

Iran targets completion of Iqbal film by year end: *Minister*



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister announced efforts to finalize the production of a cinematic film about Allama Iqbal till the end of the current Persian year.

While the director of the film has been chosen and is preparing the screenplay, the contract has yet to be finalized, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili added, IRNA wrote. The minister emphasized that the Farabi Cinema Foundation is in the process of finalizing the

contract, with production expected to begin by the end of the current Persian year or early next year, he added.

Esmaili made the statements during the meeting of the managers of the International Cultural and Art Festival of Imam Reza (PBUH).

Esmaili highlighted the significance of the Imam Reza (PBUH) festival, aiming for it to become the country's most reputable cultural and art festival.

He connected Iran's cultural and artistic achievements to the

blessings of Imam Reza (PBUH). Referring to the book 'Two Centuries of Silence' by Abdolhossein Zarrinkoob, he noted that the third century coincides with the presence of Imam Reza (PBUH), symbolizing the brilliance of Islamic and Iranian civilization, known as the "Rezvani civilization."

Esmaili also stressed the special focus on promoting Persian language programs, noting the presence of six cultural centers in Pakistan, including Lahore, Karachi, and Quetta, which need

strengthening.

He mentioned Iranian president's special attention to cultural expansion in Pakistan and expressed hope for its successful completion.

He also highlighted the warm reception in Sri Lanka, where four memorandums of cooperation were signed between the two countries in the fields of media, cinema, culture, and artistic interaction, marking significant progress in cultural diplomacy alongside domestic cultural endeavors.



'The Camel and the Miller' on display at Casablanca festival

The animated series 'The Camel and the Miller,' directed by Abdollah Alimorad, made its third appearance in Morocco at the third edition of the Festival International du Cinéma Indépendant de Casablanca (FICIC), dedicated to children and teenagers.

The series consists of three short stop-motion animated films: 'No Substitute,' 'The Farmer and the Robot,' and 'The White-winged,' all directed by Abdollah Alimorad and produced by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IICYDA) in 2003, 2011, and 2022, respectively, Mehr news agency reported.

The series, previously showcased at the 75th Cannes Film Festival in France, explores themes of nature, environment, and technology's impact on the Earth's ecosystem.

Previously, the collection of 'The Camel and the Miller' by Abdollah Alimorad was displayed at the 20th Marrakech International Film Festival in Morocco.



Iran's 'Cold Sigh' wins three awards in Moscow

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian drama 'Cold Sigh,' written and directed by Nahid Sediq, won three awards at the Moscow International Film Festival.

The 46th Moscow International Film Festival took place from April 19 to 26, Mehr news agency reported.

The Russian festival is the second oldest festival in the world after the Venice Film Festival.

Baha, a young man from a border town, learns that Bahram has been released from prison after twenty years. Bahram killed his wife having accusing her cheating on him. Baha decides to take to the road to bring him back from prison himself, reads the synopsis the film.

Amir Aram, Mohammad Ashkanfar, and Ali Baqeri are among the cast members.



Yemen replaces India as special guest at TIBF

Arts & Culture Desk

The spokesperson for the 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) announced that Yemen will replace India as the special guest of this year's event.

Previously, India was selected as the special guest for the 35th TIBF following negotiations between Iranian and Indian cultural authorities. However, due to a statement issued in India, citizens of the country are unable to engage in activities or travel to Iran.

As a result of these developments, Ali Ramezani, deputy director of the TIBF, stated: "Despite the efforts of the Indian cultural community, due to the continuation of restrictions on the presence of citizens of this country in Iran after the Operation True Promise and the end of the opportunity to lift restrictions after the recent meeting of the Indian ambassador, the presence of this country is negated, and Yemen will be the special guest of the 35th Tehran International Book Fair."

Iran, Iraq launch joint effort to fight dust hotspots

Social Desk

The head of Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization and his accompanying delegation have initiated joint practical and field operations with Iraq to stabilize soil in dust hotspots, announced the director of the Integrated Watershed Man-

agement.

In an interview, Hamid Nouri explained that the purpose of the delegation's trip to Iraq is to begin collaborative efforts in executing operational and field programs to stabilize soil in the country's dust hotspots. He highlighted Iran's extensive efforts over recent decades in combating deserti-

fication and stabilizing dust hotspots across the nation, including initiatives such as afforestation and the establishment of living and non-living windbreaks.

Nouri emphasized the necessity of serious cooperation with neighboring countries to fight desertification, citing research indicating that despite

domestic efforts, the majority of airborne dust affecting Iran originates from outside its borders. He stressed the importance of collaborative actions with neighboring countries, particularly those whose dust hotspots significantly impact Iran.

The director underscored the interconnectedness of natural

ecosystems across borders, asserting that the management of desert ecosystems in neighboring countries directly influences Iran's environmental conditions.

He highlighted the expertise present in Iraq in combating desertification and operational measures necessary for managing dust hotspots.

Nouri concluded by expressing optimism regarding joint research endeavors and subsequent operational cooperation, emphasizing their potential to both preserve Iraq's ecosystems in the long term and mitigate dust occurrences in various regions of Iran, particularly in the western and southwestern areas.

