

'Turtle and Snail' to vie at Swiss film festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian movie 'Turtle and Snail' by Reza Hamasi is scheduled to be screened at an international film festival in Switzerland. The movie will compete with works from around the world at the Cluster Film Festival in Switzerland. This film competes at the first films festival in Cluster, alongside works from around the world, IRNA reported.

The Swiss Cluster Festival showcases first films from around the world. It aims to provide a platform for cultural interaction and promote emerging filmmakers. The festival is known for its focus on showcasing diverse voices and perspectives in cinema. Twelve feature films have been selected for the main competition, including 'Turtle and Snail'. These films will compete for the Best Feature Film award.

The Cluster International Film Festival will take place on September 5-8 in the Swiss city. The story is about a 10-year-old boy, Pedram, who lives with his mother, Afsaneh, and faces many challenges with her. Afsaneh intends to get married, but Pedram opposes it, believing that his mother's marriage plans are the source of their problems. Pedram meets a strange young man, and a secret friendship develops between them...

Iranian short animation wins two awards in US festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short animation 'In the Shadow of the Cypress,' co-directed by Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi, won two awards at the 12th Portland International Film

and Animation Festival in the United States. The short animation, a production of Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, won two awards for Best 2D Animated Film and Best Short Animation

Music at the Portland International Film and Animation Festival in the US, Mehr reported. According to festival organizers, their focus and goal are to find the best short, feature, documentary, animation, experimental films, and TV series. Over the years, the festival has screened hundreds of amazing works by top talents from around the world on the screen. 'In the Shadow of the Cypress,' the successful short animation by the institute, has so far been selected to compete in the competition section of dozens of prestigious international film festivals and has won three awards from Oscar-qualifying festivals. The 12th Portland International Film and Animation Festival in the US was held from August 21 to 25, 2024.

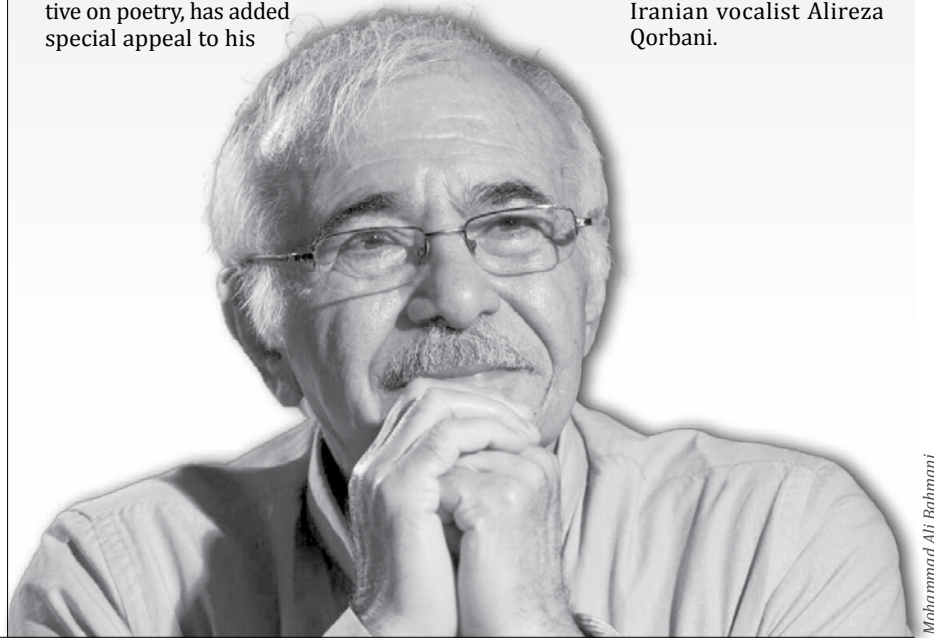
Iran to bid farewell to distinguished poet

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian poet and songwriter Mohammad Ali Bahmani passed away at the age of 82 in Tehran on Friday after suffering a brain stroke. The ceremony for the farewell of the poet will take place today in front of the Vahdat Hall. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a message, expressed his condolences on the passing of "the well-known and talented poet" to the country, to the cultural and artistic community, all sympathizers and especially the esteemed family of the deceased. The talented poet "with a unique style, artistic flair, and a creative, humanistic, and popular perspective on poetry, has added special appeal to his

verses and great richness to national literature, leaving behind a lasting name and memory," a part of the condolence message read. Abbas Sajadi, a poet, cultural manager and spokesperson for the Committee for Honoring Mohammad Ali Bahmani, said the body of this influential poet would be buried in a special tomb in one of the cultural centers of the southern city of Bandar Abbas, Hormuzgan Province. Bahmani lived in Bandar Abbas for several decades and was the founder of important literary and artistic events there. Born in 1942 in Dezful, Khuzestan Province, the late Bahmani wrote his

first poem for his mother at age 10, and 'Roshan Fekar' magazine published it in 1952. Bahmani started cooperation with National Iranian Radio in 1966 and presented 'Poetry Page' program in cooperation with the Persian Gulf Provincial Network. He lived in Bandar Abbas since 1973 and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, returned to Tehran and left for Bandar Abbas again in 1984. Bahmani was one of the most renowned poets and songwriters and has collaborated with many musicians and singers so far, among them Iranian singers Naser Abdollahi and Homayoun Shajarian, and Iranian vocalist Alireza Qorbani.



Mohammad Ali Bahmani

Pezeshkian's cabinet welcomes ...

However, this is just the beginning of a journey that can be further strengthened in the future, leading to the presence of more minorities in various positions of power. The continuation of these hopes now rests partly on Hosseinzadeh's shoulders. He has a heavy responsibility and must demonstrate his capabilities as the vice president to pave the way for the utilization of the potential of Sunnis and other religious minorities. Another aspect of Hosseinzadeh's selection reflects the president's focus on the necessity of developing rural and underprivileged areas. In his decree, Pezeshkian emphasized, "It is advisable to improve the living conditions of villagers and upgrade rural development indicators by emphasizing the role of villagers in achieving economic resilience, while coordinating with relevant

executive bodies within the framework of the approved job description of that deputy." The Deputy for Rural Development and Underprivileged Areas was previously one of the deputies under the First Vice President, but Pezeshkian has elevated this position to be directly under the president, thus granting the Vice President the right to attend cabinet meetings. This initiative also highlights the president's concern for addressing the issues of deprived areas and villages. Over the past decades, the composition of Iran's rural and urban population has undergone significant changes. Moreover, the existence of diverse problems in villages has led to the migration of villagers to cities, gradually creating the phenomenon of urban marginalization, which, in turn, has brought about various social and economic challenges.

In October 2021, the "House of Rural and Nomadic Development" published a report on the problems faced by villagers and nomads, which stated, "Villagers and nomads currently face numerous challenges, including a lack of resilient housing, insufficient income from farming to support their livelihoods, the absence of an efficient and swift system to deliver their products to the market, a lack of a specific support program to compensate for losses due to droughts and other natural disasters, which have caused significant damage to production and reduced cultivation areas, and even the loss of livestock." Addressing or alleviating these issues requires scientific planning that is tailored to the specific conditions of each region, taking into account its unique advantages. Therefore, the elevation of this deputy position

indicates the president's serious attention to scientifically addressing this situation. In his first meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Pezeshkian identified "addressing the underprivileged areas," and "paying attention to those who are neglected" as two important functions of his government. During his election campaign, Pezeshkian had criticized the injustice in resource distribution and emphasized allocating a share of resources to deprived areas. He had also stated that before implementing certain economic reform programs, measures should be considered to compensate for the economic impacts of these programs on deprived areas. He said, "In every tough decision we make, we must not allow the weak and underprivileged to be trampled. I cannot accept that my decision

will cause a group of people to be trampled under the feet of development. We must see the people, not just economic growth. I cannot pursue economic growth at any cost." The appointment of Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh as the Vice President for the Development of Rural and Underprivileged Areas is a significant step towards addressing the needs of deprived and rural areas in Iran, as well as incorporating the capabilities of young reformist figures into the government. Hosseinzadeh, with his background as a member of the Iranian Parliament and the Civil Commission, is well-positioned to scientifically plan and execute strategies that will harness the potential and advantages of deprived areas, while also considering the potential negative impacts of economic reforms on these vulnerable communities and devising

solutions to mitigate them. Hosseinzadeh, a native of Naqadeh in West Azerbaijan Province, had served as a member of the Iranian Parliament for three terms prior to his appointment, representing his constituency of Naqadeh. He was also a member of the Civil Commission and a potential candidate for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development. At just 44 years of age, he is one of the younger members of the government and a prominent reformist figure. During his time in the ninth and tenth Parliaments, he chaired the Citizenship Rights Faction and served as the Vice President of the Civil Commission and the Reformist Faction (Hope Faction). Hosseinzadeh also played a pivotal role in the election campaign of Pezeshkian, particularly among the Kurdish and Sunni communities.