

## Iran's 'Captain' to premiere at German festival



**TASNIM** - Iranian feature film, 'Captain', directed by Mohammad Hamzei and produced by Seyyed Saber Emami, will have its first international screening at the 28th edition of the Schlingel Film Festival for Children and Youth, slated to be held in Germany's Chemnitz, from September 23 to 30.

The film 'Captain' will be screened twice during the festival, on September 24 and 28.

This year's edition of the Schlingel festival features 171 entries, from 54 countries. In the main section of the festival, known as "Youth Films," 'Captain' competes with nine films from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United States.

Previously, in the 26th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Schlingel, the Iranian film 'The Sun', directed by Majid Majidi, earned the Award of the City of Chemnitz in the Youth Films category.

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# Thousands of Achaemenid-era clay tablets returned from US to Iran

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi returned to Tehran from New York after participating in the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, bringing with him thousands of historical clay tablets from the Achaemenid Empire. "Thanks to proper follow-ups by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization, the permanent mission of Iran to the United Nations in New York and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the tablets of the Achaemenid Empire, which were being kept in the United States, at the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago (CEAS) for 84 years were repatriated to Iran," Raeisi told reporters upon arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, Tasnim news agency reported.



"It is questionable why the tablets were in the possession of Americans. The scientists who worked on the tablets are of Iranian origin, and have been undertaking studies on them for more than 10 years."

Earlier on Thursday, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, stated that he was at the airport to welcome Raeisi and 3,506 artifacts.

"Continuous follow-ups produced results and finally nine boxes, each weighing 75 kg, containing a valuable collection of the cultural and civilizational heritage of the country, were returned from the US," he wrote.

Earlier, Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi told reporters about the return of the clay tablets from the Achaemenid period. "The president will bring souvenirs of Iran's culture, civilization, and history tonight when he returns from his trip to the US," he said, referring to the tablets that were taken out during the Pahlavi rule.

President Raeisi announced that 3,506 clay tablets were repatriated and will be displayed at Tehran's National Museum of Iran, which houses a wide array of archaeological collections and is among the prime tourist attractions in the Iranian capital.

Raeisi emphasized that participation in the



annual UN General Assembly provides an opportunity for interaction and clarification of states' positions.

"The two important issues of amplification of Iran's position as well as safeguarding the country's interests and values were underscored during the event and separate meetings with heads of state," he said.

"Those who do not pay attention to values, at times they will allow themselves to serve others' interests. Protection of values is therefore of paramount significance. Homage to the Holy Qur'an is an important issue as it constitutes our identity. Emphasis on family values is also of significance to us and

human societies, and should be paid attention to by anyone."

"We had 20 meetings and interviews with journalists, scholars, and politicians. During the meetings, Iran's positions were made clear. The main focus of the meetings with the heads of more than 10 states was to elaborate on Iran's trade and economic relations with other countries as well as regional and extra-regional institutions," Raeisi said. The Iranian president also highlighted Tehran's readiness to cooperate and work with various countries and international organizations, particularly concerning political and economic ties.

## Iran's box office sees 25% growth compared to first half of last year

### Arts & Culture Desk

A recent analysis of cinema audience numbers in the first half of the current Iranian year, compared to the same period last year, reveals a nearly 25-percent growth. This year, cinema-goers in the country witnessed a 24.57% growth compared to the previous year, with a total of 10,741,387 individuals purchasing tickets to enjoy films since the beginning of the year.


According to Tasnim news

agency, an examination of the performance of 32 films screened or currently showing in Iran from the beginning of the year until September 22 indicates that a total of 10,741,387 people bought tickets to watch their favorite films during 3,242,000 screenings. This resulted in a total box office revenue of approximately \$9,232,529.

In contrast, when comparing the statistics for the first half of the previous year with the corresponding period this

year, it becomes evident that an additional 2,639,764 people have purchased cinema tickets compared to the previous year. The data recorded for cinema performance in the first half of last year showed that 8,101,623 moviegoers attended screenings during 336,603 screenings, generating a total revenue of approximately \$5,115,281.

Notably, a significant share of the revenue increase for cinemas compared to the previous year can be attributed to the rise in ticket prices.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
 Cartoonist

