



MEHR - A high-level cultural delegation, led by Iranian Culture Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, arrived in Moscow on Monday, with the aim of developing bilateral cultural relations and participating in the much-anticipated "Iran Culture Week in Russia".

Upon their arrival at Vnukovo International Airport, Minister Esmaeili and his delegation were warmly greeted by Andrei Vladimirovich Malyshev, the Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, as well as Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali. Iran Culture Week in Russia, set to commence today (July 4), will witness the opening of an exhibition showcasing Iranian art at the prestigious VDNKh exhibition complex in Moscow.

Minister Esmaeili will be joined by Olga Lyubimova, the minister of culture of the Russian Federation, in inaugurating the exhibition. Furthermore, attendees will have the privilege of experiencing a joint performance featuring traditional Iranian music, presented by Iran's National Orchestra and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra. During his stay in Moscow, Minister Esmaeili is scheduled to hold an official meeting with his Russian counterpart. The two ministers will also address a joint press conference, underscoring the significance of cultural cooperation between Iran and Russia.

Minister Esmaeili's itinerary includes several other engaging programs in Moscow, such as meetings with the cultural adviser of the president of the Russian Federation, esteemed Iranologists and Islamic scholars in Russia. Additionally, he will deliver a speech at the Russian State University for the Humanities, and participate in the cultural and media council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his visit to St. Petersburg, Esmaeili will meet with the governor and visit the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which houses a collection of precious Iranian manuscripts and artworks registered under UNESCO. He will also explore the Iran section of the renowned State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Iran.

Iran Culture Week in Russia is scheduled to take place from July 4 to 9, providing a valuable platform to deepen cultural exchanges and foster stronger bonds between Iran and Russia.

● License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 ● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
 ● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
 ● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617 - irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 ● Website: www.irandaily.ir
 newspaper.irandaily.ir
 irandaily@icpi.ir
 ● Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
 ● Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

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



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Vol. 7331 ● Tuesday, July 4, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Isfahan's historical, cultural heritage require global registration

Arts & Culture Desk

Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department head emphasized the critical need for global registration of Isfahan's historical and cultural heritage. Highlighting the significance of Isfahan's historical fabric, he stressed that it is the core identity of Iran's oldest city in its modern form. However, attention has predominantly been given to preserving a limited number of historical sites, such as Chehel Sotun and Imam Square.

During a recent ceremony called 'Paternal Heritage,' which honored investors and revitalizers of Isfahan's historical structures and buildings, Alireza Izadi made remarks praising the city's uniqueness. He expressed admiration for other Iranian cities like Yazd, Shiraz, and Hamedan, but firmly stated that Isfahan stands out, with its exceptionally beautiful and outstanding fabric. Isfahan possesses a distinct artistic quality evident in its structures and monuments.

The provincial official emphasized the philanthropic nature of investors in revitalizing the historical fabric, as they sacrifice their time and efforts to preserve their homeland's cultural and historical values. However, he questioned

the absence of funding for the restoration and revival of integral parts of Isfahan's identity, such as the Imam Mosque, Jame' Mosque, and Ibn Sina School. He noted that although some historical sites were previously restored by philanthropists, insufficient education and an economic perspective have deterred today's philanthropists from undertaking such endeavors. Izadi drew attention to the negative impact of road construction in rural areas, leading to the migration of rural residents to cities and urban sprawl. This phenomenon has resulted in the loss of the former charm and uniqueness of villages.



He criticized the prioritization of economic development over cultural cultivation, leading to the neglect of culture and its transformation into a mere commodity. By allowing access to historical fabrics and valuable structures without fostering a proper understanding, ignorance has inadvertently spread among the new generations.

He pointed out that the mention of "culture" is now commonplace in every neighborhood and district when discussing Isfahan's achievements and historical background. However, without acknowledging the grandeur and intricate historical details comprising the city's urban fabric, this word holds no true meaning or significance. Izadi stressed that the current generation is responsible for safeguarding this paternal heritage and must exert efforts to preserve and protect it. He emphasized that Isfahan's integrated fabric, being the sole historically valuable fabric, should serve as the primary model for sustainable cultural development. As narrators of this grand historical city's identity, it is our duty to transmit its history and heritage to future generations. Only through awareness of this legacy can our children defend their own identity.

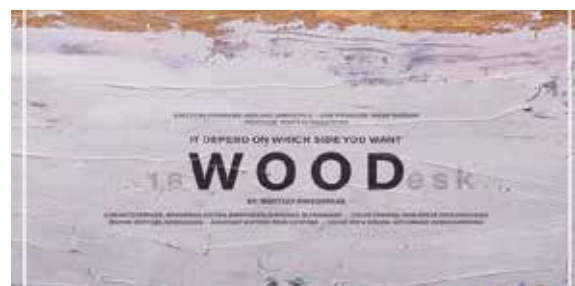
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Iranian film 'Wood' to compete at Russian festival

The short documentary film 'Wood,' helmed by Morteza Payehshenas, has been chosen as a competitor in the ninth edition of the LAMPA Film Festival in Perm, Russia. The festival is scheduled to run from October 3rd to 8th. Dedicated to the promotion of socially conscious visual content worldwide, the international film festival focuses on themes such as the environment, sustainable development, volunteerism, and charity, with the overarching aim of fostering a better world. Thus far, the festival has received an impressive number of

over 11,000 short films addressing these subjects from 134 countries. Collaboration with the United Nations enables the festival to contribute to the advancement of sustainable development goals. The international distribution of 'Wood' falls under the purview of the International Unit of the Soreh Cinema Organization. This isn't the first recognition for 'Wood,' as it has already been showcased at the esteemed Très Court International Film Festival in France. Earlier this year, the documentary received an Honorable Mention at the 10th edition of the renowned Best Shorts Competition held in the United States. Payehshenas has previously worked on notable films such as 'Bullet Rain,' 'An Unfinished Film for My Daughter Somayyeh,' 'One Empty Seat,' and 'Where We Live,' among others.



23 countries set to partake in first Havva Int'l Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The secretariat of the first Havva International Film Festival received submissions from 23 countries.

In total, 350 films have been submitted to the international section of the event, including feature films, documentaries, and short films from the following countries: Italy, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Belgium, China, Taiwan, Lebanon, India, Argentina, Turkey, Syria, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Denmark, Hungary, Armenia, Lithuania, Austria, Spain, Tajikistan, and others.

Furthermore, the international guests include a group of filmmakers, producers, and cultural and artistic figures from 14 countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Armenia, Iraq, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



Bangladesh, Tajikistan, China, Mongolia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, and India, who will participate in the film event. Organized by the Goharshad International Foundation and led by Mahdieh Sadaat-Mehvar, the event will be held

from July 7 to 14 at the national level and from July 11 to 14 in Tehran this year. This event focuses on the themes of women and family and collaborates with various cultural centers and organizations in pursuing its activities.