

Two Iranian actors picked for Italy's AmiCorti festival jury



Two Iranian actors were selected to evaluate the films at the sixth edition of Italy's AmiCorti International Film Festival. Renowned Iranian actress-cum-director Fatemeh Motamed-Arya will preside over the jury, which also includes Iranian actor Hossein Soleimani, according to a report by Mehr News Agency. This year's festival continues to feature a strong presence of Iranian artists, following last year's appointments of Milad Mansouri and Deniz Motevasseli as official members. Another notable Iranian figure at the festival is singer Fariman Jab-

barzadeh. Known for his recent collaboration with Italian singer Al Bano, Jabbarzadeh will serve on the jury for the music video category. Under the leadership of Italian producer and artistic director, Rossi, the AmiCorti festival takes place annually from June 25 to 30 in Italy. The festival features competitions in six categories: Short films, feature films, international short films, and music videos. Awards will be presented on June 29 during the festival's closing ceremony, with winners celebrated in the presence of film crews and the jury.



Iran's composer Abdi awarded at Bulgaria's FEMI

Iranian composer Behzad Abdi won the Best Music and Best Sound Design Award for the documentary 'Majesty of Zagros' at the Golden FEMI Film Festival in Bulgaria. Directed and produced by Behnam Rezaei, 'Majesty of Zagros' was also nominated to receive best director award,

ILNA wrote. Abdi has previously won the Crystal Simorgh for Best Score at the Fajr Film Festival. The documentary depicts the hunting, birth, and migration of various fauna over five years. 'Majesty of Zagros' has been featured in numerous festivals and has received several awards.

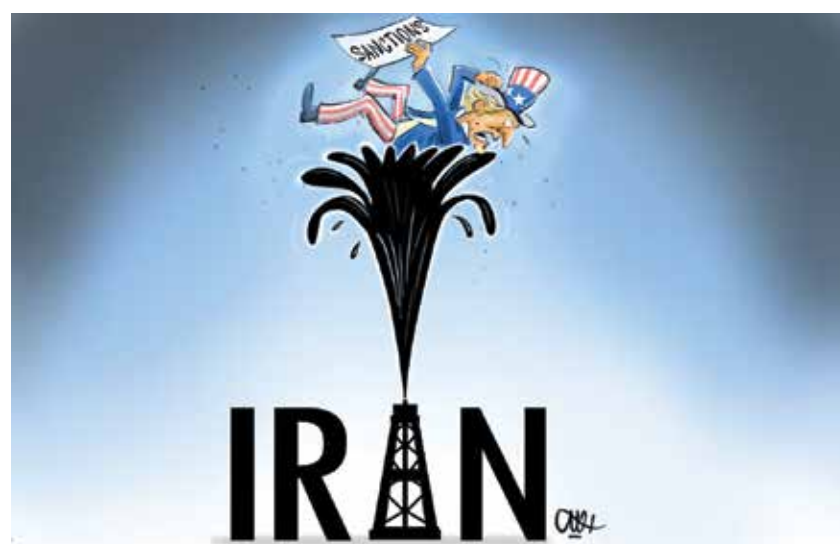
Iran, Iraq to launch first family tourism rally

The first family tourism rally between Iran and Iraq will take place this fall following the signing of an official agreement. Mohammad Ali Erfani, director of the automobile department of Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced the launch of the "Haramain" family tourism rally, IRNA wrote. This event is organized in cooperation with Iraq Automobile and Motorcycle Federation, covering the route from Karbala to Mashhad and back. The agreement was

signed during a meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, attended by Mohammad Hossein Sufi, CEO of the Iranian club, and the president of the Iraqi federation. Erfani explained that the rally will feature 25 cars and around 50 Iraqi families starting from Karbala after visiting the shrine of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam. Participants will cross the Mehran border into Iran, traveling through Ilam, Hamedan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Golestan, North Khorasan, and Razavi Khorasan provinces, visiting var-

ious tourist, historical, and cultural sites. The event aims to strengthen bilateral relations, foster cooperation, promote safe driving with a pilgrimage theme, and create social excitement among families. Upon reaching Mashhad, participants will visit the shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) and stay for two days. Iranian participants will join the rally in Mashhad for the return journey to Karbala. This cross-border rally will cover nearly 4,000 kilometers over approximately 15 days, concluding in Karbala.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
Cartoonist



'Iranians' Festivals' translated into Italian

An Italian translation of the book 'Iranians' Festivals' by Askar Bahrami was published in Italy, announced Iran's Cultural Attaché in Rome, Mohammad Taqi Amini, on Tuesday. The book showcases Iranian traditions, heritage, ancient holidays, and the grandeur of Persian culture, Amini told IRNA.

The translation aims to introduce ancient Persian traditions and culture to Italian society, fostering solidarity between the two nations, he added. 'Iranians' Festivals' explores the philosophy behind Iranian festivals and holidays. Amini emphasized that Persian traditions belong to all Iranians, who have strived to

preserve them. He cited Nowruz and Sadeh as examples of ancient Persian festivals. Sadeh, celebrated 50 days before the Iranian New Year (Nowruz), honors the elements of fire, water, wind, and soil. The Italian publisher IRFAN, known for its collaboration with the Iranian cultural consultation center in Rome,

published the book translated by Mahdi (Giuseppe) Aiello with an introduction by Amini. The publication is part of an effort by Iranian cultural consultation center in Italy and Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO)'s translation program to promote Iranian culture through translations.

Hepatitis C eliminated in hemophilia, dialysis, thalassemia patients: **Official**

Social Desk

The hepatitis C was eradicated among hemophilia, dialysis, and thalassemia patients in Iran, according to the head of the Iranian Association for Liver Study of the Liver Diseases. However, the disease remains prevalent among high-risk groups, particularly prisoners and injection drug users. Seyed Moayed Alavian said that one of the association's key priorities is addressing these high-risk populations. He credited the Health Ministry's sustained efforts over the years for significantly reducing hepatitis B and C cases, IRNA wrote. Screening donated blood for hepatitis C since 1996 has significantly lowered its prevalence among high-risk groups, including hemophilia, thalassemia, and dialysis patients. Free screening and treatment for all

special patients have also contributed to eradicating the disease in these groups. Alavian noted that over 20,000 special patients with hepatitis C have received free treatment, drastically reducing related mortality rates. In many provinces, there are no longer reports of special patients with hepatitis C. Hepatitis, caused by a virus, often begins with flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite, followed by jaundice and dark urine. Alavian emphasized the production of affordable, insurance-covered medications in Iran, contributing to the low hepatitis B and C prevalence. To prevent water and foodborne diseases, including hepatitis A and E, Alavian recommended proper hand hygiene, safe water consumption, and thorough



cleaning and disinfecting of fruits and vegetables. The 10th Hepatitis Conference and the 3rd Iran Gastrointestinal Liver Conference will be held from June 18-20 at the Razi Conference Center, where physicians will discuss the latest prevention and treatment methods for hepatitis and liver diseases. According to the Health Ministry, the hepatitis A incidence rate is 12.87 cases per million people. Last year, 10,094 cases were reported. About half of the

hepatitis A cases occur in children under 10, highlighting the need for improved education and prevention programs for this age group. The infection rates are 48% in women and 52% in men, with 93% of the majority of cases (59%) occur in rural areas, 39% in urban areas, and 2% among nomadic populations. The high urban infection rate is concerning due to environmental and hygiene factors.