

## Iranian Film Week underway in Bishkek



### IRANIAN FILM WEEK

ИРАН КИНОСУНУН ЖУМАЛЫГЫ

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Film Week is being held as part of the second Bishkek International Film Festival, which runs from June 11 to June 15. The Iranian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan reported that the festival features four Iranian feature films and one animated film.

The films showcased include 'No Prior Appointment' directed by Behrouz Shoyabi, 'Dolphin Boy' directed by Mohammad Kheirandish, 'Captain' directed by Mohammad Hamzei, 'Squad of Girls' directed by Monir Gheidi,

and 'My Second Year in College' directed by Rasoul Sadrameli. Each film has received a state registration certificate for screening in Kyrgyzstan, Tasnim news agency reported. The festival opened with a ceremony attended by Iranian and Kyrgyz cultural officials, including Mohammad Khazaei, head of Cinema Organization of Iran, and Akjolbek Bulutov, Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sports, and Youth Policy of Kyrgyzstan. Khazaei expressed gratitude to the Kyrgyz people and officials for their hospitality and

support for Iranian cinema. Khazaei highlighted the importance of cultural exchanges and noted the global recognition of Iranian cinema for its moral values and family-oriented themes. He emphasized the role of cinema in diplomacy and cultural exchange, envisioning a collaborative future between Iran and Kyrgyzstan. The festival, which welcomes over 70 guests from more than 20 countries and around 200 filmmakers, aims to foster cultural understanding and appreciation through diverse cinematic experiences.

## Iran art exhibition held in Algeria to honor poet Khayyam

An art exhibition opened in Algeria to commemorate the acclaimed Iranian poet Omar Khayyam. The exhibition, featuring calligraphy, paintings, miniatures, and photos, will run for two weeks at the Palace of Riyas El Bahr, a cultural and historical center in Algeria, IRNA reported. The event, showcasing 40 artworks reflecting Iranian culture, was inaugurated with a ceremony attended by foreign diplomats, political and cultural figures, and media representatives. Iran's Ambassador to

Algeria, Mohammad Reza Babaei, welcomed the guests and spoke about Khayyam's significance in Iranian culture. Khayyam, born in 1048 and known for his Rubaiyat (quatrains), was a Persian astronomer, mathematician, and poet. His poems were famously translated into English by Edward FitzGerald. Special guests signed a commemorative art panel, and attendees received booklets of Khayyam's poetry in English, Arabic, and French. The exhibition will remain open until June 23.



## World Day Against Child Labor Skill training to tackle child labor on agenda: Health official

#### Social Desk

A health official Maryam Shirdel highlighted the need for skill training to tackle the social issue of child labor.

The director of the department of Social Harm Prevention at the Organization for Social Services and Participation expressed concern that financial assistance from citizens to working children could inadvertently lead to an increase in their numbers on the streets and intersections, inn.ir reported. Shirdel noted that while the exact number of working children in Iran is not known, approximately 80% of those identified by municipal centers are foreign nationals, with 90% of them being Afghan. She emphasized the importance of organizations working together to help these children break free from the cycle of harm and engage in skill-building activities to prevent them from engaging in risky or harmful occupations.

Regarding the income of working children on the streets and intersections, Shirdel explained that their earnings vary depending on their location and type of work. She pointed out that not all



working children are found on the streets, as many are employed in various sectors such as agriculture, tailoring workshops, mechanic shops, household labor, and gardening around Tehran. Shirdel stressed that due to their role as breadwinners in their families, working children are in need of employment. She cautioned against providing financial support to these children, as it could inadvertently perpetuate their presence on the streets and intersections. She emphasized the importance of raising awareness among citizens to discourage financial help to working children. Shirdel concluded by highlighting the need for proper cultural education to reduce the prevalence of working children on the streets and

intersections. She acknowledged the challenges posed by economic and security issues in neighboring countries, particularly Afghanistan, which contribute to the influx of migrants and exacerbate the situation of working children in Iran.

#### World progress in fight against child labor stalled

After having made significant progress in reducing the levels of child labor worldwide between the years 2000 and 2016, that progress stalled. Between 2016 and 2020 (the latest available data), the percentage of children working in these conditions remained the same, while the absolute number of children working in childhood labor even in-

creased. Of the 160 million children estimated to be in child labor that year, 79 million are believed to have been working in hazardous conditions, directly endangering their health, safety and moral development. This is according to a report published jointly by the International Labor Organization and UNICEF.

While there has been continued progress in the fight against child labor in Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa has seen an increase in both the absolute number of children and the percentage of children in child labor since 2012.

Another knock on effect of children working in child labor is that they are often out of school, impacting their access to opportunities as they get older. According to the report, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is the world region with the highest share of children in child labor who were also out of school in 2020, at 37.2 percent. This was followed by Central and Southern Asia (35.3 percent), Northern Africa and Western Asia (28.1 percent), Sub-Saharan Africa (28.1 percent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (15.5 percent).

## Iran's 'The Old Bachelor' to compete at Transilvania Int'l Film Festival

The Iranian film 'The Old Bachelor,' directed by Oktay Baraheni, will compete at the 23rd Transilvania International Film Festival, held from June 14-23 in Romania. It is the film's second international appearance following receiving the Grand Prix at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Produced by Babak Hamidian and Hanif Sarvari, 'The Old Bachelor' will compete in the main competition, which features debut and



sophomore films from directors. The film stars prominent

actors Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, and Mohammad Reza Golzar.

## Iran's 'Okht-o-Reda' to be screened in Baghdad

The Iranian film 'Okht-o-Reda' (Reza's Sister) directed by Mojtaba Tabatabai is set to be screened in Baghdad cinemas for 20 days starting on June 16, coinciding with the eve of Eid al-Adha. The film, which tells the story of the journey of Hazrat Fatima Masoumeh

from Medina to Qom and historical events and conspiracies, has previously been screened internationally in Lebanon, Pakistan, and Australia. The film's director is renowned for directing acclaimed documentaries like 'Cloudy Sky' and 'The Footsteps of Water'.

