

Nazanin Karimi to join two Iranian artists for Italy's AmiCorti festival jury

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian actress Nazanin Karimi is set to join two other Iranian artists 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, Mehr News Agency reported. 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 Jabbarzadeh. 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 the four categories of 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 being acclaimed in the presence of film crews and the jury.



Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Ghaffarzadeh said the joint film by Iran and Japan, 'On the Zero Line,' is currently being screened in Japanese cinemas. Produced in 2018-19, and directed by Ghaffarzadeh and Yoshimasa Jimbo, the film, "along with other works by the Japanese director, is now on display in Japanese cinemas," Ghaffarzadeh said. A poet who lost his words and a woman who miscarried her baby meet on the equator, and two emotions start to mingle at the point of latitude 0°, as stated in the storyline. "This film is somewhat different as we sought to explore new experiences in the field of cinema. This film was made in Dadaism style," Ghaffarzadeh told Mehr news agency. Members of the Dada cultural and artistic movement began to experiment with film as a means

'On the Zero Line' hits Japanese cinemas



Arts & Culture Desk

to disseminate their stylistic partialities and cultural values through a new medium free of cultural respectability and aesthetic pretension, according to experts. Founded in Zurich, Switzerland, by Tristan Tzara in 1916, this avant-garde movement would soon spread to France, Germany, the United States, and elsewhere. Much like the surrealists who would follow, the Dadaists sought to liberate their audience from the cultural allegiances, prejudices, and norms of thinking that, in their view, had been largely responsible for the catastrophes of World War I. "In Dadaism, chance is one of the main elements in creating a work. For example, in literature, you randomly choose a few words and place them together. In the production of such a work, the random result can either be remarkable and a masterpiece, or conversely, meaningless,"

Ghaffarzadeh said. "In this regard, the film 'On the Zero Line' was made with this approach, with two directors from two different parts of the world, Iran and Japan, moving alongside their respective story characters, one male and one female, without knowing each other's story, meeting in the equator line of Kenya (Africa) and creating a common ending. We, as two directors, essentially became aware of the common story on the equator line and wrote our joint conclusion there," he added. The Iranian director said that in Kenya, a man and a woman intersect on the equator line. Their meeting gives rise to a new world, resulting in love. He also addressed the challenges of collaborating on film productions with other nations, identifying constraints. Ghaffarzadeh cautioned that joint projects could potentially constrain narratives and artistic choices. Despite these hurdles, he highlighted the potential for success with proper planning and execution. Regarding the screening of 'On the Zero Line,' he outlined plans to coordinate its screening through the "Art and Experience" group in Iran. The director also is making a love story titled 'Sing Me a Love Song,' which will be a co-production between Iran and Turkey, Turkish newspaper Hürriyet announced last week.

films, and music videos. Awards will be presented on June 29 during the festival's closing ceremony, with winners being acclaimed in the presence of film crews and the jury.

Over 120 cases of dengue fever diagnosed in Iran

Social Desk

The Communicable Diseases Surveillance System in Iran reported that more than 120 cases of dengue fever have been confirmed in the country. Shahnam Arshi, an Iranian Health Ministry official, said that within the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (starting on March 20, 2024), over 120 individuals tested positive for the disease, with a majority of them having traveled to the United Arab Emirates, Tasnim reported. Arshi said that the general condition of most patients is stable. Iranian Health Minister Bahram Eynollahi announced on Monday that three people have so far died of dengue fever in the country. Eynollahi said a total of 90 people have been stung by Aedes mosquito in Iran. The mosquito is the only cause of dengue fever. Officials warn that Fars, Khuzestan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Sistan and Baluchistan in southern Iran, and Mazandaran, Gilan, and Golestan provinces in the country's north are high-risk areas in terms of Dengue. The disease is more common in tropical and subtropical climates.



Qatar cannot defy US pressure; Hamas office moving to Iraq



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

PERSPECTIVE

Qatar wants to avoid the policy of pressuring Hamas into accepting a ceasefire agreement as per American conditions. The US has asked Qatar to gradually withdraw the facilities provided to Hamas's political office in Doha as a strategy to pressure the Palestinian resistance movement into accepting the US-proposed ceasefire agreement. Consequently, Hamas leadership has initiated the plan to move its political office from Qatar to Iraq. The Iraqi government, perceiving the pressure from US and Qatari officials on Hamas to accept the ceasefire, approved the move last month. Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh revealed during negotiations with representatives from the Iraqi and Iranian governments that Hamas would not accept the US-proposed ceasefire terms, and Qatar would not be able to withstand American pressure, necessitating the partial closure of its political office in Doha. This could limit Hamas's political activities and media access. A senior Iraqi MP and a political figure with close ties to the resistance group confirmed the decision to move Hamas's political office to Baghdad. Last month, Ismail Haniyeh and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had a significant meeting, resulting in the decision to move the Hamas's political office to Baghdad. The senior Iraqi MP stated that Kurdish and secular Sunni parties are concerned that the decision by the Baghdad government will increase tensions with the US. However, despite the lack of consensus, the government's decision to host Hamas will not be reversed. Hamas has yet to set a date for the move and the functioning of the office but expects the process to be completed soon. He added that Hamas sent a delegation led by senior official Mohammed Al Hafy to Baghdad this month to manage office affairs,

and the media office in Baghdad will become operational in the coming weeks. The Iraqi government has refrained from commenting on the situation, stating that the Iraqi government and people stand with Hamas and the oppressed Palestinians. It is noteworthy that negotiations for a Gaza ceasefire mediated by the US, Egypt, and Qatar are at a standstill. Senior US officials have blamed Hamas for the impasse. President Joe Biden's proposed conditions for ending the war seem to benefit Israel, resulting in the deaths of over 37,500 Palestinians, including many women and children, since October last year. After Hamas effectively rejected Biden's ceasefire terms earlier this month, there has been no significant contact between mediators, Hamas, and Israel. Hamas has made it clear that it will not accept any ceasefire agreement without including the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and fundamental ceasefire terms. Israel aims to end Hamas's governance in Gaza and hand control to compliant elements, similar to the Palestinian Authority, to suppress resistance against Israel. Hamas has controlled Gaza since 2007, and its political leaders have resided in Qatar since 2012. Previously, Hamas expressed a desire to move its headquarters to Turkey, but diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel, and the presence of Israeli agents in Turkey, inclined Hamas towards choosing Baghdad. Doha, home to the largest US military base in the Middle East and a close ally of Washington, has long supported Hamas's governance in Gaza financially, while Qatar also maintains warm relations with Iran, Hamas's major supporter. Moving Hamas's political office to Iraq will reduce American pressure on the Gaza-based resistance movement, while providing the US with an opportunity to persuade Israel of a permanent ceasefire and withdrawal of occupation forces, which is challenging but not impossible.