



Official: Iran, Yemen enjoy rich cultural ties

Abdurrahman Murad, head of Yemen's Book Organization, highlighted the strong cultural ties between Iran and Yemen. He emphasized the historical development of their relationship and the significant presence of Yemeni publishers at the fair, IRNA wrote. Regarding the Yemeni books presented in this exhibition, he said that

these books are in the fields of history, literature, religion, and resistance. The 35th Tehran International Book Fair began on May 8, featuring a wide range of literary works from local and international publishers. This year's event, held under the motto "Let's Read, Create," provides a platform for over 2,600 publishers to showcase their work and facilitates cultural exchange between nations. The fair features sub-

jects, including history, literature, religion, and resistance, giving visitors an opportunity to engage with diverse literary content. With approximately 100 foreign publishers from 25 countries participating, the Tehran International Book Fair promotes the importance of reading and literary creation while fostering global connections. The ten-day event runs until May 18 and is expected to attract over 400,000 visitors daily. In addition, book enthusiasts worldwide can participate virtually, ensuring that the fair remains accessible to a broader audience.

'Journey through the Embers' by Munir Shafiq unveiled

Arts & Culture Desk

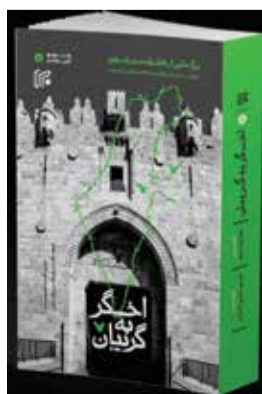
The unveiling ceremony of the book 'Journey through the Embers,' written by Munir Shafiq, a Palestinian intellectual and strategist, took place on May 12 at the Iran Cultural & Press Institute.

According to the cultural reporter of Iran Online, the book features excerpts from the memoirs of Munir Shafiq, with the presence of Munir Shafiq, prominent Palestinian thinker and strategist, Hossein Jaber Ansari, the translator of the book and Iranian politician and diplomat, Abbas Khomeh Yar, an expert on Middle Eastern issues, Meysam Nili, the head of the Palestine Book Awards, Ehsan Salehi, the caretaker of the



Iran Cultural & Press Institute, and several other prominent figures both domestically and internationally. The book summarizes the reflections of a life full of struggles by Hossein Jaber Ansari, the translator of this book and an Iranian politician and diplomat. He mentioned that honoring Shafiq is an honor for Palestine. Salehi emphasized that honoring Shafiq is honoring Palestine. Shafiq has fulfilled his duty in struggles and recounting his motivations which are inspiring for the Islamic world towards Palestine. At the end of the program, he recalled that after the Black September events in Jordan in 1970 and the expulsion of the Palestinian movement from Jordan to Beirut, he formed a closed political circle

within the Fatah movement. They focused on the main goal of fighting against a compromising mindset. Shafiq stressed that that no part of the land of Palestine shall be compromised. He highlighted that their guiding principle was to deny compromise and focus solely on their goal and work. Shafiq mentioned that their circle was guided by Imam Khomeini's teachings during those years of struggle. They adhered to Imam Khomeini's principles that the US is the Great Satan and Zionists are a cancerous entity that must be uprooted. The book previously published by Persian-language Iran Newspaper, offers a touching narrative of various periods in Shafiq's life and experiences.



Iranian animation wins in Russia

An Iranian animated film, 'A Passenger from Ganora,' won the Best Animated Feature prize at the 5th Tsiolkovsky International Space Film Festival (Tsiolkovsky ISFF) in Russia. Produced by Iran's Soureh

Animation Center and directed by Ahmad Alamdari, the film follows an alien's quest for peace on Earth, aided by a disabled boy and his friends, IRNA wrote. The Tsiolkovsky ISFF, held

annually in Kaluga, focuses on space-themed films and the intersection of science, culture, and art with space. The jury includes professional filmmakers, astronauts, and scientists.

Michael Haneke lauds Kiarostami's unsurpassed simplicity in filmmaking

Renowned Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke praised Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami for his unique ability to achieve "a simplicity that's so difficult to attain" during an interview with The Other Journal. Haneke, known for his unflinching and often provocative cinematic work, acknowledged Kiarostami's poetic style and influential contributions to international cinema. Kiarostami earned admiration from industry luminaries such as Akira Kurosawa and Martin Scorsese for his nuanced approach to storytelling. In his interview, Haneke cited Kiarostami's ability to blend minimalism with the complexities of the human condition. Despite Kiarostami's minimalist tendencies, he saw his work as simply cutting away the unnecessary elements to highlight the essential components of his narratives. In the decades since he made his feature-length directorial debut on 1989's 'The Seventh Continent,' the filmmaker has become

known for his unflinching, uncompromising, and often unsentimental work, shining a light on the stark realities of the human condition, regularly injecting his work with lashings of graphic violence and disturbing imagery to enhance the thematic undertones. His deliberately-paced, engrossing, and immersive approach to cinema, layered in authenticity and ambiguity, have become hallmarks of his aesthetic, meaning simplicity is rarely a term attributed to his films. However, that's precisely the reason why he views Abbas Kiarostami as one of the true greats, with the pioneering Iranian managing to achieve "a simplicity that's so difficult to attain". A figurehead of the 'Iranian New Wave', Kiarostami's poetic style and distinctive compositions earned him a legion of admirers, with his prolific output maintaining a balance between quantity and quality. Between his first feature in 1973 to his last in 2012, he helmed dozens upon dozens of pro-

ductions that melded fact with fiction, documentary with reality, and external simplicity with internal complexities. Those are just a handful of the reasons why Haneke holds Kiarostami in such high regard, and when he was asked to cast his eye across the landscape of contemporary cinema, there was only one answer when he was pressed to name the one whose work he cherished most of all. "He is still unsurpassed," Haneke said of Kiarostami in The Other Journal. "As Brecht put it, 'simplicity is the hardest thing to achieve'. Everyone dreams of doing things simply and still impregnating them with the fullness of the world. Only the best ones achieve this. Kiarostami has, and so has Bresson." Invoking the name of playwright Bertolt Brecht and the legendary Robert Bresson as points of comparison illustrates just how Haneke views Kiarostami as a monolithic presence in the world of modern cine-

ma. It's a view that's been espoused by many, including the equally-illustrious Akira Kurosawa and Martin Scorsese. The latter of which hails his unrivalled "purity". That perceived simplicity, which Haneke remarked was an incredibly difficult thing to create, was made to look effortless by Kiarostami throughout his entire career. Although there were many minimalist elements prevalent throughout his back catalogue, the filmmaker wasn't entirely accepting of his output being broadly described as such. He did admit that "my films have been progressing towards a certain kind of minimalism," but from his point of view he was only trimming the fat. "Elements that can be eliminated have been eliminated, some elements are highlighted while others are obscured or even pushed back into the dark." There wasn't a wasted second in a Kiarostami film, and he made something his peers struggled to achieve look like the most natural thing in the world.