

Fajr music emphasizes non-political approach: *Festival president*

 **By Sadeq Dehqan**
 Staff writer

The head of the 39th Fajr International Music Festival, Amirhossein Samiei, emphasized that many renowned global art festivals consider political motivations and considerations when inviting participants and selecting award-winning works. However, he highlighted that Fajr festivals maintain a non-political perspective on cultural subjects, aiming to prioritize expertise and meritocracy in their events. Speaking to Iran Daily reporter, Samiei stated that this year's Fajr International Music Festival aimed to provide a platform for diverse musical groups from around the world, promoting the participation of individuals from various ethnic backgrounds. Despite a positive response from international music groups, logistical constraints limited the festival's capacity to accommodate all interested foreign participants. Discussing the Barbad Award, presented to outstanding works and participants in the Competitive Section of the Fajr International Music Festival, Samiei

expressed that such credits could serve as a strong motivation for winners to continue their artistic endeavors. He emphasized that increased competition contributes to enhancing the festival's international fame. Amirabbas Setayeshgar, the head of the Iranian Music Society, highlighted the festival's rich history, spanning nearly four decades. He expressed hope for the continued success of Reza Mahdavi, the festival's secretary, in injecting his experienced and musical perspectives into the festival's organization. Setayeshgar underscored the importance of financial support, urging higher authorities to allocate more resources to the festival's budget. He stressed that increased financial backing would promote the quality and quantity of musical groups, ensuring the festival's future success on a broader scale. Regarding the participation of foreign music groups in the 39th Fajr International Music Festival, Setayeshgar mentioned the presence of groups from Armenia, the Netherlands, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Belgium, and Iraq. This year's festival will also feature piano recitals by groups from the Netherlands and Armenia, classical music performances by groups from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and a jazz fusion performance by a collaborative group from Belgium and Iraq. Afghanistan and



India will also showcase two national and traditional music groups. Highlighting the involvement of the head of the Union of Russian Composers and renowned German pianist

Moritz Ernst as jury members, Setayeshgar expressed optimism that the continued presence of such prominent figures would contribute to the international recognition of the festival.

IRNA

Ten countries willing to produce joint films with Iran: *Khazaei*



Filmmakers from 10 countries, including Russia, Lebanon, China, Uzbekistan, India, Greece, Pakistan, Armenia, South Korea, and Turkey, have expressed their willingness to collaborate with Iran in joint cinematic productions, according

to Mohammad Khazaei, CEO of Cinema Organization of Iran. This announcement was made during the Press Conference on Regional Cinematic Authorities at the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran,

fajriff.com reported. Khazaei highlighted that these filmmakers have formally requested cooperation with Iran in the field of joint movie production. Last year, Iran has collaborated with various countries on 23 jointly made films. The professional cinematic facilities of Ghazali Cinema Town, Noor Cinema Town, and Holy Defense Cinema Town are suitable locations for future collaborative projects, he added. During the conference, Khazaei expressed hope for the execution of the recently-signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the FIFF in the near future. Representatives from Turkey, Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan were also present at the event.

The press conference included suggestions for expanding collaboration further, with Kemal Usal from Turkey proposing that Iran and Turkey screen jointly produced films in both countries. The international agreements were seen as laying the groundwork for such collaborations, providing opportunities for productions with substantial budgets. Participants from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, namely Mohammad Said Shohiyon and Akzhol Bekbolotov, expressed positive sentiments towards Iranian cinema. Shohiyon mentioned the hope and positivity conveyed by Iranian movies, while Bekbolotov shared ongoing efforts to formalize a cooperation document between Kyrgyzstan and Iran. In addition, the achievements of the

meeting of regional cinema heads in Tehran were discussed. Representatives from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey participated. The session outlined six key points for expanding multilateral cooperation in areas such as joint productions, facilitating screenings in regional countries, establishing a regional support fund for cinema professionals, promoting technological development, enhancing educational and research collaborations, and providing special support for regional works in festivals. These developments signal a growing interest and commitment among multiple countries to foster collaborative cinematic events with Iran, aiming to bridge cultural gaps and promote shared storytelling on the global stage.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
 Cartoonist



Rare Asiatic cheetah seen in Touran National Park after three years

Social Desk

A rare Asiatic cheetah named "Hiwa" has been spotted in Iran's Semnan Province after a three-year absence. According to Ali Akbar Qorbanloo, the head of Touran National Park (Part of Touran Biosphere Reserve), a female cheetah was seen in the Delbar region. During routine travels in the area, local residents informed Qorbanloo about the presence of the cheetah and he took immediate action and captured images of the rare fauna, ISNA reported. After submitting the photos to the provincial Department of Environment, a thorough examination and analysis of the body markings

revealed that the cheetah in question is the same female cub born in 2020. The last known sighting of the cheetah was in September 2020, and since then, she had escaped both human observers and other surveillance cameras.

He said, "Harb" gave birth to three cubs named "Hiwa," "Helya," and "Hanna" in her first recorded delivery, the provincial official noted. The cheetah appears to be in excellent physical health, marking a welcome return to the region.

