

Iran's 'Motherless' awarded at Bangalore Int'l Film Festival



IRNA - The Iranian film 'Motherless' bagged the Best Film Award of the Asian Cinema Category of the 14th Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFes) in India.

The film won the award jointly with the Silver Bear Award-winning Indonesian film, Kamila Andini's 'Before, Now & Then', IRNA reported. 'Motherless' is the first feature film made by Morteza Fatemi.

Fatemi's film was previously screened and awarded at the Dhaka International Film Festival and Crossing The Screen Film Festival in the UK.

The 14th edition of the festival concluded with 15 films across categories winning top awards.

A total of 42 films competed to win the Best Film Awards, with 14 films each in the Kannada, Indian and Asian categories.

Veteran actor Doddanna was awarded the 14th BIFFes Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sakamoto, Japanese Oscar-winning composer, dies aged 71



THE GUARDIAN - Ryuichi Sakamoto, the Japanese musician whose remarkably eclectic career straddled pop, experimentalism and Oscar-winning film composition, died aged 71. Sakamoto's management company said he had been undergoing treatment for cancer.

As a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra alongside Haruomi Hosono and Yukihiro Takahashi, Sakamoto created joyous and progressive electronic pop in the late 1970s and early 1980s, alongside solo releases. He acted alongside David Bowie in the 1983 film 'Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence' and composed its celebrated theme, the first in a series of film scores including Oscar-winning work in 1987 with David Byrne and Cong Su for Bernardo Bertolucci's 'The Last Emperor'.

Following 'The Last Emperor' (in which he also had an acting role), he collaborated with Bernardo Bertolucci again for 'The Last Buddha,' and with 'Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence' director Nagisa Oshima for Gohatto.

● License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
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 ● Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motehary St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran



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Iran Daily

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7261 ● Tuesday, April 4, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Persepolis, Iran's most visited global heritage during Nowruz



Persepolis world heritage site, located in Iran's southwestern province of Fars, was the most visited monument in Iran during Nowruz holidays, said a director at the

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. A total of 261,049 visitors toured the historical site, followed by the Imam Square in Isfahan and Fin Garden in

Kashan, IRNA wrote. Nowruz is the richest ritual heritage from the national culture, while the month of Ramadan is the most important symbol of Islamic

culture in Iran, he said, adding that the coincidence of the two events this year is of great significance. The five most visited provinces in terms of national

and global heritage, were Fars (521,912 visitors), Isfahan (437,223 visitors), Kerman (153,504 visitors), Kermanshah (134,208 visitors), and Khorasan Razavi

(133,259 visitors), he noted. Fars Province in southwest Iran is home to several historical and cultural sites such as Karim Khan Citadel, Pars Museum and many others.

Da Vinci masterpieces hid a secret edible ingredient, study suggests

Famous painters like Leonardo da Vinci, Sandro Botticelli, and other Renaissance masters may have experimented with mixing egg yolk into their oil paint to help the paintings withstand humidity and to prevent wrinkling and yellowing, scientists found. Research into the painting habits of the master painters "might improve the preservation of invaluable artworks," a study published by Nature Commu-

nication said, according to Science Alert. While protein residue was previously detected in the masterpieces, the study shows that including the eggs were likely deliberate. In the study, experts found that adding eggs to oil paintings "acts as an antioxidant, slowing down the onset of curing." In other words, this combination helps to stop the paint from degrading. "There are very few writ-

ten sources about this, and no scientific work has been done before to investigate the subject in such depth," study author Ophélie Ranquet of the Institute of Mechanical Process Engineering and Mechanics at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, told CNN. "Our results show that even with a very small amount of egg yolk, you can achieve an amazing change of properties in

the oil paint, demonstrating how it might have been beneficial for the artists." In examining the effects of using egg yolk proteins in the oil, the scientists found that the egg proteins suppressed the water absorbed in the paint in humid environments. While paintings dried, they also helped prevent yellowing and wrinkling - "a problem even Leonardo da Vinci encountered," the study found.



The artists "gave us the opportunity to admire their masterpieces still today," the study said.



Gigantic 'Earth Monster' finally heads home after mysterious US seizure

Mexico recovered from the United States a giant stone statue known as an "Earth monster" that dates to the Olmec civilization before the Christian era, authorities said. The elaborately carved statue weighs more than a ton and is nearly six feet (1.8 meters) tall and five feet (1.5 meters) wide, the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) said in a release, AFP wrote. "Our Consul Jorge Islas in New York confirms to me that Mexico's most sought Olmec piece has

been recovered and is about to return home, from where it never should have been taken," Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard tweeted. The Olmec civilization predated those of the Maya and Aztec cultures, and its artisans were known for creating colossal stone heads, statues and upright slabs. The institute said it believes the statue was created sometime between 800-400 BCE. Known as Monument 9 of Chalcatzingo and found in the central Mexican state

of Morelos, the bas-relief piece is believed to represent an "Earth monster," a creature that often appears in Olmec iconography, INAH said. The open jaws of the piece symbolize the access to the underworld and "on its mouth is projected a sequence of three concentric bands, representing the cruciform access to a cavern," it added. Although it is not known how and when it was illegally taken from Chalcatzingo, "it is documented that it was made public in 1968, by the archaeologist

David Grove in the magazine American Antiquity. From there it is thought that at the beginning of the second half of the 20th century it was already in the United States," the statement said. New York authorities recovered the monument, but the press release did not specify where it was found. As part of the Mexican government's effort to rescue historical heritage taken from the country, almost 10,000 goods have been recovered since 2018, authorities said.