

## Iran's documentary awarded in Polish festival

ISNA – Iranian documentary 'Austrian Bridge,' directed by Ahmad Azad and produced by Rahil Ilka, received the Best Cinematography Award at 17th edition of the Grand Off World Independent Short Film Awards in Warsaw, Poland.

The cinematography for this short documentary was orchestrated by Reza Heidari Panah.

'Austrian Bridge' tells the story of the historical impact of the Veresk Bridge on both above-ground and underground structures in global transportation (Austrian tunnels or egg-shell-shaped tunnels). It explores the influence of this architecture while narrating legends and tales from nearly a century of the bridge's history, rooted in the culture, music, and literature of Mazandaran. The festival concluded by giving the Best Short Narrative Award to the Polish film, 'Everything is Fine,' and honoring 'Chroma Key' by Max Puglisi from the UK with the Best Directing Award.

The 17th edition of the Polish festival took place in Warsaw, Poland, from November 27 to December 4.

## Iranian bookstores see 12% growth in one month

Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – A total of 9,938 book titles, by 1,392 Iranian publishers, came to bookstores during one Iranian month (October 23 to November 23), which has increased by 12%, compared to 8,873 book titles in the same period last year, based on the statistics of the Iranian Book and Literature House.

Out of the total number of books published during the given period, 7,117 titles were authored and 2,821 titles were translated.

In the subjects of textbooks, literature, children and adolescents, social sciences and religion, the books are mostly authored, and in other subjects, philosophy and psychology, they were mostly translated.

Out of the total number of books published in the period, 7,265 titles were published in Tehran Province, which has recorded a 15% increase compared to the same period last year, with the publication of 6,315 titles. The highest percentage of growth in terms of the subject matter were in the 'children and adolescents' category, with a 48% increase, religion, with a 25% increase, teaching and educational materials, with a 22% increase, and literature and social sciences, with a 10% increase.

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Address: 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran

- Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711171
- ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892-5
- Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500601
- & Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
- Website: www.irandaily.ir
- Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
- Printing House: irandaily@icpi.ir
- Iran Cultural & Press Institute

# Iran's 'The Borders Never Die' wins two awards in Georgia

Iran's short film, 'The Borders Never Die,' directed by Hamidreza Arjomandi, shined at the 4th Diogenes Film Festival 2023, in Tbilisi, Georgia. It won the Special Jury Award and Special Diploma for Best Short Film.

The Diogenes Film Festival, renowned for showcasing thought-provoking films, concluded its fourth edition by awarding 10 prizes and 10 diplomas to outstanding entries.

Named after the ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes, the festival offers a platform for international short films, including masterclasses and side events.

The narrative of 'The Borders Never Die' is the story of families forced to cross borders due to the war in their homeland. The challenging journey, undertaken by a Kurdish couple from Iraqi Kurdistan, when the woman is pregnant, unfolds against the backdrop of impassable roads.

Before the Diogenes Film Festival, 'The Borders Never Die' received accolades at various international film events, including the Lift India Film Festival, Give Peace A Screen in Italy, and the Bangladesh Short Film Festival, among others.



## Students from 14 countries learning Persian at Iranian university



The Center for Teaching Persian to Speakers of Other Languages (at Allameh Tabataba'i University) kicked off a new semester, welcoming 140 students

from 14 countries eager to learn the Persian language. A ceremony was held at Allameh Tabataba'i University to mark the beginning of the semester, attended by the university's president, the head of the AZFA center (the center for offering Persian language training programs), and a group of new students, IRNA reported.

The students are from Azerbaijan, Russia, China, South Korea, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey,

and Sri Lanka. Abdollah Mo'tamedi expressed a warm welcome to the new students and harbored hope that they would enhance their language skills to effectively articulate their thoughts in Persian.

He emphasized the nuances lost in translation, stating that understanding the original language is crucial for understanding the essence of expressions that might be lost in translation.

Mo'tamedi highlighted the university's capacities and

facilities, noting its status as one of Iran's premier institutions, ranking first in various criteria according to the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). Additionally, the university has received recognition in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

With nearly 14,000 students, and over 600 faculty members, including nationally and internationally acclaimed scholars, Allameh Tabataba'i University has played a key role in shaping leaders and

intellectuals. Mo'tamedi encouraged the Farsi students to maintain ties with the university after returning to their respective countries.

He suggested that upon returning home, the students keep in touch with the university, offering assistance with Farsi books and programs if needed. The university expressed readiness to support them in promoting the Persian language in their countries, sharing the joy of education with their compatriots.

## How Munch Museum is using AI to give its audience new access to history of art

Munch Museum is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create pioneering interactive experiences for local visitors and global audience.

The museum in Oslo contains the world's most extensive collection of art dedicated to the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. With 27,000 artworks, non-art objects and writings, parts of which are spread across 11 galleries on 13 floors, the museum

is eager to show its collection to a wider audience, diginomica.com wrote. Birgitte Aga, Head of Innovation and Research at Munch Museum (MUNCH), says that's where technology specialist Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is helping the museum to open access to its art. The two organizations are working together on a pioneering project that uses a Machine Learning (ML) algo-

rithm to delve into Edvard Munch's artistic processes and allow audience to connect with that data-led insight in creative ways: "Using AI for MUNCH creates new opportunities to preserve the collection and to present it to our audience, and for them to engage with it, in a more relevant way. AI opens up completely new opportunities to understand the artistry of Munch and to make correlations that

we never knew existed before." Aga describes Edvard Munch as a ferociously productive artist. The thousands of artworks in the museum's collection include 7,000 drawings and sketches that show how he tested styles and often reworked paintings, such as The Scream. The museum is keen to make this artistic process visible to the public using the power of emerging tech-

nology: "What we need to do is make our collection more relevant to people. It's a collection that is very rarely seen and is fragile. We have digital versions of the art on our website – you can go in and look at the art, but that's not necessarily something that audience would choose to do. We live in a society where audience expect experiences, rather than just objects, and

we have to work continually on mediating our collection."

