

Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award Opens Submissions for 19th Edition



TEHRAN – The secretariat of Iran’s 19th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award has announced the opening of submissions for this year’s competition, inviting writers, literary critics, researchers and documentary writers to submit works published during the Iranian year 1404.

The annual award, one of Iran’s major literary prizes, will consider entries across four categories: Novel and Long Fiction, Short Story Collection, Literary Research and Criticism, and Documentary Writing.

According to the official call issued by the award secretariat, eligible works must have been published for the first time in 1404 with official approval from Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Submitted books must also correspond to one of the four announced categories in order to proceed to the judging stage.

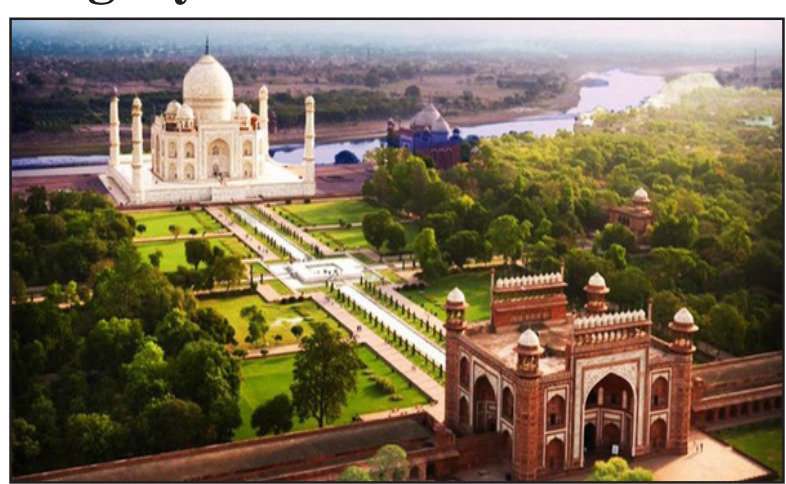
The award’s policy council has set specific eligibility requirements for this year’s competition, with compliance with the announced categories and publication regulations serving as a prerequisite for consideration.

Authors and researchers seeking to participate have until Sept. 6 to complete registration and submit their works.

Applicants are required to visit the award’s official submission portal at jalal.ketab.ir, complete the relevant submission form, and send four copies of their published book to the award secretariat in Tehran.

The secretariat said it will remain available to answer questions from members of the literary community throughout the submission process. Further information can be obtained during office hours by contacting the secretariat.

The Thousand-Year Persian Legacy of India and Pakistan



TEHRAN -- For centuries, Persian served as the language of administration, scholarship and elite culture across the Indian subcontinent.

Although its official status declined under British colonial rule, Persian remains deeply embedded in the literary, cultural and linguistic heritage of India and Pakistan.

The history of Persian in the subcontinent extends far beyond its role as a foreign or administrative language. For nearly a millennium, Persian became a central element of intellectual and cultural life, shaping courts, government institutions, religious schools, literary circles and historical writing.

It was not merely the language of rulers but also a medium through which knowledge, poetry, philosophy and spiritual thought were transmitted.

The expansion of Persian began in the early centuries after Islam, gaining wider influence from the Ghaznavid period onward. With the rise of Muslim dynasties in parts of India, Persian gradually entered administrative and cultural institutions.

Its spread was not solely the result of political power; Persian-speaking scholars, poets, administrators, mystics and intellectuals migrated to the region, while local elites also adopted the language as a means of participation in cultural and political life.

During the Delhi Sultanate, Persian became the language of official correspondence, royal decrees, historical chronicles and scholarly works. Knowledge of Persian was often essential for those seeking positions within government and intellectual circles.

Over time, the language became a shared cultural medium connecting diverse communities across the subcontinent.

Persian reached its peak during the Mughal era, when it became the official and cultural language of one of the most powerful empires of the Islamic world. Mughal courts supported Persian literature, translation, historiography and scholarship, turning cities such as Delhi, Lahore, Agra and Hyderabad into major centers of Persian intellectual activity.

The subcontinent also became a major center for Persian literary production. Poets such as Amir Khusrau Dehlavi and Abdul Qadir Bidel demonstrated that India was not merely a recipient of Persian literature but one of its most important creative landscapes.

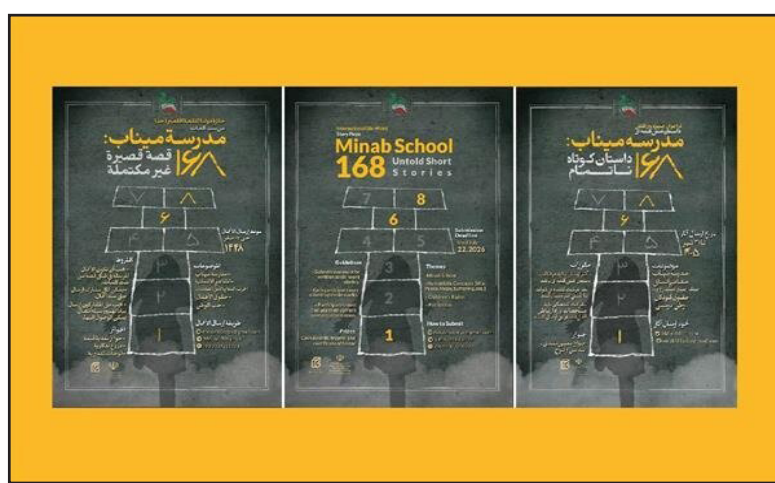
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Minab School Six-Word Story Award Draws 16,158 Entries From 38 Countries

TEHRAN – A literary competition honoring the memory of the children martyred in the Minab school bombing by terrorist American forces has attracted thousands of writers from around the world, with 3,354 authors from 38 countries submitting 16,158 works to Iran’s first International Six-Word Story Award, titled “Minab School: 168 Unfinished Short Stories.”

Organized by the Office of Persian Literature and Language, the award was created around the idea of remembering the 168 children whose lives were cut short in the Minab school tragedy. The title “168 Unfinished Short Stories” symbolizes the unfinished lives and untold stories of those children, transforming remembrance into a literary expression.

The competition challenges writers to create complete yet open-ended narratives in only six



words, one of the most demanding forms of minimalist fiction. Through extreme brevity, participants are encouraged to leave space for reflection, interpretation and imagination.

The award focuses on themes including children’s rights, peace, patriotism and hope, inviting writers to address universal human concerns through a highly condensed literary format.

According to the award secretariat, submissions were received from writers in 38 countries, including Iran, Argentina, Germany, the United States, Indonesia, Armenia, Australia, Spain, Afghanistan, It-

aly, China, Russia, Japan, France, South Korea, India and Yemen.

The organizers said eligible works were reviewed by a panel of domestic and international literary experts, and the names of writers whose entries met the competition requirements and advanced to the judging stage have been published.

Due to the large volume of submissions and the need for a careful evaluation process, the closing ceremony is expected to be held before the end of the current season. The date and further details will be announced later through the award’s official communication channels.

The winners will receive trophies, commemorative certificates and cash prizes at the closing ceremony, marking the conclusion of the first edition of a competition that combines literary minimalism with remembrance and tribute.

‘Mina’ Wins Top Honors at Silk Road International Festival



TEHRAN -- Iranian short film “Mina” has won awards for Best Writing and Best Directing and placed third in the Best Narrative

Film category at the special section of the Silk Road International Festival 2026.

Directed by Mehdi Shahsavari,

who also co-wrote the film with Atiyeh Sadat Hojjati, “Mina” was produced by Saeed Nejati and Mehdi Shahsavari and is a production of Eshraq Film Club.

The film received recognition in two categories at the festival, earning the awards for writing and directing as well as the third-place award for best narrative film.

The Silk Road International Festival, organized with participation from academic and cultural institutions across several countries, features competitions in artistic, scientific and research fields, including literature, translation, photography, music,

screenwriting, short films and 100-second films.

“Mina” is a social drama that follows a young woman who, after working hours in an old office building, hears suspicious sounds coming from a pipe beside the window of her workplace, leading her into an unsettling situation.

The film stars Siavash Cheraghipour, Tima Taghizadeh, Ehsan Samatzadeh and Janan Ghorbanian.

With its recognition at the Silk Road International Festival, “Mina” adds another international achievement to Iran’s growing presence in the short film circuit.

New Drive to Strengthen Iranian Clothing Industry Takes Shape

TEHRAN — Tehran Province Fashion and Clothing Working Group has held its second meeting, emphasizing greater coordination among government institutions, professional associations and industry representatives to support domestic clothing production, strengthen Iranian design and expand employment opportunities in the apparel sector.

The meeting brought together representatives from cultural, economic, educational and media institutions, including officials from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the Tehran Education Department, the Planning and Budget Organization and national media representatives.

Participants highlighted the need for continued cooperation among government bodies, trade unions, specialized associations and public organizations to address challenges facing Iran’s fashion and clothing sector.

Mohsen Gorji, secretary of the Fashion and Clothing Working Group of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution’s Public Culture Council, said developing Iranian-Islamic clothing and clarifying the responsibilities of institutions involved in the sector were among the group’s key priorities.

He said a clearer division of responsibilities among relevant bodies was necessary to prevent overlapping activities and ensure

that provincial capacities could be directed toward shared goals.

Gorji also emphasized the economic potential of the fashion and clothing industry, saying the sector could play an important role in job creation. Supporting designers, manufacturers and other professionals, he added, could contribute to the growth of related businesses and strengthen



en domestic production. (Continued on Page 7)

Picture of the Day



A farmer plants rice seedlings in a field in Alishtar County, Lorestan Province, after favorable rainfall revived rice cultivation in the area. Photo by IRNA