

Farhadi to preside over Les Arcs Film Festival's jury panel



ISNA - Two-time Oscar-winning Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi was selected to preside over the jury panel of the 15th Les Arcs Film Festival. The festival, set to take place in the Alpine region of Bourg-Saint-Maurice, France, from December 16 to 23, aims to promote European cinema by showcasing independent European films that have had limited exposure beyond their borders. Additionally, the festival tries to create a European film market by organizing professional meetings with key industry players. Farhadi's extensive experience as a jury president and a member at major festivals, including Berlin, Cannes, and Zurich, demonstrates his deep involvement in the global film community.

Iranian marquetry exhibited in China



IRNA - The first international exhibition of intangible cultural heritage, featuring Iranian marquetry and tazhib (illuminated art), was held in Beijing, China from October 22 to 25. The exhibition was inaugurated with the presence of China's Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism, Rao Quan. Chinese art enthusiasts showed remarkable interest in the Iranian booth, which displays around 50 exquisite works of marquetry, inlay, khatamkari, and miniatures. The cultural event features 18 participating countries, and the Iranian Cultural Center has showcased Iran's cultural products and handicrafts. Additionally, two distinguished masters of marquetry and inlay art, Mohsen Kaveh and Morteza Mohammad-Qassem, were present at the event to hold instructional workshops. Cuba, Mexico, Italy, Thailand, Slovakia, Angola, Peru, Slovenia, Cambodia, Russia, Serbia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Morocco, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan were other participating countries in this cultural event. The exhibition aims to foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of intangible cultural heritage, offering a platform for artists and visitors to engage with the rich artistic traditions of diverse nations.

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Curtain falls on Tehran Int'l Short Film Festival

Winners announced

The 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival concluded and the winners in various categories were announced during its closing ceremony, attended by Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili. The Grand Prix of the Iranian Section of the festival was presented to Ali Alizadeh for his narrative work, 'Qotar.' The film also won the Special Jury Award, IRNA wrote. In his speech, Alizadeh ex-

pressed his gratitude, saying, "I had many friends in this film who worked shoulder to shoulder with me, and perhaps even more diligently than I did. I would like to thank them all." The Audience Choice Award was given to Farhad Shantiyaei and Sama' Esmaeildokht for their joint film, 'Ant.' The Best Animation Award went to Fatemeh Ja'fari for her outstanding work, 'Being Ten.' Iranian cinema was well represented, with the Best Iranian

Film Award for Payam Kurd-estani and Bahman Rezaei for 'Suicide with Nietzsche Style.' One of the festival's most prestigious accolades which was recently added to the event, The Truth-Seekers Award, was presented to an Afghan director Samih Saghman for the documentary 'Golab-e Gol,' which sheds light on the endurance of the human spirit in challenging times. Saghman was honored for his unwavering commitment to

truth-seeking and his dedication to capturing the essence of human stories on film. Another recently-added category of this year, The Silk Road Prize, aims to recognize filmmakers who endeavor to uncover the hidden facets of the Silk Road's cultural and historical significance. Nasim Soheili won this section's award for Miras-e Baad' (Legacy of the Wind) for her outstanding contribution to the cinematic exploration of

the Silk Road. International filmmakers also made their mark, with a French director Kate MacMullen taking home the Best Documentary Award for the film 'Little Berlin.' The Best Animation Award was won by an Italian director Simone Massi 'When the War Ends'. The Grand Prix of the International Section was secured by Hassan Hekmat Ravesh for his 'All Depends on Mr. Kaf's Opinion'.

October 7 designated as 'Palestinian Youths Epic Day': Minister

The Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance hailed the "unprecedented" operation launched by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas against Israel on October 7, saying the day will be recorded in the Iranian calendar as "Palestinian Youths Epic Day". Speaking on Tuesday, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili said Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has pointed out that October 7 is the beginning of the countdown to the destruction of the occupying regime, Press TV reported. Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was "an epic unprecedented in the historical memory of the region and the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine. We registered the day at the General Culture Council as Palestinian Youths Epic Day. The procedures will be done for its approval at the Supreme Council

of the Cultural Revolution," he added. Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in response to Israel's violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Al-Quds and growing settler violence against Palestinians. The surprise raid shook the occupying entity's security establishment, leaving 1,400 Israelis dead. In response, the Tel Aviv regime launched deadly strikes on the besieged Gaza Strip. According to Wafa news agency, more than 6,000 Palestinians have been killed and 18,000 others injured so far. It has also blocked water, food and electricity to Gaza, plunging the coastal strip into a humanitarian crisis. Esmaeili also commended protests in Muslim countries as well as Europe and the United States in condemnation of the



Israeli bloodshed in Gaza. "Yesterday, the number of child martyrs [in Gaza] surpassed 1,800. This level of cruelty, violence and murder is beyond all usual genocides," he said. "Today, in front of the eyes of billions of people, we are witnessing the bombing of the [al-Ahli Arab] Baptist Hospital that kills more than 500 children."

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili speaks during a ceremony at the public library in City Park in downtown Tehran, on October 24, 2023. IRNA



Renowned Iranian guitarist Lily Afshar dies at 63

Renowned Iranian classical guitarist, Lily Afshar, the first woman in the world to receive a doctorate in classical guitar, died on October 24 at the age of 63 after a prolonged illness. Afshar was one of only 12 international guitarists chosen to study under the legendary Andres Segovia at the University of Southern California, where her exceptional talent shone. Segovia once made a prediction on NBC evening news that Afshar would someday become a celebrated musician, a

prophecy she fulfilled with grace and dedication, IRNA wrote. Afshar's passion for contemporary music led her to become one of the first performers of works by renowned composers such as Reza Vali, Gary Eister, Gerard Drozd, Loris Chobanian, Arne Mellnas, Kamran Ince, Barbara Kolb, Merlin Zimprich, and Salvador Brotons, among others. Throughout her career, Afshar held numerous concerts in countries including Iran, the United States, the UK, Ireland, Canada,

France, Denmark, Italy, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and South America. She also graced prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall in London, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Grand Teton Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, the Banff Centre, Manton Music Festival, and the American Academy in Rome. The Washington Post described Afshar as "extraordinarily pure, superb, and remarkable." She received the Orville H. Gibson Award for being the best female classical

guitarist. Afshar's writings about the Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Francesco da Milano, in multiple languages, were published in Guitar Review, Ai1 Frornimo, and Guitar and Lute. In addition to her remarkable career as a guitarist, she served as a professor in the Music Department at the University of Memphis. Lily Afshar was laid to rest in Tonekabon, a city in Iran's northern Mazandaran Province, on Wednesday.