

Iranian photojournalist Babaei wins at 2023 Tokyo contest



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – Iranian photojournalist, Mohammad Babaei, received an honorary diploma in the 2023 Tokyo International Foto Awards. Babaei, known for his work for the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), was awarded for his photo series 'Iran's Female Boxers'.

With three decades of experience in photo journalism, Babaei has previously received several international awards for his work in women's sports.

Babaei has already won the Winter Sports Photo Awards of World Media Summit in China in 2021.

He has covered such events as the 2018 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest and the FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia among others.

The 2023 Tokyo International Foto Awards aimed to discover talent among both professional and non-professional photographers, including students, in various categories.

A jury of renowned photography experts, curators, and international gallery owners meticulously evaluated entries in 10 categories in both the Professional and Non-professional branches of the contest. In addition to naming the Photographer of the Year, they also awarded the top image in each category and selected one photographer as the Discovery of the Year.

That honor went to Tiziana Sonia Spelta for her work in documenting rallies in support of Palestine that took place in Italy in late 2023. Her powerful images also won the Non-professional Editorial category. Spelta will receive a \$2,000 cash prize for her win, while Leroy will walk away with \$3,000.

Photographer Francis Leroy rose to the top of the competition and was named Photographer of the Year at the 2023 Tokyo International Foto Awards. The photographer's artistic look at how the waves of the ocean merge with a sandy beach beat out thousands of entries to the contest.

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Travelers can drive personal vehicles between two countries

Iran, Armenia collaborate to facilitate tourism



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The vice president of the Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group announced the signing of a cooperation agreement to facilitate tourism between the two countries.

Ara Shaverdian, in an interview with Iran Daily, added that according to the agreement facilitated by the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Armenian

and Iranian tourists can travel to either country with their personal vehicles, and without the previous requirement of a deposit.

Shaverdian emphasized the need to strengthen campsite facilities in Iran to facilitate ground travel for tourists from various European and Caucasian countries to Iran.

He highlighted the importance of providing the necessary infrastructure for road, highway, and tourist facilities to attract foreign tourists through neighboring countries.

He urged the development of campsites and accommodations to enable tourists from different parts of Europe and Armenia to

enter Iran with campervans and engage in tourism, allowing them to enter and exit Iran from various borders after traveling to different parts of the country.

He stated that Iran, with its various tourist attractions, must improve road and tourism facilities to attract foreign tourists and facilitate their ground entry through neighboring countries. Comparing the number of tourists in both Iran and Armenia, Shaverdian noted that more tourists have historically traveled from Iran to Armenia than vice versa.

He attributed this to the previous lack of opportunities for Armenian tourists to travel

to Iran with personal vehicles. Shaverdian highlighted the unique atmosphere of ground travel and the cost-effectiveness of ground travel compared to air travel. He mentioned that the peak of Iranian tourist travel to Armenia occurs during Nowruz (Persian New Year), Christian New Year, and the summer season. Regarding air travel between Iran and Armenia, Shaverdian explained that several Iranian airlines, including Qeshm Air and Iran Airtour, operate flights to Armenia, with a minimum of two to three flights per week during high season.

Shaverdian suggested promoting tourist attractions in the

Azərbaycan region of Iran to Armenians and expanding air routes to cities such as Isfahan and Bandar Abbas.

He mentioned that Iran, considered among the top ten countries globally in terms of technical and engineering knowledge, has recently collaborated with Armenian companies to construct a 35-kilometer road project from the Armenian border to Yerevan.

He added that the current 300-km road from Iran to Yerevan takes about seven to eight hours due to road difficulties. However, with the construction of this road, featuring bridges and tunnels, travel time is expected to be reduced by half.

Iranian, Serbian universities ink scientific agreement

Social Desk

In a meeting attended by Serbian and Iranian scholars, a scientific collaboration agreement was signed between Tarbiat Modares University and the University of Belgrade, to expand educational and research ties.

The session was attended by Ratko Ristić, vice rector for foreign affairs of the University of Belgrade, and Nikola Živanović, a member of the University of

Belgrade Faculty of Forestry, according to ILNA.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahzadeh, the deputy of research and technology at Tarbiat Modares University, expressed readiness for collaboration in various scientific areas, including study opportunities, student exchanges, and joint research projects under the international scientific agreement.

Ratko Ristić, expressing satisfaction with their presence at

Tarbiat Modares University, also expressed their willingness for bilateral cooperation.

Abdolmir Allameh, the director of International Scientific Relations, and Hamidreza Sadeqi, a faculty member of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Maritime Sciences at Tarbiat Modares University, evaluated the collaboration with the University of Belgrade as an appropriate opportunity, considering its illustrious history.



Prior to this meeting, the Serbian delegation had visited the Faculty of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences in Iran's northern city of Nour. The University of Belgrade,

with 31 faculties, over 90,000 students, over 4,000 faculty members, and over 7,000 administrative staff, is one of the oldest and best universities in the region.

19th Tehran Auction concluded with Sepehri's artworks dominating

Arts & Culture Desk

The 19th edition of the Tehran Auction, showcasing classic and modern Iranian art, concluded at Parsian Azadi Hotel in Tehran on January 26, with a record-breaking total sales exceeding \$4,834,400. Sohrab Sepehri's

three pieces set a new record by fetching \$752,000 in total.

The auction featured 90 works categorized into classic and modern art. Classic artworks included pieces by renowned artists such as Ebrahim Jabbari, Mahmoud Farshchian, and Mahmoud Zangeneh. Modern pieces were

presented by artists like Sohrab Sepehri, Bahman Mohasses, Sadeq Tabrizi, Parviz Tanavoli, Mohammad Ehsai, and Hossein Zenderoudi, IRNA reported. An untitled oil on canvas painting from Sohrab Sepehri's 'Tree Trunks' series, dating back to the 1970s, was featured in the 19th

Tehran Auction. The artwork, originally presented at Christie's Dubai auction in October 2015, was estimated to be worth between \$400,000 and \$440,000. It ultimately sold for \$408,000 during the auction, marking the most expensive artwork of this edition of the event.

Initiated in 2012, the Tehran Auction is the first of its kind in Iran, aiming to showcase the best in Iranian art. Focused on addressing the growing interest in modern and contemporary Iranian art, the auction facilitates the acquisition of quality works in a reliable manner.

The previous edition of the auction, which concentrated on contemporary Iranian art, grossed over \$1,235,520 on December 15. 'Farangi (Foreign) Woman on Persian Carpet II' by Parviz Tanavoli was the most expensive artwork, sold for \$110,000 at the 18th edition of the event.