

Iran's 'World War III' wins awards at Vietnamese festival



Arts & Culture Desk

ISNA – The Iranian motion picture titled 'World War III,' helmed by director Houman Seyedi, garnered two prestigious accolades at the first edition of the Da Nang Asian Film Festival in Vietnam.

The event, hosted by the Vietnam Film Development Association (VFDA), presented 'World War III' with the Special Jury Prize and bestowed the Best Actor Award upon Mohsen Tanabandeh.

Navid Nosrati, a member of the film's cast, accepted the awards on behalf of Tanabandeh.

The festival, held from May 9 to 13, was jointly organized by the VFDA, Da Nang City People's Committee, and other pertinent agencies.

Tanabandeh, Mahsa Hejazi, Neda Jebraeili, alongside Navid Nosrati, are esteemed actors in the film. 'World War III' has previously participated in 35 international film festivals, and this recent achievement marks its 18th international award.

Winners of KANS Scientific Competition announced

MEHR – The 3rd round of Knowledge Application and Notion for Society (KANS) Scientific Competition, held concurrently with International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2023) at Tehran's Pardis Technology Park from May 9 to May 12, came to an end with awarding the winners.

Organized by the Mustafa (pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF), winners of the six sections of the event were awarded on May 12.

The award-giving ceremony was attended by Head of the 3rd KANS Scientific Competition Saeed Sohrabpour and CEO of the MSTF Mehdi Saffarinia. The KANS Scientific Competition, held every two years, targets researchers and scientists who are under the age of 45. Its primary objective is to foster and advance science and technology among young scientists from the Islamic world.

The first round of this competition was held in 2018.

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Leader criticizes domination of foreign stories over domestic ones



Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, pays a visit to the 34th Tehran International Book Fair on May 14, 2023.
 ● khamenei.ir

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Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of

the Islamic Revolution, criticized the domination of foreign stories over domestic ones, describing it

as a big disadvantage. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a three-hour visit to the

34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) on Sunday morning where he spoke with publishers and gained information about the latest events in publishing, IRNA wrote.

The Leader additionally urged Iranian publishers to exert diligent efforts in enhancing both the quantity and quality of books, aligning them closely with our culture so that we would not need foreign books anymore.

The Leader also attached great importance to the role of books in the cultural development of the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the process of acculturation invariably necessitates the utilization of books. Furthermore, he underscored that despite the proliferation of the internet and cyberspace, books continue to hold a position of paramount importance.

The Leader expressed satisfaction with the large

number of visitors and the high volume of book purchases at the book fair.

He also put a great emphasis on the translation of Iranian books into foreign languages, noting that it is imperative that these translations be entrusted to skilled and proficient translators.

The Leader hailed the strong presence of youths and the atmosphere it created at the fair.

Ayatollah Khamenei further urged young Iranians to read widely and develop a deep interest in books to enrich their lives.

When asked about his personal interest in books, the Leader replied that he has a strong passion for reading and reads books of all genres. "I read technical and specialized books as well as scientific and fiction books," he said.

The Leader emphasized that publishing plays a pivotal role in the nation's reading culture.

Minister: Efforts done to repatriate smuggled Sassanid bas-relief

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Ezzatollah Zarghami, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, highlighted the significant efforts undertaken by the ministry to repatriate the

smuggled Sassanid bas-relief, along with others, back to the country.

The incident came to light in early April when reports emerged of a bas-relief being smuggled to the United Kingdom, which was subse-

quently discovered by British authorities.

Seyyed Mahdi Hosseini Martin, Iran's chargé d'affaires in Britain, announced that the rock relief, known internationally as the 'Sassanid Soldier' and recognized by

Iranian archaeologists, will soon be handed over to Iranian officials in London for repatriation to Tehran.

On April 2, Director General of Museums and Historical-Cultural Property Mor-teza Adibzadeh, disclosed that the case regarding the discovery and seizure of the historical relief at London Airport dates back to 2016. Its authenticity has been

verified, and the process of returning it to Iran has been initiated. St. John Simpson, an archaeologist from the British Museum, confirmed that the smuggled statue will be delivered to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London in May, thus facilitating its return to its rightful home. He further remarked that only about 30 of these petroglyphs have

been identified worldwide, with the majority originating from Iran's Fars Province. Recognizing the astonishing history and civilization of Iran, Simpson praised the close collaboration between the national museums of Iran and Britain. He expressed hope that more Iranian antiquities would be showcased in London in the future.



By Sadeq Dehqan

Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

The Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) offers a valuable opportunity for enhancing cultural relations between nations, stated the head of the Yemeni pavilion at the book fair, affirming the strength-

TIBF offers opportunity for enhancing cultural ties between nations: Yemeni bookseller

ening bond between Iran and Yemen through cultural and literary exchanges. Ahmad Al-Junaid shared these insights during an interview with Iran Daily, emphasizing that as a result of book exchanges between the two countries, the Yemeni people have become familiarized with and taken an interest in Iran's literature and civilization.

Al-Junaid highlighted the significance of such exhibitions in promoting a mutual understanding of cultures and fostering peace and friendship, drawing upon a verse from the Holy Qur'an: "We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another." (49:13) Al-Junaid further highlighted the popularity of

Iran among the Yemeni public, adding that the circulation of news regarding Iran's support for Yemen has deepened the Yemenis' interest in Iran.

"The ancient civilization and rich culture of Iran have garnered great respect and appeal among the Yemenis, fueling their eagerness to experience Iran firsthand."

Al-Junaid emphasized the influence of books and literature in inspiring readers to pursue the realities they have encountered through reading.

Al-Junaid also talked about the limitations imposed by the ongoing war and conflicts in Yemen, which have hindered people-to-people interactions between the two countries.

He expressed hope that Yemen would overcome its

challenges, paving the way for an ideal environment to host an exhibition in Sana'a where Iranian publishers and writers would be similarly welcomed.

Al-Junaid praised the Tehran International Book Fair as an exemplary foreign exhibition, lauding the ample space provided at Tehran's Grand Mosalla for diverse booths and sections.

As a member of the Yemeni Students' Association, he commended the organization and orderliness of TIBF, highlighting its capacity to cater to the varied preferences and interests of attendees including children, teenagers, and adults.

However, due to flight restrictions and sanctions, the Yemen booth faced some problems in hosting

Yemeni publishers, resulting in the presentation of only 26 book titles covering various subjects.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of the Yemeni Students' Association in Tehran, a number of Yemeni books, which can be found at the Yemen booth, have been translated into Farsi and published in Iran.

Al-Junaid noted that the Yemen booth aims to provide visitors with insights into Yemeni culture, featuring images from different parts of the country and introducing prominent social, political, and literary figures.

The 34th edition of the book fair, which commenced on May 10, will run until May 20, offering an expansive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.