



Parvin Etesami Intl. Film Festival kicks off at IAF

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) hosted the opening ceremony of the Parvin Etesami International Film Festival on Saturday.

The festival, named in memory of the Iranian poetess Parvin Etesami, has been elevated to an international event this edition.

Speaking at the ceremony, the festival's secretary Mazyar Rezakhani stressed the importance of introducing such festivals to world, saying that foreign cineastes are interested in films made by Iranian female directors.

He also praised the presence of cineastes Tahmineh Milani, Marzieh Borumand, Kamal Tabrizi, Mohammadreza Zarrindast and Mohammadreza Asalni at the ceremony, referring to them as celebrated artists who validate the festival.

At the ceremony, the United Nations Development Program's Resident

Representative at interim in Iran Elzira Sagynbaeva went on stage.

She congratulated the festival's officials for holding the event, pointing out that over 800 films were submitted to the secretariat, which manifested the importance of the event.

This is the reason for the sponsorship by the UNDP of the festival, she said.

Member of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Gelareh Mostashari also spoke at the ceremony.

Humans always try to express their problems and wishes in the form of artwork, and cinema is one of the best ways for these expressions, she mentioned.

She went on to say that she wants to attract the attention of the audience to gain its support for helping battered women and taking care of their needs.

At the end of the ceremony Iranian veteran actress and dubber Jaleh Olov recited poems composed by Etesami and was accompanied



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by setar.

The festival is being held at the Mellat Cinematic Complex and Iranian Artists Forum from November 22 to 27.

A total of 41 foreign films from 20 countries have been slated to compete in the International Section of the event.

The national section jury members Shadmehr Rastin, Mohammadreza Aslani and Parivash Nazarieh chose 103 films from the 400 submitted to the gala's secretariat.

The jury members Nasser Bakideh, Kurosh Jahed and Hadi Manbtli selected 41 films out of 135 movies submitted at the international

section.

Parvin Etesami (1907-1940) was born in Tabriz and composed her first poem in the classical style when she was only eight years old. She received her high school diploma from the American Girls' School of Tehran and also taught at the school for two years.

Her poems focus on themes of social awareness and the human aspect of life with simple yet insightful allegorical elements. There are no signs of romanticism or feminism in her works, although she lived in the period when Iran was beginning to modernize.



Rudaki Foundation holding visual arts expo at Tehran's Azadi Tower

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Rudaki Foundation is holding its first expo of visual arts at the Enqelab Cultural Center in Tehran's Azadi Tower.

The expo, which opened on Sunday, offers an assortment of 120 works for sale, said director of the foundation Ali-Asgahr Amiria.

"The assortment contains paintings, miniature, calligraphy and woodcrafts and is selected from works by over 100 artists. The prices offered at the expo are reasonable giving visitors the chance to purchase the artwork they like," he added.

"We intend to hold this expo annually or biennially in the future to help support artists and promote art and culture in the city and discover new talent as well," he stated.

He further remarked that two student workshops and one other workshop, with professional artists participating, are also arranged on the side section of the festival.

Amiria stressed that the workshop centers on such issues as Muharram, the Islamic Revolution and Noruz, and three participants with the best works at the workshops will be awarded.



Bangladesh to hold workshop on Iran's Kiarostami

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Bangladesh's Moviyan Film Society has organized a workshop on the prominent Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami.

The three-day workshop will open on December 24 in the capital Dhaka, the New Nation, Bangladesh's Independent News Source, released the news on Sunday.

The workshop, directed by prominent Bangladesh filmmaker Tareque Masud, is arranged to focus on the life and films of Kiarostami, discussing his works to include films, photography and poetry.

Abbas Kiarostami is an internationally acclaimed Iranian film director, screenwriter and film producer, who has been involved in over forty films, including shorts and documentaries.

He is also a poet, photographer, painter, illustrator, and graphic designer.

Schönbrunn Ensemble to give trio performance in Tehran

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — The Dutch ensemble Schönbrunn will be giving a trio performance on November 27 and 28 at the Aseman Art and Cultural Complex.

The concert will include a discussion session followed by the musical performance. The Iranian master of flute Azin Movahhed and Dutch musician Marten Root will give an overview of the evolution of the flute during the session.

The three members of the ensemble, violinist Johannes Leertouwer, cellist Viola de Hoog and flutist Marten Root will then give their performance, which will contain pieces revealing the process of change and development of the flute from the 17th to the 19th century.

Members of the ensemble are also scheduled to hold master classes on November 26 and 29 at the complex located on Fallahi St., Firuzkuh St., Zaferanieh neighborhood.

Marten Root is the flute player in Anima Eterna and the Baroque Orchestra of the Dutch Bach Society. He teaches the baroque flute at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam.

Johannes Leertouwer is concertmaster of Anima Eterna and of the Orchestra of the Dutch Bach Society. In 1990 he was appointed professor of violin at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam.

Viola de Hoog is the cellist of the Schönberg String Quartet, the Ensemble Schönbrunn, and is principal cellist with Anima Eterna. Viola de Hoog teaches baroque cello at the Conservatory in Utrecht.

1000-year-old structure identified in northeastern Iran

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — A dilapidated structure, surmised to have been built somewhere between 1000 to 1078 CE, has recently been identified in Khorasan Razavi Province in northeastern Iran.

A stone tablet bearing a Kufic inscription has been installed inside of the 3x6-meter structure located in a village at a distance of 60 kilometers northeast of the historical city of Tus, the Persian service of CHN reported on Sunday.

"The inscription will be read by experts as soon as possible," Tus Cultural

Heritage Center (TCHC) Director Siavash Saberi said,

"Studies on the inscription will shed light on when the structure was built," he added.

Local people believe that the monument had belonged to Abu Mansur Mohammad ibn Abd ur-Razaq Tusi, one the rulers of Tus, who was keenly interested in the history of Iranian kings. Because of this, he had encouraged Ferdowsi to compose his masterpiece Shahnameh.

Difficult access to the village had prevented a TCHC expert to identify the

structure previously, Saberi said.

Studies to identify the monument were carried out following a request made by the local residents, he stated.

Initial studies to preserve the building have begun. The ceiling of the building has collapsed and wide cracks can be seen in the walls. In addition, its interior architectural decorations have been damaged.

As local villagers are sincerely interested in the building, they have actively participated in safeguarding the monument.

Philippines' day celebrated at ASEAN cultural exhibit in Qazvin

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — The Philippine Embassy in Tehran celebrated a special day dedicated to the country during the First ASEAN Business and Culture Exhibition in the Qazvin Islamic Azad University (QUIA) on November 20.

Each ASEAN country participating in the event, which is currently underway, has been given a pavilion to showcase its cultural and tourist attractions, handicrafts, and national costumes.

They have also been provided with a special day to give an overview of their countries and their relations with Iran.

First Secretary and Consul General Rosario P. Lemque delivered a short speech about the Philippines relations with Iran focusing on cooperation between the two countries in the areas of business, tourism and culture.

In addition, a number of Iranian students gave presentations on the history, tourist attractions and economic situation of the Philippines.

After the program, Lemque had a meeting with Salehpur, a Ministry of Commerce official in Qazvin on possible cooperation between the Philippines and Iran specifically in Qazvin Province.

Organized by the QUIA, the exhibition aims to raise Iranians' awareness of ASEAN countries' cultures as well as to promote a better understanding of tourism potential and business opportunities in Iran.

Other ASEAN member countries with embassies in Tehran, namely Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, also participated in the event, which opened on November 16.

For other ASEAN countries with no permanent missions in Iran, such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Singapore, QUIA relied upon the cooperation of nationals working in the country in order to have complete representation among the ASEAN pavilions.

The ASEAN Business and Culture Exhibition runs until November 25.

Michael Jackson's glove sells for \$350,000 at auction

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Michael Jackson's famous white glove sold for \$350,000 at a memorabilia auction on Saturday, soaring far past pre-sale estimates, while a black jacket he wore during a 1989 world tour fetched \$225,000.

The Jackson memorabilia was the highlight of an auction of hundreds of rock'n'roll items, including many not associated with the "King of Pop," who died in June.

Darren Julien, CEO of Julien's Auctions, which ran the auction, called the glove "the Holy Grail of Michael Jackson," and many expected it to sell for far more than its pre-sale estimate of about \$50,000.

With the added commission, the final price excluding taxes, ran to some \$420,000.

The buyer was Hong Kong businessman Fossman Ma.

Bidding for the black, strap and zipper-laden jacket Jackson wore during the 1989 "Bad" tour soared to \$225,000, more than 20 times its estimate. With commission, the tab came to about \$275,000.

Fans and dealers turned out at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York's Times Square for the sale that included a car driven by Jackson, as well as David Bowie's guitar and memorabilia from the Beatles to Bo Diddley.

Iranian illustrator awarded at Golden Pen Belgrade

TEHRAN — Iranian illustrator Ghazaleh Bigdelu won the 45th Golden Pen Belgrade at the 10th International Biennial of the Illustration 2009.

She won the award for the illustration of Marjan Keshavarzi-Azad's "Joke" and Iranian illustrator Mohammad Barrangi was presented with the honorary diploma for "The Cat Who Wished to Be a Tiger" by Kambiz Kakavand.

Iranian illustrator Hoda Haddadi, who won the Grand Prix of 44th Golden Pen of Belgrade, will hold a solo exhibit from November 23 to 27 at the Gallery Graphic Collective, Belgrade.

Ibn Sina Cultural Center commemorates Allameh Tabatabaai

TEHRAN — The prominent Iranian philosopher Allameh Tabatabaai was honored during a ceremony at the Ibn Sina Cultural Center on Saturday.

Tabatabaai (1892-1981) was one of the most prominent thinkers of philosophy and contemporary Shiism. He is famous for his "Tafsir al-Mizan", a Quranic exegesis.

Several officials, academics and members of his family attended the ceremony.

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