

Minister: Criticisms against Fajr Int'l Film Festival show dynamism

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, stated that criticisms regarding the organization of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival signify its dynamism. He added that the ground is paved for those interested in filmmaking, emphasizing the diverse cinematic presence at the 42nd edition. He highlighted this as indicative of the event's growing artistic significance, according to IRNA. Esmaeili, during the second national conference on the Islamic Revolution and the future horizon of civilization, expressed that the modern Islamic civilization embodies governance, rationality, justice, spirituality connected to revelation, Sharia, and the rule of jurisprudence.

He credited the Islamic Republic for determining its path of power through a network of ancient civilizations, contrasting it with the Western world facing challenges and losing societal foundations. He acknowledged the festival's constructive criticism, discussions, and controversies, attributing them to its greatness. The minister welcomed all discussions and criticisms, expressing gratitude for the warmth and contributions of cultural and artistic figures to the cinema. He described the current phase as a new bloom for promoting content in the film industry, moving away from a negative cinematic atmosphere that primarily focused on violence and controversial communications. Esmaeili said, "We are witnessing a new era in cinema, with a significant part of the festival

productions dedicated to the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution, the people of Iran, and historical events such as the event of Karbala and martyrs." In response to concerns about some films not being fully prepared, Esmaeili explained that considering the workload of filmmakers to meet the festival's deadlines is natural. The minister highlighted the importance of the Islamic system, contemporary Iranian civilization, and issues related to the growth of artificial intelligence, governance, opportunities, and threats in the online space in achieving a new Islamic civilization. The event also covered topics such as artificial intelligence, the modern order of civilization, the role of universities in Iran, and the structuring of contemporary Iranian civilization.



Armenian pianist to perform in Iran



Hayk Melikyan, a distinguished Armenian pianist, is set to participate in the 39th Fajr International Music Festival in Iran. His performance is scheduled for February 12 in Rudaki Hall, ISNA wrote. The festival will feature seven music groups from eight countries, including India, Belgium, Iraq, Armenia (Melikyan), Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and

the Netherlands. Melikyan, born in Yerevan, is the grandson of Sokrat Khanyan, a renowned poet, translator, and journalist. Melikyan, who has released two solo albums through NAXOS Grand Piano, showcasing piano solos from the works of Arno Babajanian and Alexander Arutunian, has performed on prestigious global stages throughout his career. Some of these include the Gulbenkian Grand Auditorium in Lisbon, Portugal, the Victoria Hall in Geneva, and the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall in Yerevan. This isn't Melikyan's first visit to Iran; in 2015, he performed in Rudaki Hall and cities such as Shiraz, Yazd, and Ahvaz. Melikyan, a highly acclaimed pianist, has received numerous awards, including the gold medal from the Union Of Composers Of Russia, the Honorary Artist of Armenia, and more.

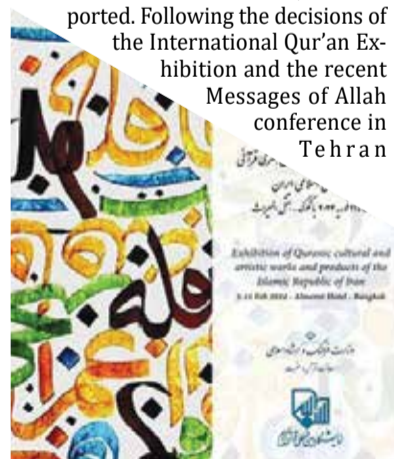
 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
 Cartoonist



Iran's first Qur'anic exhibition in Thailand

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The first international exhibition of Qur'anic cultural artifacts and products from the Islamic Republic of Iran opened at Thailand's Al Meroz Hotel Bangkok on February 5 and will run until February 11. The exhibition is being held with the presence of the Deputy for Qur'an and Etrat of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Alireza Moaf, IRNA reported. Following the decisions of the International Qur'an Exhibition and the recent Messages of Allah conference in Tehran



with the participation of 10 countries, the first major Qur'anic exhibition in Thailand has been organized, inviting the participation of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) and the Qur'an and Etrat Deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. The exhibition is showcasing Qur'anic artistic works, handicrafts, printed publications, and digital software. Aiming to facilitate the global economic and artistic presence of Qur'anic artworks and handicrafts, the exhibition features 24 Qur'anic paintings by Iranian artists and over 20 Qur'anic-themed handicrafts. The event also highlights the introduction and presentation of written works conveying Qur'anic teachings. With over 130 pieces catering to both adults and children, the works will be presented in English in the event. The Qur'anic, artistic, and literary monthly magazine 'Shabnam,' (dew) targeting the age group of 6-11 and supported by the Qur'an and Etrat Deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, translated into English and is also on display. Multilingual digital products, including Qur'anic applications, are among the items available at the exhibition.

35th Tehran Int'l Book Fair date announced

The 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) is scheduled to take place from May 8 to 18, according to Ali Ramezani, the spokesperson and deputy of Iran Book and Literature House. He emphasized increased interaction among committees and proposed the establishment of teams for each committee to enhance their activities and richness, ILNA wrote. Ramezani also highlighted the need for facilitating actions, such as the registration of foreign and domestic publishers, to ensure the fair's timely and optimal

organization. Regarding the venue, Ramezani mentioned that recent visits to available options were reported, and

the policymaking council will quickly review the choices to make a decision on the location.

