

Iranian short film wins at Panama festival

Iranian short film 'Pari and the Witch' was awarded at the 9th Panama Canal International Film Festival, organizers announced Wednesday. The film, written and directed by Mohammadreza Yarikia, took home the award for best short film at the festival, which brings together filmmakers from East and West to showcase their productions to audiences in the Americas, IRNA wrote.

The film's success marks its 11th international appearance, following a string of screenings at festivals around the world. It is also set to be screened at the Wigan & Leigh Short Film Festival in Manchester, the UK, on September 20-21. 'Pari and the Witch' tells the story of a fairy who ventures into the forest to find her father, only to discover that a wizard is waiting for her.

The film features a cast of Iranian actors, including Ali Houshmand, Atefeh Makvandi, Jana Karimi, and Mohammadreza Yarikia. The Panama Canal International Film Festival is a cinematic event that unites filmmakers from around the world to showcase their work to audiences in the Americas.



Iranian student receives medal at invention competition



Ehsan Aqajani, a Ph.D. student in tourism at the University of Tehran, has come away with the bronze medal at the 2024 International Invention and Innovation Competition. The fourth edition of the competition, which took place in Switzerland from August 16 to 18, drew participants from 50 countries and



showcased 1,500 inventions. Aqajani, who signed up for the competition with his idea "Ehsan: Smart Creative Tourist," has been taken in as a member of the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA). His invention, titled "Smart Tourist, Sustainable Tourism," earned him the bronze medal. This is not Aqajani's first

time to win a global award. He previously picked up the silver medal at the 2023 International Invention and Innovation Competition. Aqajani's idea, "Ehsan: Smart Creative Tourist," was registered with the IFIA in Geneva, Switzerland, and had been registered earlier with the Iranian Intellectual Property Office on April 15, 2023.

MP: Arbaeen march paves way for liberation of Al-Quds

Iran's response to Israel 'certain'



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A top Iranian lawmaker says the Arbaeen march is a global movement that unites not only Shia Muslims but also advocates for freedom and justice worldwide in their opposition to Israeli control.

Javad Nikbin, secretary of the Iranian Parliament's Majority Faction and a member of its Cultural Commission, made the comments in an interview with Iran Daily.

Nikbin described the Arbaeen march as a "massive, popular movement" that brings together devotees of the Ahl al-Bayt, a term referring to the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as well as others seeking free-

dom and justice. He said the march aims to "liberate occupied territories from Zionist control globally."

The Arbaeen march is a religious ritual and gathering that takes place every year, where Shia Muslims walk to Karbala to pay their respects and commemorate the 40th day of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, who was killed in the Battle of Karbala.

Nikbin emphasized that the Arbaeen ceremony is a unifying event for Muslims and freedom-lovers worldwide, echoing the "Hayhat Minna al-Dhilla" (We reject all forms of humiliation) slogan chanted by Imam Hussein (PBUH) on Ashura Day. This march, he added, will pave the way for the reappearance of the Imam Mahdi and the establishment of justice worldwide.



This ceremony has been dubbed one of the largest peaceful gatherings in the world and has become the biggest annual march and gathering globally since 2014. The Arbaeen march takes place not only in cities and towns in Iraq but also in several countries,

including Iran and Pakistan, where pilgrims set off towards Karbala.

As for the number of participants in this march, estimates range from 12 million to over 20 million people. The number of pilgrims in 2023 was reported to be over 22 million.

Regarding the upcoming Arbaeen march and ceremony, Nikbin noted that the Iranian government has postponed its response to the Zionist regime's terrorist attack, which martyred Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's political bureau, until after the Arbaeen events.

He stressed that Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crime is certain and will be carried out at the right time, taking into account the country's security and defense considerations.

Nikbin dismissed the impact of the so-called Gaza peace talks on Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crimes, saying, "The Zionist regime's terrorist attack in Tehran, which killed our guest, Ismail Haniyeh, is an unforgivable affront that will not go unpunished." He added, "In Islam, the pun-

ishment for such crimes, the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh and General Qassem Soleimani, is clear: Retribution. We will not engage in any negotiations to execute this punishment, and the perpetrator will face justice."

Nikbin concluded that Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crimes will be more severe than the previous Operation True Promise and will inflict greater damage on the Zionist regime, but the nature of the response will not be disclosed. Regarding the Zionist regime's atrocities in Gaza, Nikbin said, "The occupying regime has reached new heights of brutality in the occupied territories, committing crimes that will never be forgotten. However, with God's will, these crimes will not last, and the end of this child-killing regime is near."

Maternal mortality rate drops in Khuzestan

Social Desk

The number of maternal deaths in Khuzestan Province dropped significantly, according to the head of the provincial health center. Pejman Bakhtiari Nia said at a press conference on Wednesday that the maternal mortality rate had decreased from 71 to 17 per 100,000 live births. "We have brought down the number of maternal deaths from 46 in 2021 to 11 in 2023," he added. Bakhtiari Nia also reported that the

infant mortality rate had fallen from 9 to 8.3 per 1,000 live births, with the number of deaths decreasing from 580 to 541 in 2023, IRNA wrote.

He noted that child mortality had also decreased, from 7.2 to 6.9 per 1,000 live births. "We have increased child care coverage by one and a half times and post-natal care coverage by two times," he explained.

Regarding reports of monkeypox cases among Arbaeen pilgrims, Bakhtiari Nia said that no cases had been detected among pilgrims, according to the

Health Ministry. "Iran is considered a low-risk area for monkeypox, and no cases have been reported this year," he said. However, he emphasized that the province's health sector was well-prepared to deal with infectious diseases and had taken measures to prevent the spread of diseases during the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

Bakhtiari Nia also reported that the province was free of dengue fever, with no cases of the disease detected despite the presence of the Aedes mosquito, which transmits the disease.

Iranian actor Khanibeik died at 83

Iranian actor Hossein Khanibeik died on at the age of 83, after struggling with Alzheimer's disease for several years.

Khanibeik had been battling the illness since contracting COVID-19 a few years ago, and his condition had gradually worsened, causing him to lose his ability to speak and recognize others.

Born on August 9, 1941, in Tehran, Khanibeik kicked off



his acting career by landing a role in a play directed by renowned Iranian actor Hadi Esлами. He went on to appear

in numerous films and series, including 'Mokhtarnameh', 'The Tenth Night', 'Youthful Days', 'Crystal Garden', 'The Ambassador', 'Willow Branches', 'Passing Through the Dust', 'Deadly Escape', 'The Agony', and 'The Ecstasy'. Throughout his career, Khanibeik teamed up with many artists, actors, and actresses, such as Khosrow Shakibai, Sirus Gorjestani, and Mehri Mehrnai.