

## Iranian director Talebi awarded in Poland



ISNA – Yaser Talebi, an Iranian filmmaker, received the Silver Dragon award for Best Documentary Film Director at the 63rd Krakow Film Festival in Poland.

Talebi's most recent documentary, titled 'Destiny,' delves into the themes of love, the future, and eternity, depicting the lives of a girl named Sahar and her father. The documentary had previously garnered recognition by winning the Best Director Award at the 9th Doker International Documentary Film Festival in Russia.

'Destiny' has been broadcasted on NHK in Japan, LCP in France, and Al Jazeera in Qatar. Elaheh Nobakht served as the producer of the project, collaborating with Talebi, while Hengameh Bolouri worked as the co-producer.

The Krakow Film Festival is complemented by exhibitions, concerts, open-air screenings, and opportunities to meet with artists. Each year, the festival attracts around 900 Polish and international guests, including directors, producers, festival programmers, and a diverse Krakow audience.

## 'Empty Nets' shines at Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival



ISNA – 'Empty Nets,' a co-production between Germany and Iran directed by Behrooz Karamizadeh, emerged victorious at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, earning the Special Jury Prize. The film takes place along Iran's picturesque northern Caspian Sea coast, where we follow the journey of Amir, portrayed by Hamid Reza Abbasi. Determined to marry his beloved Narges, played by Sadaf Asgari, Amir seeks employment at a local fishery, hoping to amass enough funds for a suitable dowry to win the approval of Narges' affluent parents. However, the story takes an intriguing turn as Amir is tempted by illicit opportunities, leading him into the perilous yet profitable world of sturgeon poaching and the black market caviar trade.

The 57th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival took place in the Czech Republic from June 30 to July 8, attracting international talent and captivating audiences with its diverse cinematic offerings.

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# Alefta, showcasing Iran's progress in education: Minister



● BAHMAN SADEGHI/pana.ir

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Minister of Education Reza Morad-Sahraei stated that 'Alefta' (Alphabet of Education Transformation) event marks the powerful showcase of Iran's progress in the field of edu-

cation and the transformation of the country's educational system. During the opening ceremony of the inaugural exhibition of 'Alefta', Morad-Sahraei emphasized that Iran stands proudly atop the peak of dignity today.

He described the event as a significant demonstration of Iran's strength in education and the transformative changes within the country's educational system. Morad-Sahraei highlighted the shift from a controlling education system to a facil-

itating one, stating that the world has moved away from education systems based on punishment and reward and now focuses on participatory systems.

The minister underscored that an exhibition of this magnitude is a testament to the power of a strong educational system.

He expressed that teachers are the soul of this transformation, as they contribute to the construction of a new Islamic civilization, which is steadily progressing towards its goals.

'Alefta', an international event showcasing educational innovations by teachers, has commenced on July 9 at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla and will continue until July 12.

According to ISNA, the international event aims to model and celebrate the heroic figures of educational identity in the country; share transformative school experiences; and inspire hope in the educational system.

One section of the event focuses on regular public schools and the submis-

sions from these schools in the primary and secondary levels in the field of "innovative school ideas and experiences" related to education. Ultimately, three deserving schools will be selected in this section.

Another section is dedicated to educational experiences, where ideas from teachers or school administrators are submitted to the event, and awards will be presented to 11 winners.

The event also includes a special international section, which has accepted works from nine countries out of approximately 100 entries from 17 countries. An international award will be presented during the closing ceremony.

Over 38,000 submissions have been received for the event, and starting from the month of Mehr (September/October), teachers will have access to the submitted ideas in order to enhance their teaching methods and incorporate the best ideas.

The event will run through July 12.

## Ancient glassworks found in Japan, South Korea originate from Iran: Museum official



According to a museum official in Iran, archaeological research indicates that the glasses discovered in Japan, South Korea, and the ancient Han Empire can be traced back to Iran and specifically its northern province of Gilan. Meysam Navaeian, the director of museums in Gilan, highlighted the significance of glass as a cultural

and archaeological asset of the Iranian province, Iran Front Page wrote.

He referenced a book called 'Persian Glass' written by Japanese archaeologist Shinji Fukai, who conducted archaeological excavations in Iran and Iraq more than seven decades ago. Fukai encountered historical examples of glass artworks that re-

sembled those found in Japan and South Korea, leading him to conclude that the origin of these glass works lies in northern Iran.

Navaeian further noted that he believed glass production in Gilan dates back 2,300 years to the era of the Parthian Empire.

The Deylaman region in northern Iran was known

for its large glass workshops, which exported their products to East Asia via the Khorshid Road. Additionally, similar glassworks have been discovered in Germany. These findings shed light on the historical connections and trade routes involving glass craftsmanship between Iran, East Asia, and other regions.

## Yazd celebrates sixth anniversary of its UNESCO registration

Yazd commemorated the sixth anniversary of its UNESCO World Heritage listing with a vibrant ceremony attended by hundreds of individuals, including local officials, cultural heritage experts, artists, travel enthusiasts, and artisans. The historical heart of Yazd encompasses a captivating array of mud houses, bustling bazaars, traditional bathhouses, ancient water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. Notably, the city exemplifies peaceful coexistence among three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. Experts in heritage preservation regard Yazd as a living testament to the ingenious utilization of limited desert

resources for survival. The city's water supply relies on an ancient underground irrigation system known as qanats, which bring water from snow-fed streams flowing down the neighboring mountains. Each district of Yazd is constructed around a qanat and features communal centers. Earth-based architecture, with its vaults, domes, and thick walls, creates a pleasant microclimate, enhanced by underground courtyards, wind catchers, and traditional ab-anbars (mud-brick cisterns). Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. In addition, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Homes

are built with underground courtyards that serve underground areas. Wind catchers, inner courtyards, and thick earth walls ensure a pleasant microclimate.

While Yazd's earliest water supply traces back to the Sassanid era (224-651 AD), the city's qanats have been continuously repaired and utilized throughout history. Many surviving ab-anbars today can be attributed to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

A top destination, the Yazd Water Museum is a must-see for anyone wanting to learn more about the brave men who built such underground aqueducts in the past. Housed in a restored manor house with a visible qanat running underneath, the museum



offers visitors a fascinating insight into the hidden world of the qanats through a series of photographs, exhibitions, and architectural drawings. It represents almost 2000 years of unique irrigation structure that was in operation but also describes the drilling of mother wells and associated underground water networks that extended to the ancient city. In July 2017, Yazd's historic

core was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, drawing visitors' attention to its enchanting adobe houses adorned with innovative windcatchers, atmospheric narrow streets, and a rich collection of Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its remarkable cityscape. Yazd consistently captivates visitors as a remarkable place to explore and an unmissable destination.