

## Iran's Taheri picked as Shimla festival's jury

Arts & Culture Desk

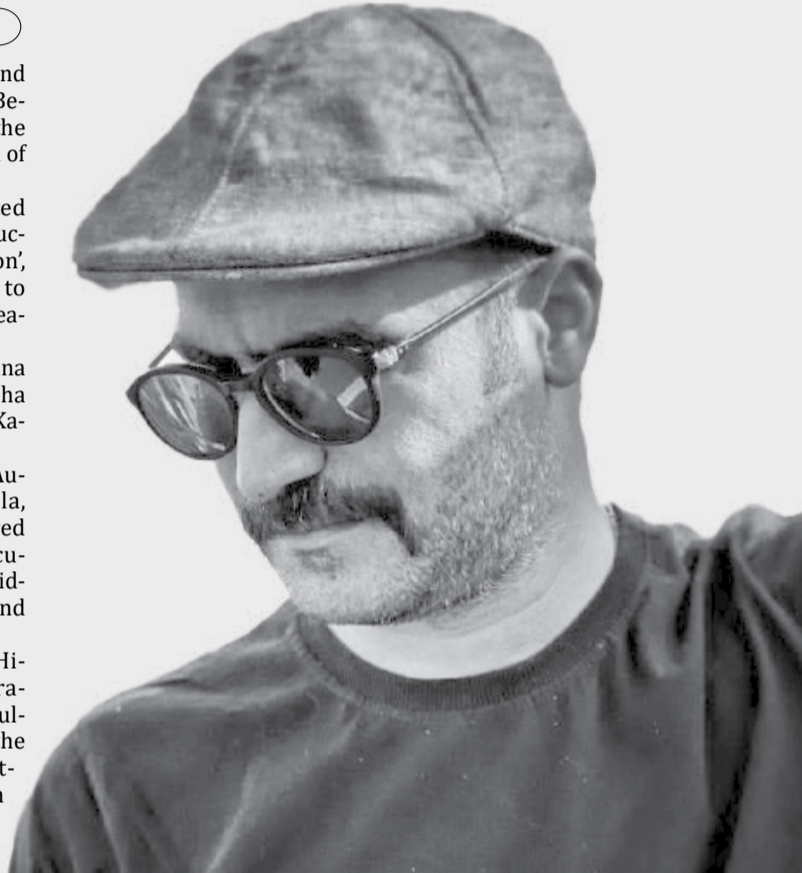
Iran's independent filmmaker and international film distributor Bala Taheri judged the films at the 10th International Film Festival of Shimla in India.

Taheri, who recently completed a joint Iran-Bulgaria film production 'Lyon's Lady: Alveh Edition', joined a seven-member jury to screen and select films in the feature film category.

The jury panel also included Bina Paul, Arik Moran, Farha, Manisha Kulshreshtha, and Sarvchetan Katoch.

The festival took place from August 16 to 18, 2024, in Shimla, India. This year's event featured short films, feature films, documentaries, animations, music videos, as well as masterclasses and workshops on filmmaking.

The festival is organized by Himalayan Velocity in collaboration with the Language and Culture Department of LAC and the Tourism and Aviation Department of the Himachal Pradesh government.



## Iran's University of Isfahan, China's BICMR ink cooperation deal



The University of Isfahan and China's Beijing International Center for Mathematical Research (BICMR) signed a memorandum of understanding to boost scientific cooperation. The agreement was signed by Hossein Harsij, head of the University of Isfahan's Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics, and Gang Tian, head of BICMR, according to a statement from the university's public relations office, IRNA wrote. Harsij emphasized the need to expand scientific diploma-

cy between the two countries, noting that mathematics is a fundamental course for universities. He also highlighted that Iran and China are self-sufficient in terms of mathematical experts and that regional countries rely on their expertise for development. To strengthen cooperation, the University of Isfahan has launched a Chinese language course, Harsij said. He expressed hope that Chinese universities would also collaborate with the Univer-

sity of Isfahan to promote the Chinese language program and that Iran would offer Persian language courses to Chinese students. BICMR, established in 2005, is a research institute that actively recruits global talents and explores new models of mathematical education. The University of Isfahan, with around 17,000 students and 700 faculty members, is one of Iran's top universities, with around 1,000 international students currently enrolled.

## Actor, 'French monument' Alain Delon, dies at 88

Alain Delon, the French actor and heartthrob who was known for his chiseled good look and charismatic on-screen presence, died at the age of 88.

The film actor known for leading roles in classics such as 'Le Samourai' (1967), and 'Rocco and His Brothers' (1960) died early Sunday, his children told French media.

"Alain Fabien, Anouchka, Anthony, as well as [his dog] Loubo, are deeply saddened to announce the passing of their father. He passed away peacefully in his home in Douchy, surrounded by his three children and his family," read his family's statement to the AFP news agency, referring to the city in northcentral France where he spent the last years of his life.

French President Emmanuel Macron was among those who paid tribute to the late actor, calling him not just a legendary actor but a "monument." "Alain Delon played legendary roles and made the world dream. Lending his unforgettable face to turn our lives upside down," Macron wrote on X. "Melancholy, popular, secretive, he was more than a star: He was a French monument."

In Iran, Delon's films were widely popular, thanks in part to the voice of Iranian voice actor Khosro Khosroshahi, who dubbed many of Delon's movies. Khosroshahi, whose unique voice remained fresh and vibrant despite his illness, fell silent for a brief moment after learning of the death of the French cinema figure he had often spoken about. When a reporter asked how he felt about the news, Khosroshahi replied simply, "I'm not feeling well at all. I'm feeling a bit off today."

Over the course of his career, Khosroshahi dubbed more than 40 films featuring Alain Delon, breathing new life into the late actor's roles. Khosroshahi kicked off his work on Delon's films with the movie 'The Yellow Rolls-Royce'.

In a previous interview, Khosroshahi recalled that the late Iranian filmmaker Hamid Qanbari had once shown Delon a clip from the film 'Le Samourai' on TV, and Delon had acknowledged that his best dubber in the world was his Iranian voice actor. French Culture Minister Rachida Dati paid tribute to the late Alain Delon, saying "We believe he was immortal ... his talent, his charisma, his aura made him destined for a Hollywood career at a young age, but he chose France."

The former culture minister Jack Lang spoke of Delon's kindness and their friendship of more than 20 years. Lang said Delon was "an acting giant, prodigious ... a prince of the cinema."

"He was extremely modest, reserved, restrained, shy at the same time; even if he did express himself brutally from time to time, he did it with a flourish," Lang said.

Valérie Pécresse, the president of the Île-de-France region, wrote on X: "Goodbye dear Alain," while Eric Ciotti, of Les Républicains, wrote that Delon was a star apart: "France mourns a sacred giant who existed in the daily lives of French people across the generations and who will continue to thrill us for a long time to come."

The writer and film director Philippe Labro wrote: "Goodbye friend. A wonderful collection of films, an incredible and fascinating personality. Beauty is not enough to explain the exceptional evolution of his talent. He was the ultimate star.

The Samurai." Delon suffered a stroke in 2019. Earlier this year, his son Anthony had said his father had been diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, a type of cancer.

The former actor's dwindling health was the cause of months of public family feuding. Before Delon's debilitating stroke, he made his last major public appearance on the red carpet to receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2019.

"It's a bit of a posthumous tribute, but from my lifetime," he had said upon receiving the award. Delon's physical appearance was his biggest asset for filmmakers in the 1960s and 70s, at the height of his career. He set the template for one of Hollywood's favourite tropes - the mysterious, cerebral hitman - with his performance as the silent killer in Jean-Pierre Melville's 'Le Samourai'. Directors from Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino to Hong Kong's John Woo all have lauded the actor, although the former French actor never made it big in Hollywood. And although he was adored by many, he also faced many criticisms.



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## Message of Araghchi's...

I firmly believe that Araghchi has the necessary qualifications, skills and experience to shoulder the main responsibilities that come with the position of foreign minister. While there are indeed many talented diplomats within

the ministry, Araghchi stands out due to his extensive work experience and grasp of various issues, particularly his involvement in the nuclear negotiations. Although it is expected that Araghchi will secure the Parliament's vote of confidence with-

out any major hurdles, a high approval rating would undoubtedly bolster his position and provide a strong mandate as he take on his duties.

The Parliament's endorsement of Araghchi also sends a powerful message to the international community, particularly to Iran's counterparts in specific dossiers. It signals that the new

Iranian government is committed to resolving disputes within the framework of its national interests and favors dialogue and diplomacy. Naturally, foreign parties will welcome his selection as they have had the opportunity to work with the Foreign Minister-designate and have witnessed his expertise and the quality of his work in previous

rounds of negotiations. Yesterday, Araghchi presented his plans to the lawmakers, and the essence of his program is very much in line with the policies announced by Pezeshkian, focusing on safeguarding Iran's national interests while upholding dignity, expediency, and wisdom. Araghchi's appointment carries

significant weight both domestically and internationally. Domestically, it reflects the president's commitment to relying on specialists and experts, while internationally, it signals Iran's continued dedication to diplomacy and dialogue, as demonstrated by the selection of one of its most seasoned diplomats with a proven track record in negotiations.