

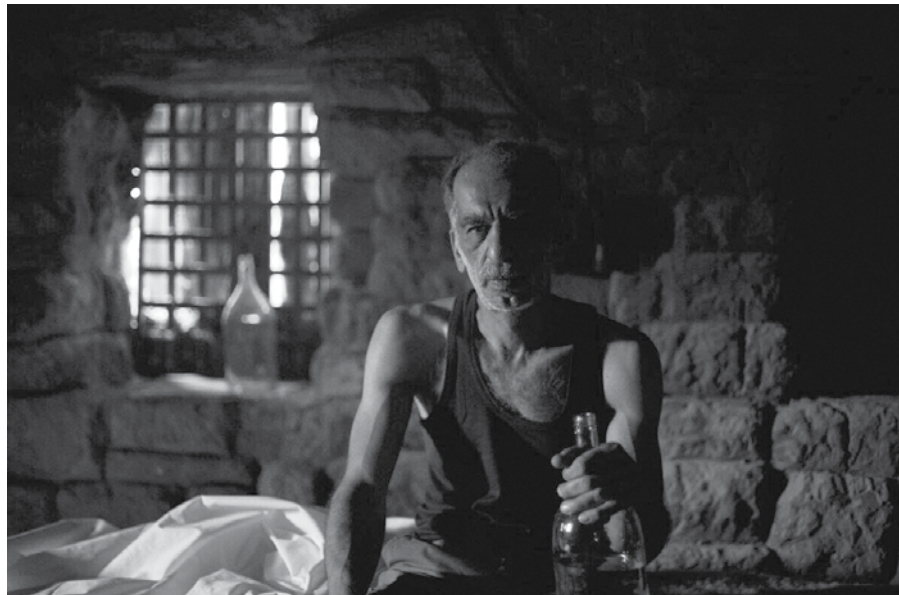
Iran's 'The Wasteman' to premiere at Shanghai Int'l Film Festival

Iranian film 'The Wasteman', written and directed by Ahmad Bahrami, will be screened at the main competition section of the 26th Shanghai International Film Festival.

The film's red-carpet event was held on June 15, attending cast members Nahid Seddiq, Maryam Hemmatian, and Ahoura Bahrami, ILNA wrote.

A 2024 production, 'The Wasteman' is about a middle-aged wagon driver, of a determined demeanor, who trundles a corpse toward the cemetery of a strange, silent village bereft of all apparent life.

Bahrami's film will compete with 13 other films to win the Golden Goblet Award of the Chinese festival. Famous international cineastes Rolf de Heer, Matthias



Glasner, Leung Ka Fai Tony, Santiago Mitre, Sonthar Gyal and Zhou Xun will evaluate the films of this section, pre-

sided by Tran Anh Hung. Nasrin Mirshab's Dream Lab company is responsible for the international distribu-

tion of the film. The Shanghai International Film Festival runs from June 14 to June 23.

Iran to pay homage to Abbas Kiarostami's on his birthday

Arts & Culture Desk

The Cinema Museum of Iran will host a special program on June 21 to commemorate the birthday of the late Abbas Kiarostami.

The event, titled 'Happy Birthday Abbas Kiarostami', will feature a live podcast and a film screening.

The podcast, focusing on Kiarostami's life and work, will be presented by Shahrad Banki and Mozghan Asghari. Following the podcast, the film '76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas

Kiarostami' will be shown. Seifollah Samadian, the filmmaker and a close friend of Kiarostami, will speak about the film and Kiarostami's legacy after the screening.

Kiarostami, an acclaimed filmmaker, is known for his works such as 'The Bread and Alley', 'The Traveler', 'The Report', 'The Chorus', 'Where Is the Friend's House?', 'Homework', 'Close-Up', 'Life, and Nothing More...', 'Through the Olive Trees', 'Taste of Cherry', 'The Wind Will Carry Us', 'Certified Copy', and 'Like Someone in Love.'

The film '76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami' is a cinematic portrait by Samadian, composed of footage from their shared travels. The film offers a glimpse into 76 minutes and 15 seconds of Kiarostami's life and creativity, reflecting his unique perspective on the world.

The documentary premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in 2016 and has since been featured in numerous film festivals globally. Deborah Young of The Hollywood Reporter praised the film, noting that it captures Kiarostami's simplicity, vision, and inherent modernism, offering insight into his influence on Iranian cinema.



Iran, China to enhance environmental cooperation



Social Desk

Iran is ready to expand environmental cooperation with China under a 25-year comprehensive partnership agreement, according to Ali Salajegheh, head of Iran's Department of Environment. Salajegheh made the announcement on Monday while hosting a delegation from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), led by its president, Wan Gang, IRNA wrote.

Salajegheh highlighted several areas for potential collaboration, including fighting dust storms, managing wastewater, protecting wildlife, addressing air pollution, droughts, and forest fires. He noted that both Iran and China have significant experience and indigenous knowledge in dealing with these issues. Wan Gang emphasized the historical ties between the two countries and expressed hope for enhanced cooperation in various fields, including environmental protection. He also mentioned the importance of continuing the agreements signed last year by the Chinese and Iranian presidents in agriculture and environmental sectors. Salajegheh pointed out that dust storms are a major issue for both nations, with Iran having substantial experience in soil stabilization and dust storm mitigation. He added that Iran has successfully promoted interna-

tional cooperation to combat dust storms, leading to the United Nations designating July 12 as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms. Iran and China also aim to cooperate on wastewater and waste management, wildlife conservation, wetland restoration, and tackling air and industrial pollution. In addition, Iran seeks to collaborate on marine development, a key strategy for sustainable growth.

This strategy includes sustainable exploitation of marine resources, expansion of maritime trade, and relocating water-intensive industries to southern coastal areas. Salajegheh expressed optimism about advancing both research and practical cooperation in environmental protection with China, leveraging the 25-year agreement to address a wide range of environmental challenges.

Seven Iranian pilgrims die as heatwave affects Hajj: Red Crescent

Social Desk

Iran's Red Crescent Society announced that seven Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives so far during the Hajj ceremony taking place in Saudi Arabia.

The head of the Red Crescent Society, Pirhossein Kolivand, shared the news on Sunday while visiting the organiza-

tion's field hospital in Arafat to inspect medical services for pilgrims.

"So far, during the Hajj days in Mecca and Medina, seven pilgrims have lost their lives," Kolivand said, adding that some of the pilgrims had pre-existing health conditions, but others succumbed to heatstroke.

Only on the first day in Mina,

coincided with Eid al-Adha in Saudi Arabia, when temperatures soared and numerous rituals were performed, three Iranian pilgrims died. Iran is not the only country to have suffered pilgrim fatalities so far this Hajj season. Jordan's Foreign Ministry issued a statement reporting 14 deaths among its nationals, with another

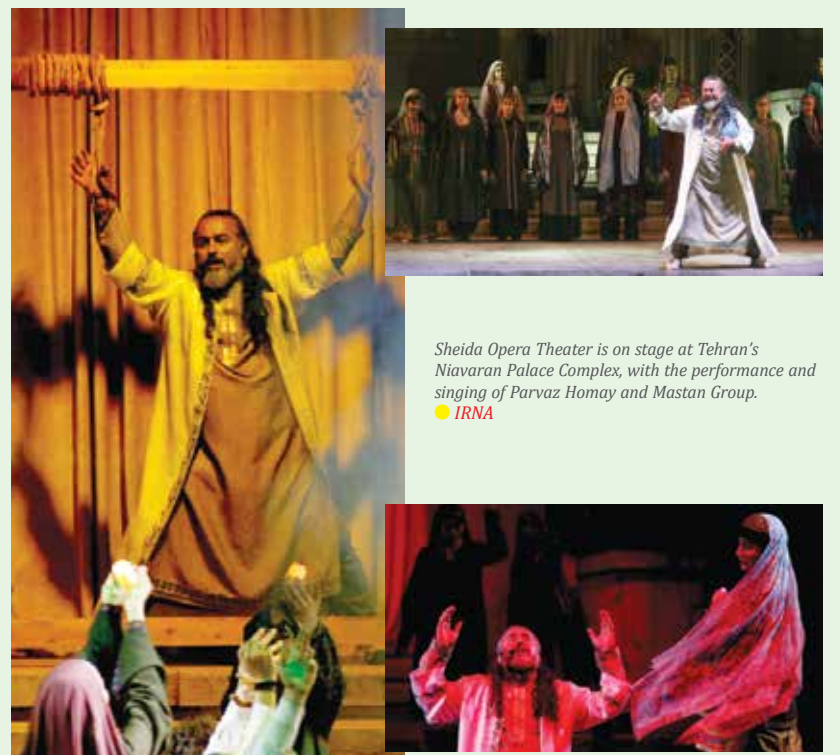
17 pilgrims still missing. Extreme heatwaves and heat strokes were cited as the causes.

Loss of life during Hajj is not unprecedented. Last year, 16 Iranian men and six women died while on the pilgrimage. With temperatures soaring across the Middle East, health officials have warned that heat can pose a significant risk to pilgrims during the physically demanding Hajj rituals.

This year's Hajj is attended by over 1.8 million pilgrims, one of the largest gatherings in the world. The harsh weather conditions, especially for outdoor rituals, have posed significant challenges, particularly for the elderly. The extreme heat during this year's Hajj has been deadly, with temperatures exceeding 46°C (114.8°F).



PICS OF THE DAY



Sheida Opera Theater is on stage at Tehran's Niavaran Palace Complex, with the performance and singing of Parvaz Homay and Mastan Group. ● IRNA