

## Iranian envoy to Austria highlights cultural interactions



**ISNA** – The Iranian Ambassador to Austria Abbas Baqerpour highlighted the cultural and artistic activities between Iran and Austria, emphasizing the longstanding basis of cultural cooperation.

Additionally, during the visit of the Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Georg Nicolas Schallenberg to Tehran in 2019, a memorandum of understanding on cultural collaboration was signed, Baqerpour added.

Speaking about the significant cultural ties between the two nations, the envoy mentioned the Austrian Cultural Forum in Tehran, which has been actively operating in Iran for over 50 years, serving as the oldest and most vibrant European center covering cultural and artistic affairs. "We have had fruitful collaborations with Austria in the cultural and academic fields," the ambassador continued. "However, these partnerships have faced certain challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent developments." Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic and other circumstances, the cultural and artistic interactions between Iran and Austria have fostered strong collaborations and continue to contribute to the mutual understanding and appreciation of both nations' rich cultural heritage.

## Iran's Nobakht picked for jury of Swiss festival



**IRNA** – Elaheh Nobakht, the producer of the acclaimed Iranian documentary 'Beloved', was selected as a member of the jury of the 18th International Oriental Film Festival of Geneva, slated for June 12 to 18. Her feature documentary 'Dream's Gate' will be screened in Feature Film Section of the Swiss event. Last month, she was introduced in the Cannes Film Festival Market as one of the top 10 producers with a promising future in world cinema. Nobakht, who is also the CEO of ELI Image, an international production and distribution film company, has already been a member of the jury panel of various film festivals including the Religion Today Film Festival in Italian town of Trento, the Beirut International Women Film Festival in Lebanon and Mena International Film Festival in the Netherlands.

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# Iranian museum artifacts to be registered in Italy for first time

### Arts & Culture Desk

In an unprecedented move, the fundamental project of registering museum artifacts from Iran's cultural heritage in Italy has commenced, facilitated by collaboration with the International Society for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO), announced the cultural attaché of Iran.

Mohammad-Taqi Amini highlighted the 70-year history of cooperation between Iran and Italy in archaeology studies, where Iranian and Italian archaeologists have conducted numerous successful excavation and research missions at various archaeological sites across Iran, unveiling the nation's ancient civilization to the world, IRNA reported.

Amini emphasized the significant role of ancient Iranian civilization in shaping human history, noting that new discoveries not only astonish researchers but also challenge existing hypotheses.

Shedding light on the extensive efforts and initiatives with the Iranian Embassy in Rome, he highlighted the profound historical ties be-



tween the great civilizations of ancient Iran and Rome. This groundbreaking endeavor, orchestrated by the Iranian Embassy, marks the first-ever collaboration with the reputable international organization ISMEO to catalogue these artifacts

in Italy. The initiative holds great promise for scholars, researchers, and archaeology students at the global level, providing invaluable assistance in their endeavors.

Amini revealed that Italy safeguards thousands of

Iranian museum artifacts from both pre-Islamic and post-Islamic periods. However, the listing process necessitates financial investment and field research. Notably, the former National Museum of Oriental Art alone has registered

over 550 artifacts from the pre-Islamic era, and 700 artifacts from the post-Islamic era. This figure can be supplemented with additional artifacts found in other museums, including the Vatican Museum and private collections.

## Iranian animation 'Our Uniform' to be screened at Annecy festival

**ISNA** – Iranian short animation 'Our Uniform,' directed by Yeganeh Moqaddam, will be screened at the 63rd Annecy International Animation Film Festival and Market in France from June 11 to 17.

'Our Uniform' tells a story of an Iranian girl unfolds her school memories through the wrinkles and fabric of her old uniform. She admits that she's nothing but a "female" and explores the roots of this idea in her school years.

'Our Uniform' will be screened in the official competition for short films in the major international festival.

The festival has a rich history that traces back to its humble beginnings in the 1960s. It all started with the Jica (Journées Internationales du Cinéma d'Animation) and Asifa (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation), two organizations that laid the foundation for the festival. As time went on, the festival evolved with the creation of Cica

(Conseil International du Cinéma d'Animation) and witnessed the emergence of an important economic aspect. The 1980s marked a significant milestone with the establishment of the International Animation Film Market (Mifa), which brought a new dimension to the event. In the 2000s, the Annecy Festival experienced a period of prosperity and growth, becoming a prominent platform for animation enthusiasts and professionals from around the world.



## Iran's epic musical 'Esfandiar's Seven Labors' extended

### Arts & Culture Desk

The critically acclaimed theatrical masterpiece, 'Esfandiar's Seven Labors,' helmed by the talented Hossein Parsaei, will continue its awe-inspiring run until June 30, owing to its overwhelming reception from enthusiastic audiences.

This captivating performance has graced the stage since its grand opening on April 26, captivating the

hearts and minds of all who witness its brilliance, IRNA reported.

This remarkable production has garnered widespread acclaim, attracting personalities like Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, and the renowned director Majid Majidi. These notable figures were among the distinguished guests who

honored this theatrical marvel with their presence. 'Esfandiar's Seven Labors' showcases an innovative reimagining of one of the captivating tales found within the pages of Ferdowsi's monumental literary masterpiece, 'Shahnameh' (Book of Kings). With its creative approach, this theatrical work breathes new life into the cherished narrative, leaving audiences spellbound by its artistic skill.

