

Piano solo by Moritz Ernst gets kudos in Iran



● BORNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Moritz Ernst, a renowned German pianist, staged a solo piano performance at the 39th Fajr International Music Festival held at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on February 16, and his performance was highly welcomed by

the audiences. He performed pieces from world-famous composers such as George Frideric Handel, Beethoven, Chopin, Francis Poulenc, Emmanuel Melik Aslanian, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. This marks Moritz Ernst's third appearance at the

Fajr Music Festival in Iran. His previous performances in 2020 and 2021 were conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On his performance, Ernst expressed that the Fajr International Music Festival is a significant event in Iran, bringing together

various music genres, including pop, local, traditional, and classical, as well as featuring international musicians. He added, "Organizing such musical events plays a vital role in connecting the cultures and arts of different countries."

Iran Media Expo to welcome 1,700 media people



● IRNA

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The 24th edition of the Iran Media Expo will open today, welcoming 1,700 media people nationwide over the four-day event. The expo is set to take place at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla from February 18 to 21, marking its return after a six-year break, IRNA wrote. Mehdi Ebdali, Deputy Director General of Domestic Press and News Agencies, announced that

media representatives from 32 provinces have been formally invited to attend the expo. The invitation, extended in coordination with the cultural and Islamic guidance departments, encourages the active involvement of media entities. According to Ebdali, participants are expected to engage not only in visiting the main exhibits but also in taking advantage of the various side events and educational programs offered during

the expo. In addition, one outstanding media figure from each province will be commemorated on the day representatives from that province visit the exhibition. A section will also be dedicated to Gaza and renowned international media outlets have been invited to join the expo, with specific focus on European media activists who have been engaged in coverage of Gaza over the past four months.



Iran, Italy confer on expanding science, academic ties

Iran's Ambassador to Italy, Mohammad-Reza Sabouri, and Luiss University Rector Andrea Principe discussed enhancing bilateral ties in science, academia, and technology. During the meeting, the Iranian envoy highlighted Iran's academic strengths in economics, management, political science, and international relations. He expressed Iran's willingness to improve collaboration by facilitating the exchange of university instructors and students with Luiss University in Rome. In response, Rector Principe welcomed the ambassador's proposals, expressing the university's keen interest in expanding scientific and academic cooperation with Iran. He affirmed Luiss University's readiness to accept more Iranian students. Luiss University, originating from the Pro Deo International between 1974 and 1978, operates independently and spans four departments: Economics and Finance, Business and Management, Law, and Political Science. The university is known for its innovative and sophisticated educational approach.

Over 135k contract cancer in Iran per year: Professor

Over 135,000 people are diagnosed with cancer annually in Iran, with estimates indicating a probable 100% increase by 2042, as announced by Mohammad Reza Sohrabi, Vice Chancellor for Research of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. Sohrabi said that skin, breast, colon, and gastric prostate cancers as the most common types in the country, IRNA wrote. A mid-November 2023 report by IRNA revealed that, of 122,000 premature deaths under 70 years, 34,000 were attributed to cancer. Also, cancer accounted for 11,000 out of 85,000 premature deaths under 50 years in the previous year. Sohrabi emphasized the importance of preventive measures and early cancer detection, making it a healthcare priority. Screening for common cancers like breast, colon, and cervical cancer is

carried out in health facilities along with self-care education. Cancer was identified as the second leading cause of death globally after cardiovascular diseases, affecting approximately 20 million people annually. Sohrabi attributed the rise in cancer cases to increased life expectancy, lifestyle changes, and environmental factors. The deputy director pointed out that life expectancy has risen from around 58 years in the early 1980s to 76 years for men and 78 years for women today. Unhealthy habits such as smoking, consumption of salty, fatty, high-calorie foods, and seden-

tary behavior were cited as contributing factors to the increase in certain cancers. Sohrabi called attention to the significance of tobacco use as a major avoidable risk factor for cancer. Environmental factors like increased fossil fuel consumption, pollutants, and harmful chemicals in the workplace were also identified as cancer-causing factors. Despite the growing cancer incidence, Sohrabi said advancements in treatment methods that have improved patient survival rates. He noted that "public awareness," "early detection methods," and "screenings for identifying cancer in its early stages." Motivating citizens to adopt a healthy lifestyle, Sohrabi urged people to use healthcare facilities, comprehensive health service centers for screening and early recognition of cancers.



Iran, Tajikistan discuss making joint cinematic works

Officials from Iran and Tajikistan discussed the possibility of jointly producing cinematic works during a meeting held at the Farabi Cinema Foundation (FCF) in Tehran. The talks, which took place between the Managing Director of FCF, Majid Zeynolabedin, and the Head of Cinematography Affairs in Tajikistan, along with the director of Tajik Film and several filmmakers from Tajikistan, highlighted the potential for collaborative film projects, ILNA wrote. The meeting, held during the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran, focused on the shared cultural heritage of the two nations. Zeynolabedin expressed optimism about the prospect of Persian-speaking filmmakers from Tajikistan making joint works. "We should unlock the potential for collaborative productions that, while showcasing the shared culture of Iran and Tajikistan, are also engaging and attractive to the audience," stated Zeynolabedin, outlining the vision for future collaborations in the realm of cinema.