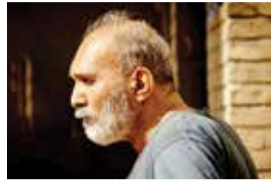


## Iran's 'The Fifty Thousand' awarded at Tunisia film festival



Iranian Director Hamed Karivand's emotionally charged short film, 'The Fifty Thousand,' has achieved accolades once again, this time by winning the prestigious Special Jury Prize at the Cinétoile International Short Film Festival held in Tunisia.

Set against the backdrop of a bustling city, 'The Fifty Thousand' tells the heart-rending tale of a young boy navigating the complexities of life while living in a modest dwelling with his father. The film's narrative beautifully captures his journey through various challenges, portraying the resilience and courage he displays along the way.

The remarkable cast of the film has played a pivotal role in bringing this poignant story to life. Farzin Rahmanpour, portraying the young boy with depth and sensitivity, delivers a performance that resonates with audiences. Accompanying him are seasoned actors like Mohammad Kianian, Elaheh Jaami, Mehdi Parhizkar, and Amirhossein Qalandari, all of whom contribute their compelling performances to enriching the film's emotional depth.

## Iranian musician Esmaeili-Matin dies at 88



**IRNA** – The world of Iranian music mourns the loss of Mohammad-Ali Esmaeili-Matin, a *tonbak* (Iranian goblet drum) player, whose rhythm and artistry resonated with audiences for decades. On August 13, the music community bid farewell to this iconic figure, who had also been a distinguished member of the Veteran Artists Institute. Seyyed Abbas Azimi, the CEO of the institute, confirmed the passing of the maestro.

Esmaeili's musical odyssey took a significant turn in 1951, when he was introduced to the acclaimed Hossein Tehrani, an encounter that would shape his artistic trajectory. This encounter was facilitated by his uncles, Morteza and Mostafa, marking a pivotal moment that ignited his artistic flame.

Esmaeili-Matin's mastery of the *tonbak* was deeply influenced by the style of the legendary Hossein Tehrani, a testament to his commitment to preserving and perpetuating the essence of traditional Iranian music.

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# Iranian books on display at Karbala Int'l Book Fair

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 9th Karbala International Book Fair has transformed into a vibrant hub of literary exchange, with the Iranian Book and Literature House leading the charge by presenting over 330 titles from 30 publishers within Iran's dynamic publishing industry. This spirited participation has brought together a kaleidoscope of literary treasures, all available in Arabic, for the discerning readers at the event.

With a focus on promoting cultural exchange and fostering literary connections, these offerings span across multiple genres, reflecting the rich tapestry of human experience and knowledge.

As reported by IRNA, this assortment includes captivating volumes within the realm of Sacred Defense literature, shedding light on the intricacies of Iran's historical journey. Additionally, visitors have the opportunity to explore selected works by the Iranian Leader Seyyed Ali Khamenei, delving into the insightful perspectives that have shaped Iran's course on the global stage.

The Iranian publishing industry's contribution extends to works designed to captivate the minds of the youngest readers. Children and adolescents are offered a chance to embark on imaginative adventures, broadening their horizons through the magic of storytelling.

The expanse of topics also encompasses Iranian studies, inviting readers to deepen their understanding of the nation's culture, history, and socio-political landscape. With such a comprehensive collection, the Iranian Book and Literature House's presence has undoubtedly enriched the cultural tapestry of the event.

Spanning an impressive 1,300 square meters and hosting 68 booths, the 9th Karbala International Book Fair provides an encompassing platform for literary exploration. This year's fair brings together an impressive lineup of participants, hailing from countries such as Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria, to name a few. These



nations have independently joined the fair, collectively offering an astonishing total of 26,000 book titles for ea-

ger readers to discover and enjoy. The book fair kicked off its literary festivities on August

12 and will continue to captivate book enthusiasts and cultural aficionados until August 21.

# World's highest-altitude cultural museum to open in China

Located in Yading village, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, the Shambhala Cultural Museum is set to become the world's highest-altitude cultural museum. Expected to open its doors to the public by late September, it will stand as a "landmark" for the area, Wang Guiqian, the project manager of China Construction Eighth Engineering Division (CCEED), told the Global Times.

The main structure of the museum was capped on Friday. Set at an altitude of approximately 3,900 meters, the museum is poised to surpass the Xizang Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum in Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region by 150 meters to become the world's highest cultural museum once com-

pleted, according to Wang, [ecns.cn](http://ecns.cn) reported.

Designed to mimic the shape of the Shankha (conch shell), one of the eight auspicious symbols of Tibetan Buddhism, the museum integrates with the surrounding landscape. On one side, it extends from the ground, harmonizing with the mountains and forests. On the other side, a pool of water reflects the grandeur of the snow-covered peaks.

"Given that museum is located in Daocheng county in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the choice of the Shankha design is culturally significant, as the Shankha symbolizes blessings and beauty in Tibetan culture," Yuan Hao, Party secretary of CCEED's Yading Village Project, told

the Global Times. Construction on the museum commenced on April 25 and is scheduled to be completed in a mere 150 days. Comprising three floors, the museum will stand at a total height of 17.4 meters with a total floor space of approximately 2,995 square meters.

The construction team has confronted many challenges during this limited time, according to Yuan. For example, it is operating at high altitudes, so rigorous health checks, daily health monitoring, and ample altitude sickness medication for workers are quite essential. Besides this, the museum is located in the national-level Yading Nature Reserve, so forest fire prevention is of paramount importance in safety management.

Stringent fire source management and on-site protective measures need to be strictly enforced during construction.

As of August 4, a total of 83 cultural artifacts have been designated for the museum, with 58 already gathered

and 25 in the process of being collected, according to an article published on August 6 by the Daocheng Cultural Broadcasting Television and Tourism Bureau. As part of broader efforts to preserve and restore Yading village, the Sham-

bhala Cultural Museum is a pivotal element. The entire project encompasses the restoration of traditional Tibetan-style buildings and village layout adjustments, infrastructure upgrades, and landscape rehabilitation and enhancement.



● GLOBAL TIMES

# Legal drama results in environmental catastrophe for Tehran

### Social Desk

A few days ago, on August 12, at 6 in the morning, special units from Darband 122 Precinct arrived at Tehran's Koohpayeh Park – located in Zafaraniyeh neighborhood in northern Tehran – with mini loaders and proceeded to cut down 50 trees without prior coordination with the District 1 Municipality.

The district deputy mayor was present at the scene in an attempt to prevent the tree cutting but was arrested by the police to enforce the court's decision.

The preservation of Koohpayeh Park has been a longstanding concern for



● armanmeli.ir

Tehran Municipality's District 1. The park was initially an abandoned piece of land which had trees planted on it. Eventually, in 2010, it was transformed into a public park.

However, over these years, no concrete legal measures were taken to align its functionality with relevant laws and regulations. Had such actions been implemented earlier, today's situation

could have been different, and this environmental catastrophe could have been averted.

Nevertheless, the owner of the land now seeks either its return or compensation equivalent to its current value of around \$40,000 based on a legal ruling obtained. As negotiations appear not to be underway, the owner decided to reclaim the land through legal means.

Regarding the process of destroying the park, District 1 Mayor Mehdi Sabbagh explained that they had repeatedly delayed executing the final order through lobbying efforts. However, this time around, execution took place unbeknownst to them

and came as a complete surprise. Sabbagh said that since 2020, there has been an ongoing judicial case concerning Koohpayeh Park's land. The first verdict was issued that same year and revisions were made in 2021, and, finally, orders were sent for execution based on these verdicts.

The head of Tehran Islamic Council's safety committee emphasized that cutting down trees in the region is against the law and called for accountability regarding the judge's decision. Mehdi Babaie referred to the incident, questioning the legality of this decision, saying, "Even if it was just-

ified by tree relocation, why was it carried out during the summer season and using excavators and mini loaders?" Babaie further asserted that, in his view, this decision goes against legal regulations and the judiciary should take responsibility for its basis.

When asked about the owner's intentions for the land, Sabbagh explained that they plan to construct a residential building. However, he mentioned that they have also proposed changing the land's designation to a green space to the Article Five Commission. They hope their request will be granted and implemented.