

## Over 7,000 entries received for TISFF



**ILNA** - The deadline for submissions to the International Section of the 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) recently closed with an impressive record of 7,216 international entries received, making it the highest number of submissions in the festival's history.

The festival holds significant prominence as one of the accredited festivals by the Academy Awards. The winning film from this festival is nominated for the Oscars, which has garnered substantial attention from filmmakers worldwide.

It is noteworthy that this remarkable achievement in the International Section of the festival comes as Iranian filmmakers will have time until August 1 to register their works and compete for participation in the national section of the festival (Iranian Cinema).

The 40th edition of the event, under the auspice of Mehdi Azarpendar, will take place from October 19 to October 24 in Tehran.

## Iran, Tajikistan make joint musical work for Muharram



**ISNA** - In a cross-border collaboration, renowned Tajikistani singer and musician, Davlatmand Kholov, joined forces with veteran eulogist, Sadeq Ahangaran, to create a special musical composition for the mourning days of Muharram.

The collaborative piece, titled 'Hussainiya-e Del,' features heartfelt lyrics penned by Alireza Qazveh. Davlatmand, a master of local music in southern Tajikistan, renowned for his expertise in "Folk" music, has previously collaborated with Ahangaran on other projects.

The new musical creation is among the latest productions of the Center for Poetry, Music, and Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). As part of their Muharram and Ashura commemorations, the center has produced a total of 30 pieces, which will be broadcasted on radio and television networks.

These recent productions include six visually engaging pieces, accompanied by 24 acapella audio pieces, all dedicated to honoring the solemnity of Muharram and its significance in both Iran and Tajikistan.

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 ● 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  
 Iran Cultural & Press Institute

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



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# Over 1.4 m foreign tourists arrive in Iran in three months

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran welcomed 1,410,822 foreign tourists during the first three months of the current Iranian year, which ended on June 21. This figure marks a remarkable 43-percent surge compared to the same period last year.

The influx of tourists underscores Iran's growing appeal as a favored travel destination, attracting visitors from diverse corners of the world. The Domestic Tourism Development Office, in particular, emphasized the vital role played by various tourism-related activities conducted by each department, including the organization of tourism events. Iran's array of tourism events has emerged as a key driver in attracting foreign tourists, making a significant contribution to the overall growth of the sector. Every year, a wide array of tourism events, featuring cultural, recreational, agricultural, religious, and historical themes, are hosted at local, provincial, regional, national, and international levels across the country.

Notably, during the month of Ordibehesht (April/May) in the current year, a total of 90 tourism events were held, with Isfahan Province leading the charge, hosting 10 of these events, followed by Semnan, Mazandaran, and Fars provinces. In a bid to harness the



potential of tourism events and bolster the tourism market, the Domestic Tourism Development Office has embarked on an ambitious three-year process to design and develop a comprehensive

tourism events calendar. The tourism sector has also witnessed significant investment, with the approval of 32 major investment projects, amounting to over 72 billion tomans (\$1.44

million) during the current Iranian year. These investments, totaling \$226 million, have demonstrated a notable interest in tourism and hotel complexes, particularly in provinces such as

Qazvin and Mazandaran. Furthermore, a total of 35 travel and tourism companies were recognized and rewarded for their commendable contributions to various international markets.

Iran's thriving tourism industry continues to blossom, attracting global attention and positioning the country as a prominent player in the world of travel and leisure.

## Iran, Portugal to expand cooperation in education, culture

In a bid to strengthen bilateral ties, Iran and Portugal are set to expand cooperation in various domains, including language, education, culture, sports, youth, tourism, and mass media. The Iranian Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs, Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, announced that the cooperation bill encompassing these areas has been formally submitted to the Parliament for consideration.

Underscoring the significance of this milestone agreement, Hosseini emphasized that both nations are eager to promote mutual understanding and collaboration in fields crucial to cultural exchange and development. The bill, once approved, will not

only foster joint efforts in language education and cultural awareness but will also facilitate the study and appreciation of Iranian studies and Portuguese language and culture in their respective countries. Mehr News Agency wrote. One of the most remarkable features of the agreement is the establishment of an infrastructure for a global computer network, aiming to enhance the teaching and learning of each other's languages, thus encouraging intercultural dialogue. Moreover, the cooperation bill allows for the smooth re-export and re-import of materials and equipment related to cultural and scientific activities for non-commercial purposes, bolstering further academic and artistic inter-

actions between the two nations. "This pioneering agreement is a groundbreaking achievement, as it marks the first of its kind between Iran and a Western European country," Hosseini stated. He further expressed hopes that this landmark agreement could serve as a foundational document, setting a positive precedent for future relations between Iran and other European countries. The proposed cooperation bill signifies a significant step forward in the cultural and educational partnership between Iran and Portugal, fostering mutual appreciation and understanding that will undoubtedly strengthen ties between the two nations in the years to come.

## Dutch masterpiece on show in UK for first time

A "dazzling" rare Dutch masterpiece that has always been held in private collections has gone on public display for the first time in its history. 'Banquet Still Life' by Jan Davidsz. de Heem will be on show at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for the next two years.

The importance of the painting was underlined by a temporary export bar placed on the work by the government last year when it came up for sale, uncleaned, for the first time in two centuries, valued at £6.1m. An export bar gives time for a public gallery or institution to try to raise funds to buy the work, the Guardian reported. At the time, Stephen Parkinson, the arts minister, said: "This captivating painting is magnif-



icent not just in size but also in its exquisite detail. De Heem's enormous talent is evident in this rare piece." In the event, it was sold privately. The painting has since been cleaned for the first time by Martin Wyld, former head of conservation at the National Gallery. It has now been lent to the Fitzwilliam so it can be seen by the public. De Heem was one of the most important still-life painters of the 17th century. 'Banquet Still Life'

is rare within his body of work because of its monumental size; he typically painted smaller works. The artist completed four paintings on this scale between 1640 and 1643. Together they established De Heem as the pre-eminent still-life painter of the Dutch Golden Age and exemplified an emerging style of painting known as pronkstilleven, featuring ornate displays of sumptuous food and luxurious objects.