

# Iranian poet Attar commemorated



Every year, a number of literati, scholars and people gather at the mausoleum of the Persian poet, mystic, and philosopher Attar of Nishapur to mark National Day of Attar, which was on

April 13. On the reconciliation of classic poets and new generation, poet and literary researcher Reza Esmaeili emphasized the need to update classic poetry, saying,

"If we translate Attar's poetry into today's language, people will communicate with its creations better." Iranian composer and orchestra conductor Farhad Fakhreddini announced

the completion of his latest work, 'Simorgh Collection' based on Attar's 'Manteq-ot-Tayr' (The Conference of the Birds). He made the announcement on April 13, which

coincides with National Day of Attar on the Iranian calendar.

He said he began writing this collection three years ago, considering his enduring affinity and collaboration with his heritage and his profound respect for classical literature. He described "Attar as a well-known figure in our literature, renowned for his sweet and pleasant poetry, with 'The Conference of the Birds' undoubtedly being Attar's finest work and I decided to select excerpts from his poems and start the music composition process."

Known by his pen name Farid-oddin Attar Nishapuri, the prominent Iranian poet was born in 1142 and died at the age of 75 in Nishapur, in northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province, during the Mongol invasion of Iran.

Attar is one of the most famous mystic poets of Iran. His works were the inspiration of Rumi, Hafiz, and Jami, and many other mystic poets.

Attar is the author of numerous books and works of literature, most important of which are 'Tazkerat al-Owliya' (Biographies of the Saints), 'Manteq-ot-Tayr', 'Asrar Nameh', 'Elahi Nameh', and 'Mokhtar Nameh'.

## Five Iranian short movies selected for 5th Fotofilm festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Five Iranian short films have been chosen to

participate in the 5th Fotofilm International Short Film Festival.

The 5th edition of the festival will be held jointly with the French event Youality and Castel Lagopesole in Italy, scheduled from April 24 to 26, at Gelişim University in Istanbul, ISNA wrote. The festival, in collaboration with Fotofilm Festival, will showcase a selection of finalists from recent years, comprising five Iranian and five international films. The selected Iranian films include 'Shutter Gun' directed by Ramin Rastad, 'The Savior' directed by Soheila Pourmohammadi, 'Identibye' directed by Sajjad Shahhatami, 'Home is Home' directed by Mohammad Safaiepour, and the short documentary 'Soil Flavored Bread' directed by Himan Alani.

This cinematic event, organized by the initiative of Fotofilm Festival Secretary Mehmet Ofazoglu, Turkey Festival Director Özlem Tuğçe Keleş, Youality International Short Film Festival Secretary Kamran Rasoulzadeh, and Castel International Short Film Festival Secretary Giuseppe Arcieri, will take place in Turkey.

## Cinema for Gaza auction raises over \$316,000 for relief efforts

Cinema for Gaza, a group launched by a small group of female filmmakers and film journalists, has successfully raised more than \$315,000 to support medical aid for the civilian population in Gaza. A celebrity auction, organized by Cinema for Gaza, and supported by the likes of Tilda Swinton, Annie Lennox, Joaquin Phoenix, Spike Lee and Guillermo del Toro, raised some \$316,778 for Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a U.K.-based charity that provides on-the-ground

medical support, from sterile water to cancer drugs, for those on the Gaza Strip. The celebrities donated personal items — from signed film posters to personal Zoom chats to, in the case of Lennox, the handwritten lyrics to her Eurythmics hit 'Sweet Dreams' — to be sold off to the highest bidder. The Hollywood Reporter wrote. "The Zone of Interest" filmmaker Jonathan Glazer, who referenced the Gaza conflict in his 2024 Oscars acceptance speech, offered to

donate seven posters from the film, signed by himself, Zone composer Mica Levi and producer James Wilson, as well as a selection of posters for his 2014 feature 'Under the Skin', to raise funds for the MAP charity. Glazer's speech galvanized Hollywood by drawing praise from those urging a ceasefire amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and sharp criticism from some pro-Israel and Jewish leaders in Hollywood. His donation to the Cinema for Gaza auction raised \$13,702.



## Iran preparing files of eight villages for world heritage listing



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Iran is in the process of drafting files for the global registration of eight villages to be submitted to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) by May 7, announced Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism. Shalbafian stated that Iran has the opportunity to submit eight files to the UN tourism organization in 2024, ISNA wrote.

Following evaluations, several villages will be introduced as candidates, including Abyaneh (Isfahan), Kandolus (Mazandaran), Palangan (Kurdistan), Bisheh (Lorestan), Meymand (Kerman), Fahraj (Yazd), Asfak (South Khorasan), and Qaleh Bala (Semnan). Additionally, Soheili (Hormozgan Province - Qeshm) and Qasemabad (Gilan Province) are included in the supportive list.

Shalbafian stated that Iran has the opportunity to submit eight files to the UN tourism organization in 2024, ISNA wrote. Currently, assessments and field visits are being conducted for the nominated villages. Strategic com-

mittees for rural tourism development have been formed in provinces, and files are being compiled in collaboration with the cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts departments of provinces, he said.

Shalbafian added that the initiative proposed by the UN tourism organization aims to capitalize on tourism industry capabilities to bring about rural development, increase welfare, and enhance community well-being.

Regarding the requirements for applicant villages, he mentioned population criteria, engagement in traditional activities such as agriculture, forestry, livestock farming, and fishing, preservation of cultural diversity and values, and the role of tourism as an economic driving force.

The evaluation of village files is based on nine indices of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cultural and natural resources, promotion and preservation of cultural resources, economic sustainability, social stability,

environmental sustainability, tourism potential and development, value chain integration, governance and tourism prioritization, infrastructure and communication, health, safety, and security.

Moreover, in addition to the evaluation criteria, programs must include a justification form explaining the village's initiative to become a global village, he added.

The tourism deputy highlighted the benefits of selecting villages for global listing, such as receiving a diploma or plaque signed by the Secretary-General of the UN tourism organization.

Shalbafian recalled that since the initiation of this project in 2021, Iran has prioritized rural development based on the criteria announced by the UNWTO. After evaluations, 130 villages were identified as most compatible. Following discussions in national rural tourism meetings and cooperation with executive agencies in the rural sector, files for a number of villages are submitted annually.