

Iranian filmmakers win at Malaysian festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmakers Alireza Ghasemi and Raha Amirfazli clinched the Best Director Award at the annual Malaysia Golden Global Awards for their film 'In the Land of Brothers.'

The win underscores the film's powerful storytelling

and its ability to transcend borders.

The seventh edition of the prestigious festival celebrated exceptional cinematic talents from around the world. 'In the Land of Brothers' stood out for its fearless storytelling of a globally relevant issue, showcasing intricate familial relation-

ships amidst socio-political turmoil.

The film, a joint production between Iran, France, and the Netherlands, had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, where it also garnered acclaim and a directing award in the World Dramatic Competition. The Malaysia Golden Glob-

al Awards recognized other outstanding works, with the Best Film Award going to 'Every You Every Me,' directed by Michael Fetter Nathansky. The emotionally resonant film also earned Anne Schwartz the Best Actress Award, and Nathansky took home the Best Screenplay Award.



Social Desk

More than 150 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Iran

over the past four months, according to the country's Health Ministry. From March 20 to July 29, a total

Over 150 cases reported in four months, mostly linked to travel

of 152 individuals were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease, with the majority of cases linked to travel to the UAE, IRNA wrote.

The Health Ministry's report highlighted that 130 of the patients had traveled to the UAE, while 7 had been to Pakistan, 1 to Oman, and 1 to Benin in West Africa. Interestingly, 12 patients had no history of foreign travel, with 11 of them residing in Bandar Lengeh County, Hormuzgan Province, and 1 in

Chabahar County, Sistan and Baluchestan Province. These local transmissions are a cause for concern.

The ministry also noted that all but one of the patients were Iranian nationals, with the remaining patient of African nationality. The cases have been identified across several provinces, with the majority detected in Fars Province by medical universities in Gerash, Larestan, Jahrom, and Shiraz. Other provinces with report-

ed cases include Hormuzgan, Bushehr, Qazvin, Chabahar, Zahedan, Tehran (Shahid Beheshti and Iran universities), Gilan, Mashhad, Qom, Iranshahr, and Isfahan. Unfortunately, one death has been reported, but the overall condition of the other patients is reported to be stable.

The presence of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, known vectors of dengue fever, has been confirmed in Hormozgan and Sistan and Baluchestan (Chabahar and Konarak) provinces, as well

as Bushehr (Assaluyeh and Kangan). Plus, the Aedes albopictus mosquito has been found in Gilan Province and, more recently, in Ramser County, Mazandaran Province, and Bileh Savar County, Ardebil Province.

Health authorities are advising the public to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites, especially during the daytime when these insects are most active. Dengue fever can cause high fever, severe joint and muscle pain, and can even be fatal in some cases.

Iranian researcher develops innovative approach to convert CO2

Social Desk

An Iranian researcher, Fahimeh Varmaghani, developed an innovative approach to tackle carbon dioxide pollution and convert this harmful greenhouse gas into valuable resources and fuel using cost-effective methods.

The research project, titled "Electrochemical Reduction of Carbon Dioxide on Metal Complex/Carbon Nanomaterial Modified Electrode," was supported by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and aims to address the pressing environmental concerns related to carbon dioxide emissions.

With a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Bu-Ali Sina University, Varmaghani explained the significance of her work, "Electrochemical catalysts play a crucial role in enhancing chemical reactions by lowering the energy potential, making the reaction more thermodynamically favorable, and increasing reaction kinetics without being consumed in the process." The focus of her research is on harnessing renewable energy sources with minimal environmental impact.

She emphasized the importance of designing molecular catalysts to improve the efficiency of energy conversion processes, stating, "An ideal catalyst should facilitate higher current densities at lower excess potentials."

Varmaghani highlighted the deep-rooted reliance on fossil fuels, which has led to a continuous increase in energy consumption and a subsequent rise in carbon dioxide emissions.

She cited reports indicating a positive correlation between stored carbon dioxide and global warming, underscoring its impact on natural climate variations and the environment.

While acknowledging the exploration of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydropower, Varmaghani pointed out limitations and technical challenges associated with their large-scale industrial application.

Varmaghani explained that carbon dioxide is an important natural resource and a synthetic raw material for many products. She said, "Converting carbon dioxide into value-added chemicals and fuel using renewable energy sources like wind and solar power is a highly promising approach." However, she also noted the challenges in carbon dioxide reduction.



Iran prepares for 15% increase in Arbaeen pilgrims

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Iranian officials are gearing up for a busy Arbaeen season as millions of pilgrims are expected to travel to Iraq for the annual commemoration.

The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development predicts a 15% increase in the number of pilgrims this year, amounting to over 4.6 million people traveling through six land borders and by air, IRNA reported.

In a meeting of the Arbaeen Headquarters of the Ministry, attended by the Minister of Roads and Urban Development and security officials, preparations were discussed to facilitate the travel of pilgrims. Three key tasks have been assigned to the ministry, including preparing passenger terminals, ensuring road safety, and providing efficient transportation.

To accommodate the expected increase in travelers, measures such as installing shades and mist-sprayers at terminals and improving road markings and signage are being implemented. Authorities are also ensuring sufficient transportation options, including inter-city buses, taxis, and ride-sharing services.

The aviation sector is also preparing for the surge in demand, with additional flights scheduled to and from Najaf and Baghdad. Moreover, domestic flights to border cities will be increased, providing more options for pilgrims. Extra trains are also planned to cater to the travel needs of the pilgrims.

Officials recommend that pilgrims manage their travel time efficiently and consider using private vehicles as well. They also advise purchasing round-trip tickets for trains, buses, and planes to avoid any inconveniences on the return journey. To address potential delays, an eight-hour grace period has been implemented for bus tick-

ets, ensuring pilgrims can still use their tickets despite any unforeseen delays.

Negotiations are also underway with two foreign companies to provide direct bus services from Tehran to Najaf or Karbala, with 400 buses already allocated. In addition, sea travel between Khorramshahr and Basra is being facilitated, with two ships allocated, pending the readiness of the Basra terminal by the Iraqi side.

The Iranian government is leaving no stone unturned to ensure a smooth and safe journey for the pilgrims, implementing comprehensive measures to cater to the expected increase in Arbaeen travelers.

