

Iranian film wins at Russian festival



Arts & Culture Desk

ILNA - The cinematic work, 'Kan Pamenar,' directed and produced by Ashkan Darvishi, was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the fifth edition of the Patriki Film Festival in Moscow, Russia. 'Kan Pamenar,' based on a concept by Ashkan Darvishi, sheds light on the lives of child laborers in the impoverished neighborhoods of Tehran's urban outskirts, as well as the support for marginalized Afghan girls. The film's closing credits feature the iconic 'Sharh-e Rozegar' track with Salar Aqili's vocals. Having premiered in the Art & Experience Cinema chain in March 2023, the film received a warm reception from audiences. 'Kan Pamenar' became exclusively available on the Iranian streaming platform Filimo, starting May 22, while providing access to viewers. The film boasts performances by Siyamak Safari, Babak Nouri, Alireza Ostadi, Neda Hosseini, Cyrus Hemati, and Mehdi Tarokh, with a special appearance by Fariba Kowsari.

Italy gets back 266 antiquities from New York seizures



AP - Italy celebrated the return of 266 antiquities from the United States, including Etruscan vases and ancient Roman coins and mosaics worth tens of millions of euros (dollars), that were looted and sold to US museums and private collectors. The returned items include artifacts recently seized in New York from a storage unit belonging to British antiquities dealer Robin Symes, officials said. In addition, the haul that arrived in Rome included 65 objects that had been offered by a collector to Houston's Menil Collection, but were declined. The art unit of Italy's Carabinieri paramilitary police said the owner of the collection "spontaneously" gave back the items after investigators determined they had come from clandestine excavations of archaeological sites, according to a carabinieri statement. While the carabinieri said the works had been part of the Menil Collection, the museum said they never were.

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Iran's Rahbari to conduct Chinese orchestras

Arts & Culture Desk

Celebrated Iranian conductor and composer Ali Rahbari received an invitation to lead symphony orchestras during the upcoming Shenzhen International Festival in China, scheduled for later this year. Rahbari is set to conduct two masterpieces by

Czech composer Antonín Leopold Dvořák and Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky on October 12, 2023, in the vibrant city of Shenzhen, according to a report from IRNA on Saturday. The China Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, through this festival, aims to bridge cultural divides among nations

across the globe, as highlighted by the festival's directors. Ali Rahbari, also known as Alexander Rahbari, extended an invitation to the China Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in Iran approximately six years ago. He has previously led the China Philharmonic Orchestra in a remarkable performance

held in Beijing. With a history of participating in major international festivals in cities including Vienna, Pretoria, Brussels, Geneva, Hong Kong, and Caracas, among others, the Iranian conductor has garnered recognition and acclaim on the global stage. The Shenzhen Interna-

tional Festival has become a significant event in China's musical landscape, attracting numerous artists from diverse countries. Rahbari's participation is expected to add another layer of cultural exchange to the event, enhancing the festival's mission of fostering international understanding through music.

Two Iranian animations to be adapted into novels



Arts & Culture Desk

The animated films 'Princess of Rome' and 'The

Elephant King' are set for being adapted into novels, recent reports confirm. Hamed Ja'fari, the produc-

er behind these animations, announced the decision to adapt the films' screenplays into literary

works, IRNA wrote. Although originating from Honar Pooya Animation Studio in previous years, these films have maintained their captivating allure for audiences, sustaining significant popularity across various platforms. Derived from these films and featuring characters from the original animations, secondary products continue to hold appeal among children and teenagers. The decision to craft novels based on these works aims to enrich the value chain, enhance merchandise, and maintain strong connections with the audience. Furthermore, developments for both 'Princess of Rome' and 'The Ele-



phant King' are underway, with gradual updates anticipated. Ja'fari noted that the adaptation of film scripts into respective novels will be carried out as part of the novelization process. He also discussed recent

sessions organized by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) for the animated film 'Smart Kid,' highlighting discussions centered on crafting and publishing storybooks related to it.

Authors threaten boycott of Edinburgh book festival over sponsors' fossil fuel links

Authors including Zadie Smith, Ali Smith and Katherine Rundell have called on the Edinburgh International book festival to drop any sponsor that invests in fossil fuels. The lead sponsor of the literary festival, which started on 12 August, is investment firm Baillie Gifford. Based on calculations by media outlet The Ferret, the company has up to £5bn invested in corporations that profit from fossil fuels. An open letter signed by a group of more than 50 authors and event chairs stated that these corporations are "making huge profits from global disaster, and

hide behind esteemed cultural institutions, like the Edinburgh book festival, as sanction for its continued operations". The letter, which has also been signed by journalist and author Gary Younge and novelist Jessie Burton, asks that Baillie Gifford stops investing in fossil fuel companies. If the firm does not do so, it calls on the festival to find alternative sponsors for 2024. If these demands are not met, the letter asks all authors to boycott the festival next year, the Guardian reported. This comes after climate activist Greta Thunberg

pulled out of her scheduled appearance at the festival earlier this month, accusing Baillie Gifford of "greenwashing". Gifford is an Edinburgh-based independent investment partnership founded in 1908. The

firm supports a number of initiatives in the literary world, including the sponsorship of some of the UK's largest book festivals, including Hay and Cheltenham as well as Edinburgh. It also sponsors the UK's most prestigious



nonfiction prize, the Baillie Gifford prize, the most recent winner of which was Rundell. In response to the letter, Nick Barley, festival director, thanked the authors for their letter: "We fully acknowledge your concerns about the devastating impact of fossil fuel exploitation on the climate: as individuals and as a charity we firmly agree. For these reasons we promise to think about your letter carefully. The last thing we want is to let anyone give the impression we are on opposite sides." Barley proposed that the festival organisers and the signatories "talk at the festival - with each other and with audience members who share the same concerns." A representative from Bail-

lie Gifford told the Guardian that the firm "has nothing further to add" to the statement it issued last week in response to Thunberg's withdrawal, in which Baillie Gifford partner Nick Thomas said the company is "not a significant fossil fuel investor". However, the representative went on to say that the firm would like to draw attention to the notes at the end of the statement, specifically a section that reads: "Baillie Gifford describes its investment style as 'long-term growth'. That means they look for companies with the potential to grow significantly over a decade or more. These companies tend to be using technology to provide society with progressive products, services, healthcare and materials."