

13th int'l tourism exhibition opens in Isfahan



IRNA - The 13th Specialized Exhibition of Handicrafts, Tourism and Hotel Management and Equipment opened at the Isfahan International Exhibition Center on September 26.

The exhibition will run through September 29. Tourism professionals at this exhibition, which aims to promote tourism and showcase the handicrafts of Isfahan Province, are presenting their latest services, capabilities, and artistic works for four days.

The exhibition, which began on the eve of World Tourism Day, highlights various sections and structures within Isfahan's tourism industry, including travel agencies, accommodation and tourism centers, as well as tourism investment companies and relevant educational institutions, occupying more than 4,000 square meters of exhibition space.

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Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
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Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir
newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Three Iranian films win at Indian festival

Arts & Culture Desk

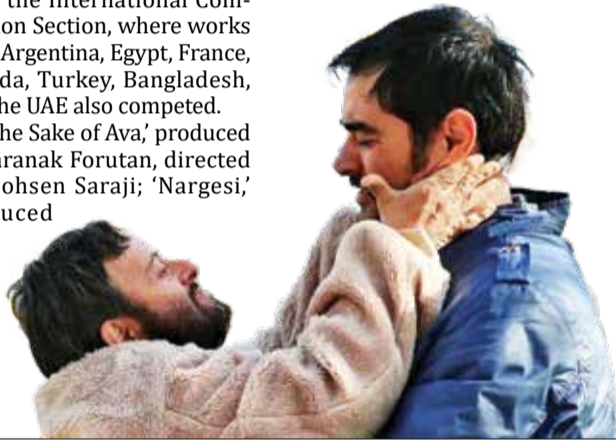
Three Iranian films, 'For the Sake of Ava,' 'Nelumbo,' and 'Nargesi,' received awards at the International Film Festival of Shimla, held in India.

As reported by Mehr news agency, the ninth edition of the International Film Festival of Shimla, featuring over 60 films, including short films, feature films, documentaries, and music videos, took place from September 22 to 24.

Iranian filmmakers participated in the International Competition Section, where works from Argentina, Egypt, France, Canada, Turkey, Bangladesh, and the UAE also competed.

'For the Sake of Ava,' produced by Faranak Forutan, directed by Mohsen Saraji; 'Nargesi,' produced

by Shahab Hosseini, directed by Payam Eskandari were awarded in the International Competition Section, while 'Nelumbo,' directed by Abbas Khademalrasoul, won the top prize in the Short Film Section. 'For the Sake of Ava' falls under the children and youth genre and had previously been selected as the best in the children and family category at the IndieFEST Film Awards. 'Nargesi' focuses on the world of children with Down syndrome.



Iran to reclaim 17,000 more tablets from US

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Ezzatollah Zarghami, announced on Tuesday that an additional 17,000 Achaemenid tablets will be returned to Iran from the United States.

According to Mehr news agency, Iranian experts are scheduled to travel to the United States next month to oversee the return of another batch of Achaemenid historical tablets.

Zarghami emphasized that the conditions for sending these tablets back to Iran will be established after verifying their authenticity.

This development follows a recent announcement by Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi, as he declared the successful repatriation of 3,506 Achaemenid tablets from the United States after more than 85 years.

Zarghami provided the historical context, stating, "The original collection of these tablets, numbering 30,000, was discovered in 1932 during the reign of Pahlavi



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I. They were subsequently sent to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago to be explored and studied. These tablets encompass a wide range of administrative, economic, social, and linguistic documents dating back 2,500 years, shedding light on the legal rights of ancient Iranians."

The minister also detailed the process for the return of the remaining tablets, stating, "The groundwork has been laid for the return of the remaining tablets,

following an agreement reached with the Americans. Our experts will travel to the United States to authenticate and verify the remaining tablets, after which they will be gradually returned to Iran."

Zarghami concluded by mentioning that the returned tablets have been safely transferred to the National Museum of Iran, with plans to put some of them on public display in the near future.

'Meeting in Fakkeh' by Saeed Alamian review

Sacred Defense's shooting star



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

During the Iraqi-imposed war, commonly known in Iran as the Sacred Defense, a war that went on for eight long years, a myriad of heroes emerged from the crucible of war. Although only one amongst so many, Hassan Baqeri resembled a unique shooting star, captivating all who came into contact with him. In 'Meeting in Fakkeh,' a well-researched biography of the Iranian martyr by Saeed Alamian, we encounter a self-made commander of war, whose far-seeing insistence on the importance of military intelligence and visionary methods of carrying out missions helped Iranian forces to successfully reclaim Iraq's gains during the early days of its surprise invasion. In its 22 chapters, the book chronicles the life and times of Hassan Baqeri, from his premature birth on March 16, 1956 in Khorasan Square in Tehran to his tragic martyrdom on January 29, 1983 in Fakkeh, Khuzestan. The narrative consists mainly of interviews with Baqeri's family and comrades, among whom we meet many high-ranking officers and martyred heroes.

'Meeting in Fakkeh' is not your run-of-the-mill biography wherein a profile is portrayed in a matter-of-fact way, but evokes a living figure through numerous interviews with people who knew and worked with Baqeri. Moreover, it quotes directly from his journals, adding depth to the narrative. The martyr's personal notes also act as a touchstone of the whole account. Although gathering so many firsthand accounts from Baqeri's family and friends has shaped up to be an excellent mode of animating his bedazzling character, so much of his life as an individual remains out of sight and unaccounted for.

The martyr's original name was Gholamhossein Afshordi, and he was later nicknamed Hassan Baqeri when he decided to work as an intelligence officer to serve the purpose of the Islamic Revolution of 1979. As fate would have it, the name that was meant to hide his true identity became the very identity with which he shall be eternally remembered.

Baqeri was a religious, kind, and down-to-earth individual with a thirst for knowledge and information. He was an avid reader, always carrying books with him wherever he went, learning as much as he could about as many things as he could. Maybe he was born a genius, but surely this very habit of reading, as well as actively thinking about things and his power of deduction helped him to become the orchestrator of Iranian attacks on the enemy.

"Hassan was courageous. He would come to the front for the operations to observe and investigate the situation to see what should and should not be done. [...] Hassan was not a headquarters-bound commander who directs his forces through the radio," martyr Mehdi Bakeri has said about Baqeri.

His analytic, strategic thinking mixed with his valor turned him into a "real operative commander," who was able

to play a great role during the early years of the Sacred Defense up until his martyrdom.

Baqeri led a simple life, avoiding unnecessary riches and luxuries. During the months leading to his martyrdom, he lived with his wife and newborn daughter in a humble abode in Dezful, Khuzestan. On the morning of the day of his martyrdom, he went to a shelter to have a meeting.

"[He] turned to me and asked: 'Haji, do you have something to eat,'" remembered Mashallah Esmaeili, his friend and comrade. Since Mashallah couldn't find anything to eat, he decided to go to the kitchen to bring some food. But Baqeri stopped him.

"There were some musty breads there. He took some, started to scrape off the mold with a knife and ate them." In an era when pure intentions to serve Iran and its people have given way to thirst for power and earthly riches, when doing things solely out of Islamic beliefs and for the sole purpose of satisfying Allah is no longer the case for so many,

learning about a brave soldier who gave his all to defend our country and Islam, without asking anything for himself or his family in return, is a fresh change of pace. Hassan Baqeri could serve as the ultimate emblem of true revolutionaries whose end goal was not taking the positions of power, but getting rid of the tyranny once and for all – be it Mohammadreza Pahlavi, or Saddam Hussein.

"[He] said: 'Mr. Nasser, we should go to meet our maker with hands full while there's still a war. Who knows what will happen to us when the war is over. Being martyred is the best fate we could ask for,'" quoted Ali Nasser, one of Baqeri's comrades. Baqeri's brilliant strategic thinking and his ability to lead Iranian forces to victory still remains unparalleled, and his martyrdom was a great loss for our country.

