

Two Iranian films in Indian festival



Two Iranian films, 'A Farewell to Arm' and 'After Midnight,' will compete in the 15th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) in India.

The festival will be held from August 4 to 9 in Kerala, showcasing approximately 300 films at Kairali, Sree, and Nila theaters in the city, IRNA wrote.

Directed by Amirhossein Karbakhsh, and produced by Alireza Montazeri, 'A Farewell to Arm' is a compelling documentary chronicling the quest for peace between Palestine and Israel. After years of strife, the leaders of the two nations come to a profound realization that the path to peace is far superior to the path of conflict.

Meanwhile, 'After Midnight,' directed by Mohammad Baqeri and produced by Mohammad-Hadi Aqajani, explores the poignant narrative of a mother's self-sacrifice and resilience as the avenger of blood.

The international distribution of both Iranian films is skillfully managed by Soureh Cinema International & Business Marketing Center.

The Indian festival has grown into a prominent platform for non-fiction filmmaking, celebrating creativity and resilience within the realm of media. The event features a diverse selection of documentaries and short films, categorized into various segments, including competition, long documentaries, short documentaries, short fiction, animation, and music videos.

Deepa Dhanraj, an acclaimed director and activist, will be honored with a lifetime achievement award during the festival, acknowledging her significant contributions to the field of documentary filmmaking.

The festival aims to foster conversations and discussions while engaging professional filmmakers and enthusiastic audiences in its six-day-long celebration of captivating cinema.



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Two Iranian museums among world's best



Arts & Culture Desk

The National Museum of the Islamic Revolution & Holy Defense in Tehran and Jondishapour Museum of Trade History in Shiraz have earned places on the prestigious list of the world's top museums, as reported by Museum World Ranking.

In this international ranking, the former secured the 322nd spot, while the latter obtained the 335th position, IRNA wrote. Topping the current ranking is the renowned Louvre Museum in France, which holds the prestigious first position among museums worldwide. Museum World Ranking,

an independent European research institution, evaluates and ranks various museums worldwide based on a comprehensive set of quantitative and qualitative criteria. These criteria encompass effectiveness, cultural management and organization, profitability, competitiveness, innovation,

and information provided by the museums' representatives to the institution, such as establishment year, budget, the number of visitors, staff count, welfare facilities, and more. The rankings are meticulously curated by experts at Museum World Ranking, who carry out their

own verification process. This involves examining museum websites, considering visitors' feedback, and monitoring social media activity related to the museums. The list is thoroughly updated on an annual basis, reflecting the dynamic nature of the museum landscape.



Handicrafts museum for Muharram tradition to be launched



Arts & Culture Desk

The deputy tourism minister for handicrafts at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the establishment of a specialized crafts museum dedicated to Muharram tradition. Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi stated that there is also a proposal to incorporate a section related to the Qur'an within the museum, which is currently under consideration, IRNA wrote.

Jalali made the statement during a visit to a hand-crafted exhibit on

Ashura showcased at Bagh-e Honar in the Abbasabad in Tehran, adding that, "Our culture gives so much meaning to wood and metal, turning them into intangible heritage that embodies the thoughts, intelligence, taste, and artistry of our craftsmen. The intangible heritage becomes tangible and narrates its own story."

She continued, "Hand-crafted items related to Muharram and Ashura are a manifestation of love, passion, honor, and recognition of our artists. We witness the embodiment of Muharram's love, passion, and consciousness in metal, wood, and

stone - materials drawn from nature and transformed into a beautiful tale. I believe handicrafts' greatest service to culture is to immortalize these stories."

Mohammad-Hossein Hejazi, the CEO of Abbasabad Renovation Company, also expressed appreciation for the exhibition of hand-crafted items related to Muharram.

He highlighted how this artistic perspective could beautifully portray the Muharram tradition and religion.

Hejazi emphasized that handicrafts are a powerful medium of expression, articulating our emotional and



religious beliefs.

He expressed hope for more such exhibitions to be held across the country, fostering greater support and more opportunities to showcase

these artworks.

Seventy-two artists are presenting more than 80 handcrafted items in the exhibition that will remain open until August 1.

Art exhibition showcasing plants from Qur'an

Kew Gardens in the UK is currently hosting a captivating exhibition featuring beautiful drawings of plants mentioned in the Qur'an. Among the teachings and parables in the Qur'an, Muslim holy book, references to nature, particularly greenery, vegetation, and flowers, are prevalent.

Scientist and author Shahina Ghazanfar, along with New Zealand-based botanical illustrator Sue Wickison, co-created and curated this exceptional collection of artworks, as reported by metro.co.uk. Titled 'Plants of the Qur'an,' the exhibition presents 30 exquisite paintings by Wickison, showcased in Kew's Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art. Each painting showcases

a wide array of flora, including garlic, pomegranate, grapes, henna, and more, accompanied by informative insights into their significance within the religious text.

During her research for the book 'Plants of the Qur'an: History & Culture,' Shahina Ghazanfar delved into ancient Mesopotamian cuneiform texts and semitic languages such as Aramaic and Hebrew to identify plants without modern Arabic names. "Those were more difficult to trace back," she shared. "Every plant has a historical and cultural attachment to it which we must never forget or lose." Sue Wickison, the artist behind the intricate botanical illustrations, expressed her fascina-

tion with Qur'anic flowers during a visit to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, known for its ornate decorations.

She remarked, "What intrigued me, apart from the incredible building, were the unusual botanical motifs all over the floors and columns and up on the ceilings - different from the geometric shapes." To accurately depict the plants, Sue embarked on a journey around the world, visiting the mountains of the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Fiji, and Australia. She highlighted the importance of working from living material, saying, "The work takes hundreds of hours to produce. You must depict the plant accurately and aestheti-

cally. Some of the plants I have grown myself at my home in New Zealand - or traveled into the mountains to find." The 'Plants of the Qur'an' exhibition at Kew Gardens will run until September

17, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to appreciate the intricate beauty of these botanical artworks and deepen their understanding of the plants' significance within the religious context.

