

Restored version of 'Ferdowsi' to be screened



TASNIM - Cinema Museum of Iran is scheduled to screen a restored version of 'Ferdowsi,' a biopic directed about the Persian poet by Abdolhossein Sepanta in 1934.

The film, restored by the Film Archive of Iran, will be showcased at the Ferdows Hall of the museum on May 14, the eve of Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day.

The screening will be followed by a review of the film by critic Alireza Mahmoudi.

Sepanta made the film after 'Lor Girl,' the first sound film ever produced in the Persian language. It was produced by Ardeshir Irani and Sepanta under the Imperial Film Company in Bombay.

Ferdowsi, the poet of the epic Persian magnum opus 'Shahnameh,' is celebrated every year on May 15, which is Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day on the Iranian calendar.

Iranian pop singer Hossein Zaman laid to rest



IRNA - Renowned Iranian pop singer Hossein Zaman, who died due to cancer at the age of 63, was laid to rest at the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in the southern part of metropolitan Tehran on Thursday.

After the singer battled with cancer and its related complications for months, his son, Abouzar, announced his passing in a tweet on May 11. "Dad is gone, he is gone forever," he sorrowfully wrote.

The singer gained significant popularity during the 1990s, captivating audiences with his melodious voice. However, he chose to step back from his career for a span of 18 years, releasing only a handful of tracks during that time. Zaman's debut album, titled 'Night of Missing' (1996), became an instant hit, featuring beloved songs like 'Brighter Than A Star,' 'The Smell of Loneliness,' 'Bird,' and 'Flower's Hatred.' He released several other albums in the ensuing years, solidifying his place in the hearts of his fans.

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Iran, Tajikistan highlight expansion of cultural ties

Describing the book fair as the most significant cultural event of the region

and the world, Ambassador Zohidi underscored its importance as an opportunity for cultural exchanges. He expressed his belief that paying attention to books and fostering interest in them serves as a means to ensure societal, cultural, and spiritual well-being.

The Tajik envoy further stated that over the 32 years that have passed since Tajikistan's independence, cultural interactions between the two countries have been an advanced aspect of their cooperation.

He emphasized that exhibitions, meetings, and programs not only help introduce the achievements of contemporary Tajikistan but also contribute to the strengthening of cultural interactions and the utilization of the existing potential for expanding ties. Ahmadvand, for his part, emphasized the historical connection between Iran and Tajikistan, highlighting the need for further efforts to expand these relations. Then, Davlatzoda joyfully remarked on the expanding cultural relations between Iran and Tajikistan, countries that share the same language and culture.

She highlighted the friendly atmosphere during the Tajik Culture Days in Iran and the Iranian Culture Days in Tajikistan. The book fair, she noted, provides an opportunity



to discover each other through books and become acquainted with outstanding authors.

Davlatzoda stressed that the essence of any country's culture resides in books, and if there is a desire to foster lasting growth and development of national culture, attention must be focused on books and related issues. She underscored that books are the most precious and valuable shared cultural capital of both Tajikistan and Iran.

Davlatzoda continued by expressing her happiness at the shared cultural heritage between the two nations, stating: "I am pleased that we stand together as heirs of this unique culture. Books are the main facilitators of good relations among the global community, and as long as the world exists, this responsibility will rest upon humanity's shoulders." She added that culture

possesses an unmatched force, recounting how this attraction led her to visit the tombs of great Iranian poets in Shiraz upon her arrival in Iran.

Furthermore, Iranian Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili acknowledged that the book fair serves as a platform for expanding cultural ties, explaining why several international publishers participate in the event. He observed that a new chapter of cooperation has opened between the friendly and brotherly nations of Iran and Tajikistan.

He recalled the Tajik Culture Days in Iran, where the Tajik Minister, followed by Iranian cultural and literary figures, was warmly received in various cities throughout Tajikistan. Esmaeili highlighted the increasing expansion of these interactions on a daily basis.

Concluding his remarks, Esmaeili stressed the

necessity of laying the groundwork for the presence of artists and cultural figures from both countries, given their deep historical and cultural ties.

Reiterating the profound historical and cultural bonds between the two nations, Esmaeili stressed the importance of creating favorable conditions for the presence of artists and cultural figures in both Iran and Tajikistan.

He highlighted the widespread recognition of Iranian poets in Tajikistan, expressing the intention to intensify efforts in publishing books and promoting cultural and artistic individuals.

Esmaeili extended this viewpoint to encompass other countries in the region, expressing hope that exhibitions like the Tehran International Book Fair would foster increased interactions among the people of this culturally rich area.

Furthermore, in a sig-

nificant development on Thursday, the Tajikistan pavilion, chosen as the distinguished guest of this year's book fair, was inaugurated in the presence of the culture ministers of both countries.

On the sidelines of the book fair, Tajik writer Aziz Aziz acknowledged the significant opportunity presented by the TIBF for Tajik publishers to familiarize themselves with the works of Iranian authors and engage in discussions about copyright matters, with the aim of publishing these books in Tajikistan. Reflecting on his lifelong appreciation for Iranian poets, Aziz recounted a childhood experience where he came across a poem by Iraj Mirza that deeply resonated with him. Initially assuming that Iraj Mirza hailed from Tajikistan, he later discovered the poet's Iranian origins.

This realization led him to question the significance

of national boundaries when both countries share such striking cultural similarities, rendering their literature virtually indistinguishable. The common religion and language of Iranian and Tajik children further reinforced this bond.

Aziz expressed his gratitude for the influence of Iranian publications, particularly highlighting the impact of Ofoq Publication during his first-ever visit to the Tehran International Book Fair.

With newfound inspiration, he expressed his ambition to publish Iranian books in Tajikistan. Aziz specifically mentioned plans to publish works by Masoumeh Yazdani and Yahya Alavi's poems in his home country.

The 34th edition of the book fair commenced on May 10 and will continue until May 20, providing an extensive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.

Stunning mosaic of Trojan hero Aeneas unearthed in Turkey



A stunning mosaic depicting the legendary Trojan hero Aeneas who was mentioned in Homer's 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey,' was uncovered in southern Turkey.

The mosaic was discovered when the excavation

of foundations at a construction site revealed the remains of a Roman villa in the city of Osmaniye.

According to Daily Sabah, experts noted no other example of this mosaic in the world. The visual quality and depictions of the mosa-

ic rival the famous ancient city of Zeugma mosaics in Gaziantep.

The mosaic area, built in the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D., is thought to have adorned the floor of a villa from that period.

Cezmi Yurtsever, a historian and an author, described the Aeneas mosaic as "unique in the world."

"This place was the ancient Flaviapolis city built during the Roman era and according to our determinations, this mosaic was made in the 3rd century A.D."

"The discovery of a mosaic in the ancient Flaviapolis city from the Roman period depicting a hero of the Trojan War is a peerless discovery for archeology and history."

Aeneas, the mythical hero of Troy and Rome, was the son of the goddess Aphro-

dite and Anchises. He was a member of the royal line at Troy and cousin of Hector. He played a prominent part in defending his city against the Greeks during the Trojan War, being second only to Hector in ability.

Homer implies that Aeneas did not like his subordinate position, and from that suggestion arose a later tradition that Aeneas helped to betray Troy to the Greeks.

The more common version, however, made Aeneas the leader of the Trojan survivors after Troy was taken by the Greeks. In any case, Aeneas survived the war, and his figure was thus available to compilers of Roman myth.

Britannica says that the association of Homeric heroes with Italy and Sicily goes back to the 8th centu-

ry BC—when Homer's epic poems likely became written texts—and the Greek colonies founded there in that and the next century frequently claimed descent from leaders in the Trojan War.

Legend connected Aeneas, too, with certain places and families, especially in the region of Latium. As Rome expanded over Italy and the Mediterranean, its patriotic writers began to construct a mythical tradition that would at once dignify their land with antiquity and satisfy a latent dislike of Greek cultural superiority.

The fact that Aeneas, as a Trojan, represented an enemy of the Greeks and that tradition left him free after the war made him peculiarly fit for the part assigned him—i.e., the founding of Roman greatness.