imply that the Absheron Peninsula was not isolated, but rather a part of a larger cultural network that linked the peoples of the Caucasus with civilizations to the south, including Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Although their work suggests 58 Holes may have originated in southwestern Asia before it became popular in Egypt, the authors stress that more information would be needed before any individual culture could be credited with its invention.

Photo by IRNA

the European Journal of Archaeology. Traditional interpretations hold that the board game originated in ancient Egypt in the second millennium BCE, but evidence from recent excavations suggests that the game was also played in the South Caucasus during this time, casting doubt on this theory.

Sometimes called "hounds and jackals" due to some gaming pieces having animal heads carved into them, 58 Holes was played for centuries, from the middle of the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age. The game was played on a board with fifty-eight holes arranged in two parallel rows of ten holes each, encircled by an arc of thirty-eight holes, and dates back to the third millennium B.C. The shapes of the game pieces

covery of a board of this type dates from between 2064 and 1952 B.C. Because of this discovery and other boards discovered in Mesopotamia, the Levant, and Anatolia, archaeologists have speculated that the game may have originated in Egypt or southwest Asia.

Another example of an early board was found in Stratum II at Kültepe in central Anatolia which probably dates from around 1885 to 1836 BCE.

"Six patterns with the distinctive geometry of the game" were found by researchers at several locations throughout the Absheron Peninsula. The best example of these was discovered in the Gobustan National Reserve, close to the western shore of the Caspian Sea, at

Age, layer."

According to the study, there is evidence from Azerbaijan that people played the game during the late third to early second millennium BCE, long before it appeared in Egypt. Moreover, it seems those who did play it also participated in regional interactions that ranged across southwestern Asia at the time.

"The diversity of the fifty-eight holes board in south-western Asia-as well as its early appearance and longevity there-offers a stronger case for an origin further north than Egypt," the authors explain.

"Rendered as a series of shallow depressions, with narrow channels connecting certain holes, the pattern closely resembles boards



Gilan Province is the largest producer of high-quality rice varieties in Iran, and the bulk of paddy fields are located in Rasht and Soume'e Sara.