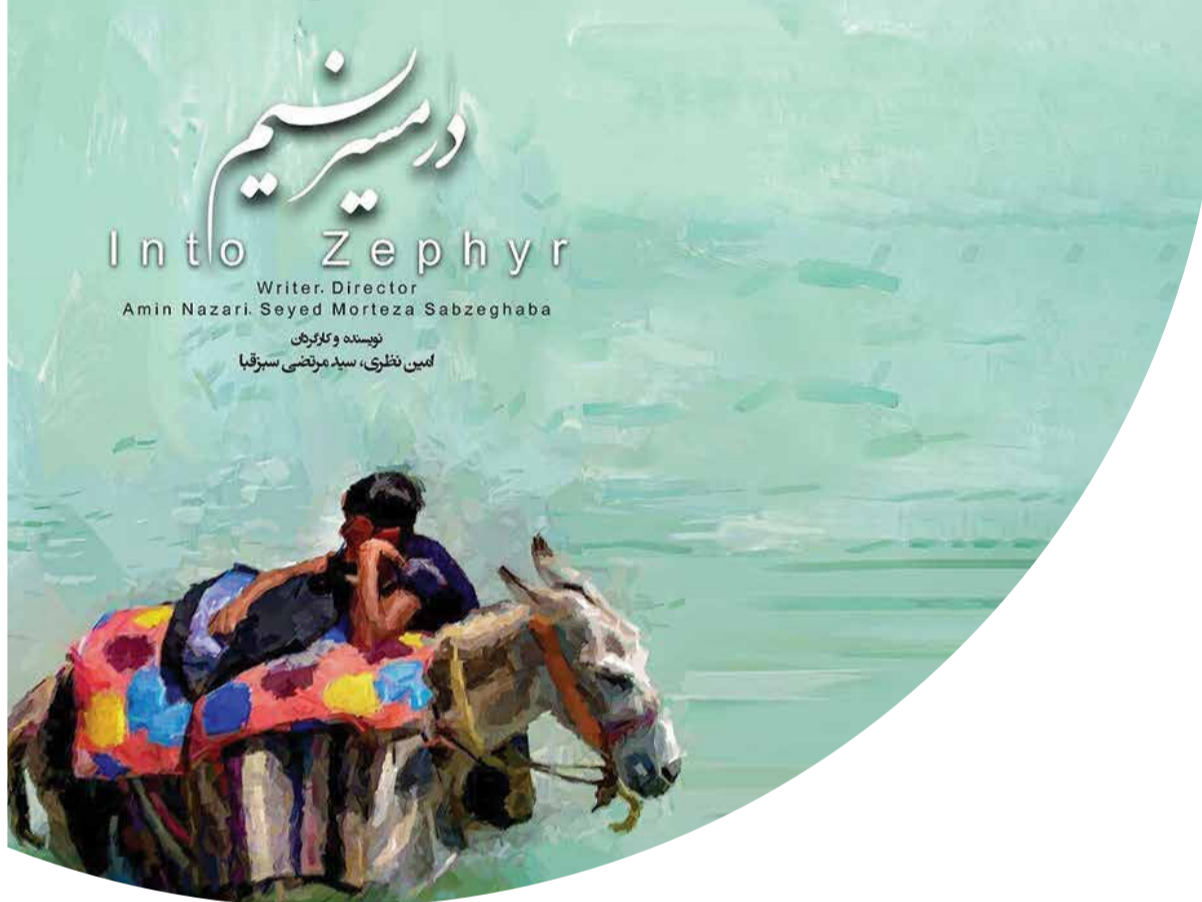


Iranian film 'Into Zephyr' to be screened at Portuguese festival



دیسپیریم
Into Zephyr
Writer, Director
Amin Nazari, Seyed Morteza Sabzeghaba
نویسنده و کارگردان
امین نظری، سید مرتضی سبزه‌قبا

The Iranian film 'Into Zephyr,' co-directed by Amin Nazari and Seyed Morteza Sabzeghaba, will be screened at the 6th International Heritage Film Festival in Portugal. Sabzeghaba, one of the directors, told IRNA on Tuesday that the documentary focuses on the remote

village of "Tange Dez" in northern Dezful, Khuzestan Province. The village lacks basic living facilities and can only be accessed by crossing the salty water river, IRNA wrote. The film has previously won awards at the 2nd Varsity International Film Festival in Africa and the

1st Bioscope Global Film Festival in India. It was also nominated for Best Film at the 6th Three Acts of Goodness Micro Film Festival in China. The International Heritage Film Festival, established in 2016, aims to promote cultural heritage through various media, with a fo-

cus on cinema. The festival showcases anthropological films that highlight the material and immaterial heritage, customs, education, architecture, and the sustainability of communities. The 6th edition of the festival runs from June 16 to September 30 in Évora, Portugal.



574 concerts held across Iran in one month

The Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced that 574 concerts were staged across Iran from April 20 to May 20. During this period, 487 singles received approval for release. According to the report, 254 stage musical performances received permits, resulting in 574 total per-

formances. In addition, eight music videos were approved, three groups were sent abroad, and one foreign group performed in Iran. Nine studios received permits to establish or renew their activities, IRNA wrote. The Music Office also issued permits for 487 singles. These included 27 traditional and national

songs, 323 pop songs, 53 local and regional songs, 49 fusion songs, six electronic songs, 24 classical songs, one anthem, and four children's songs. In the album category, 29 albums received permits, including 10 traditional and national albums, 10 pop albums, two local albums, two fusion albums, and five classical albums.

Nine patients killed in hospital fire in northern Iran

Nine patients died after a fire broke out in the basement of a hospital in the city of Rasht in northern Iran.

The six women and three men killed were in the intensive care unit of Qaem Hospital, local authorities said. All the patients in the facility were evacuated. Mohammad Taghi Ashoubi, the head of the Gilan University of Medical Sciences, told reporters on Tuesday that an intubated patient who was in the intensive care unit had died, while eight others were killed earlier.

"The cause of death of these patients is being investigated by the Gilan medical examiner," he was quoted as saying by the state-run IRNA news agency.

Five infants who were at Qaem Hospital were transferred to the 17 Shahrivar Children's Hospital and were in good health, he said.

The fire started in a room on an underground floor of the hospital, where the emergency power generators were located, state



media reported. The authorities have not commented on unconfirmed reports that the fire broke out after the extensive use of emergency power generators amid power cuts as Iran endures scorching summer heat.

The fire is believed to have started at about 1:30am (22:00 GMT on Monday) and the cause was being investigated.

The 250-bed hospital was caring for 142 patients at the time of the incident, 33 of whom were in intensive care. Dozens of peo-

ple had to be transported to multiple healthcare facilities in the area.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said he has been in contact with provincial officials to coordinate assistance for the injured, ensure the safety of the hospital to restart operations, and investigate the cause of the fire.

Hadi Salimi, the head of the Red Crescent Society in the province, told state media that 26 teams comprising 75 emergency responders were dispatched to the hospital from eight counties.

PICS OF THE DAY



Paytakht Orchestra Concert led by Shahram Tavakkoli performs classical masterpieces at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on June 17, 2024. The pieces ranged from Beethoven's Egmont to Brahms' Hungarian Dances.
● IRNA

Pop star Dua Lipa says criticism of Israeli war in Gaza was for 'greater good'

The pop star and soon-to-be Glastonbury headliner Dua Lipa said she is willing to risk a backlash over political statements after she recently described military operations in Gaza as "Israeli genocide". In an interview with the Radio Times, the 28-year-old said she repeatedly checked

herself before making a statement, but did so if she felt it was for the "greater good" and worth the risk, The Guardian reported. The Grammy award-winner last month reposted to her 88 million Instagram followers a graphic from the group Artists4Ceasefire, along with the hashtag

#AllEyesOnRafah, which trended in the days after Israel's bombing of the city in Gaza. She wrote: "Burning children alive can never be justified. The whole world is mobilising to stop the Israeli genocide. Please show your solidarity with Gaza." Recently, she was refer-

enced in an Israeli drill rap song that called for violence against public figures who have expressed pro-Palestinian views. Lipa told the Radio Times: "When I speak about things that are political, I double-, triple-check myself to be: 'OK, this is about something that is way bigger than me,

and it's necessary - and that's the only reason I'm posting it.' That is my only solace in doing that. 'It's always going to be met with a backlash and other people's opinions, so it's a big decision. I balance it out, because ultimately I feel it's for the greater good, so I'm willing to [take

that hit]. Lipa, who was born in London to Kosovan-Albanian parents, suggested her heritage influenced her overt politics. "[Speaking up is] a natural inclination for me, given my background and heritage, and that my very existence is somewhat political - it's

not something that is out of the ordinary for me to be feeling close to," she said. Lipa is due to headline Glastonbury at the end of this month on the Pyramid stage in Pilton, Somerset. Her most recent album, Radical Optimism, was released last month to favourable reviews.