

Head of UNWTO to attend TITE in Tehran



IRNA – Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Zurab Pololikashvili, is set to visit Tehran to participate in the 17th International Iran Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE).

A specialized session for provincial tourism deputies, attended by Deputy Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian and the provincial tourism deputies, was held on December 5, in Tehran.

Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi, the Director-General of Domestic Tourism Development, highlighted the emergence of “thematic tourism” in many provinces, stating, “Out of 1,045 announced events, 525 events have been registered, with Gilan Province leading with 46 events.”

Fatemi said that the exhibition, scheduled from February 12 to 15, 2024, at the permanent venue of Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, will focus on green tourism and a province-centered approach, with booths organized based on specific themes and concepts, similar to the previous year.

- License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
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 Amirhadi Arsalanpour
 Leila Imani
 Hamideh Hosseini
 Ali Amiri
 Ali Mehran

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
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Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian actress Nazanin Farahani was honored as Best Actress at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival for her performance in the film, ‘The Sun of that Moon,’ directed by Setareh Eskandari.

The award was presented during the sixtieth edition of the Asia-Pacific Film Festival, organized by the Fairtrade Network of Asia & Pacific Producers from November 30 to December 2, in Macao.

‘The Sun of that Moon’ not only secured Farahani the Best Actress accolade but also received nominations in six other categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Costume Design, and Best Original Score.

The film, a tale of failed love and endless silences set in the breathtaking landscape of Baluchestan, offers a genuine and distinctive portrayal of this community.

Following its world premiere at the International Film Festival of India, in Goa, the film has participated in various other festivals, including the Zurich Film Festival (Competition Section), Cultura Ramblas Festival (Competition Section), Sofia Menar Film Festival (Retrospective of Iranian Women Filmmakers), and Idromeno Independent Film Festival (Competition Section), where director Eskandari won her first Best Director Award.



Iran’s Nazanin Farahani awarded best actress at Asia-Pacific Film Festival

Iranian modernist musicians perform in Germany

A concert titled, ‘Music for Speakers,’ featuring compositions by Iranian modernist composers, was staged in Germany on December 5.

The concert is an electronic music concert performed by Iranian modernist composers residing in Germany. The event was organized and executed by Iranian composer Amir Teymuri, ILNA reported.

The concert, held at Orgelfabrik Durlach in the German city of Karlsruhe, also featured an exhibition showcasing the works of artists from the State Academy

of Fine Arts Karlsruhe. Mehdi Jalali, a musician, composer, and the head of the Yarava Music group, stated, “This concert included works from various generations of Iranian electronic music composers, featuring performances by 11 Iranian composers living in countries such as Iran, Germany, France, Norway, and the United States.”

Jalali listed the participating composers, including Ehsan Ebrahimi, Deniz Tafaghodi, Amir Teymuri, Shahrokh Khajenouri, Idin Samimi-Mofkham, Shahr-

zad Talebi, Alireza Farhang, Farzia Fallah, Mehdi Kazerouni, and Hana Mesgari. He provided further details, mentioning that all the pieces performed in the concert were fixed media, and the sound engineering was handled by Teymuri.

Jalali emphasized the special significance of the concert for Yarava Music Group, stating, “For us, the highlight of this concert was the performance of two pieces from the works attended in the Reza Korourian Electroacoustic Composition

Competition.” Regarding the characteristics of these two works, he explained, “The piece ‘Shin,’ composed by Deniz Tafaghodi, won the second prize in the fifth round of the Reza Korourian Electroacoustic Composition Competition in 2020, recently released.” Additionally, ‘The Silent Dream,’ composed by Shahrzad Talebi, is one of the winners of the second round of the Reza Korourian Electroacoustic Composition Competition in 2017, published in the second year of the ‘Sunset in the Meadow’ competition, he added.



British Museum loan to Greece coincides with dispute over Parthenon Marbles

Greece’s Acropolis Museum launched an exhibition Tuesday that includes a renowned ancient Greek water jug from 420 B.C. on loan from the British Museum.

The exhibit comes during a dispute between the countries over Greek demands for the return of sculptures from the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis that are housed in the British Museum, The Independent wrote. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak canceled a planned meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in London a week ago, accusing him of seeking to “grandstand” by publicly campaigning for the return of the Parthenon Marbles while visiting Britain.

Sunak said his government had no intention of re-opening the issue

or amending legislation that would block the artifacts’ return.

Mitsotakis described the incident as “an unfortunate moment” but added that the campaign for their return had received a boost after Sunak’s cancellation drew international attention.

The British Museum said it was continuing talks with Greek authorities and the Acropolis Museum, raising hopes in Athens that an arrangement could be reached to display the sculptures in Greece. On Tuesday, Acropolis Museum director Nikolaos Stamplidis said his museum maintained “excellent relations” with the British Museum and expressed confidence that the Parthenon Marbles would eventually be returned. “After all, culture is not only about

art. It’s also about relationships,” he said. Excavated in southern Italy, the water jug known as Meidias Hydria, considered to be a masterpiece of the Athenian potter Meidias, became part of the British Museum collection 250 years ago and has not left the London museum until now.

The jug will be displayed at the Acropolis Museum in Athens through April, when it will move to 2024 Olympics host city Paris to be included in an exhibition at the Louvre Museum.

Just over 50 centimeters (19.5 inches) in height, the vessel is decorated with scenes from Greek mythology including a depiction of Heracles, the legendary Greek hero renowned for his strength. The Athens exhibition will open to the public on Thursday.