

# Iran's 'The Plain Sings' lands perfect pitch at Bulgarian festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'The Plain Sings', written and directed by Gita Feizi, won the Early Bird Grand Award at the 20th edition of the Early Bird International Student Film Festival in Bulgaria.

The festival, which was established in 2005, aims to showcase the unique perspectives of young filmmakers and their bold views on contemporary issues. The event, which was held from November 1-5,

2024 brings together a diverse range of films from around the world, ISNA reported.

In a statement, the jury praised 'The Plain Sings', saying, "A beautiful story about a girl whose only desire is to sing, exploring the emotions that come with chasing a dream. The creator crafted thoughtful shots and compositions that convey the painful narrative in every frame. The contrast between her singing freely in stunning wide shots and the restrictions

imposed by her culture and family is powerful. The tragic ending represents the consequences of her choice. The heartfelt storytelling and striking visuals made it an easy choice for Early Bird Grand Award." This win is not the first for 'The Plain Sings', which has previously picked up several awards, including Best Kurdish Language Film and Best Short Film at the 14th Berlin Kurdish Film Festival, Best Film in the Invisible Lands section at the 4th Son of a Pitch

Festival in Italy, and Best Music at the 20th Nahal International Short Film Festival. The film has also won the Mitosfilm award and has been selected for several other festivals, including the 10th Sakarya Student Film Festival, the 3rd Kaaffilm International Short Film Festival, and the Abbas Kiarostami and ISFA. The film's plot revolves around a shepherd girl whose daily routine is disrupted by a wolf attack on her flock, leading her to make a crucial decision.



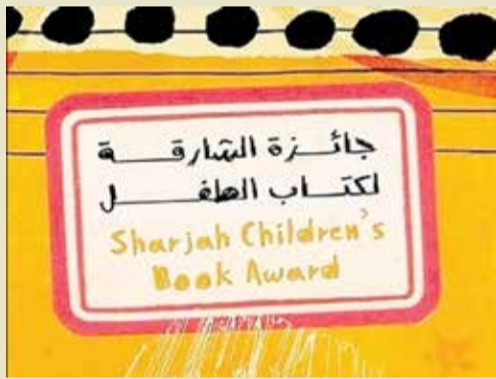
## Iranian illustrator wins at Sharjah Children's Book Award

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian illustrator, Shima Zarei, took the Best Children's Book in the Sharjah Children's Book Award, for her outstanding work in creating a high-quality book with a strong cultural and educational message.

Zarei's achievement was announced at the Sharjah Children's Book Award, a major cultural event in the region that promotes reading and literacy among children and young adults, Mehr News Agency reported.

The award was presented to her in recognition of her tireless efforts and creativity in producing a book that has made a significant impact in the field of children's lit-



erature.

The Sharjah Children's Book Award, organized by the Sharjah Book Authority and under the patronage of the Sharjah Ruler, provides a platform for authors and publishers from around the world to showcase their works. The event aims to foster a love of reading among children and young adults, and to promote cultural exchange and

understanding.

Zarei, who has collaborated with publishers from the United States, Europe, Dubai, and Turkey in recent years, has illustrated numerous books for children. Her win is a testament to her skill and dedication to her craft, and is expected to further boost her international reputation as a leading children's book illustrator.

## Iranian audience hails Tehran Symphony Orchestra's 'Persian March' performance

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The Tehran Symphony Orchestra's performance of 'Persian March' met with widespread acclaim from audiences, a survey conducted by the Rudaki Foundation has shown.

According to the survey, which polled 50 audience members after the concert on November 5 and 6, a vast majority of viewers left the Vahdat Hall satisfied with the performance, IRNA reported.

The survey aimed to assess the quality of the orchestra's performances, as well as the overall experience of attending a concert at the Vahdat Hall. Seventy-four percent of respondents rated the performance as "excellent",

while 17% deemed it "good", 7% "average", and 2% "poor". The selection of pieces performed also received high praise, with 71% of respondents rating them as "excellent", 20% as "good", 5% as "average", and 4% as "poor".

The survey also evaluated the pre-concert advertising, with 39% of respondents rating it as "excellent", 25% as "good", 32% as "average", 2% as "poor", and 2% as "very poor". The Rudaki Foundation's services were rated as "excellent" by 56% of respondents, while 15% deemed them "good", 22% "average", 5% "poor", and 2% "very poor".

The concert, which was conducted by guest conductor Maziar Younessi, featured a diverse range of pieces, includ-



ing Johann Strauss II's 'Persian March', Felix Mendelssohn's Italian 'Symphony No. 4', Peyman Yazdani's 'Reward of Silence', Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 'Swan Lake', Jacques Offenbach's 'Barcarolle' from 'The Tales of Hoffmann', and Hossein Alizadeh's 'Paykubi' (Dance), arranged by Younessi.

## Iran's Music Industry Exhibition set to strike a chord

The 2nd Music Industry Exhibition in Iran is set to kick off on November 19, bringing together 60 specialized booths showcasing a wide range of musical instruments, equipment, and services.

The four-day event, to be held at the Milad Tower Exhibition Center in Tehran,

will feature a diverse lineup of participants, including music associations, schools, publishers, and manufacturers of traditional and modern instruments, as well as retailers and suppliers of music accessories, ISNA reported.

Exhibitors will include producers and sellers of Irani-

an and foreign traditional instruments, such as the *tar*, *setar*, and oud, as well as modern instruments like guitars and pianos.

Plus, manufacturers of sound systems, recording equipment, and music-related accessories, such as drum sets, cymbals, and music bags, will also be present.



## Suspension; Trump's sole ...

Page 1 > First of all, sanctions. Sanctions are among the most significant issues that America faces. Although the United States has imposed most of the sanctions against various countries itself, Trump now argues that this is a problem facing the world, especially regarding the dollar's global standing. He claims that the use of sanctions has weakened the dollar, while, on the other hand, China has improved the value of its currency. A few days before the election, Trump emphasized in his speech that we should use sanctions only in necessary situations. That is, Trump does not try to solve bilateral problems but rather seeks to suspend them to benefit from economic cooperation with these countries for the in-

terests of America. Ukraine is the second issue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine occurred during Biden's presidency. Trump has stated many times that if he were president, this war would not have happened—a claim that cannot be easily proven. Experts say that the most critical issue regarding the war in Ukraine is the US financial aid, which amounts to \$60 billion—close to the damage caused by the recent Atlantic hurricane. Although Trump himself has not made an announcement about this war, a member of his election team told the media, "Crimea is gone. Kiev should focus on peace, not on the return of lands." Zelensky will demonstrate his frivolity if he declares at the ne-

gotiating table that the return of Crimea to Ukraine is necessary to achieve peace. This point of view was voiced by senior advisor to President-elect Donald Trump and Republican Party strategist Bryan Lanza in an interview with the BBC. "And if President Zelensky sits down at the negotiating table and says that we can have peace only if we have Crimea, he will show us that he is not serious," he said. It is clear that Trump is trying to suspend the war in order to create a unilateral solution for peace. According to Trump, providing agricultural needs from Ukraine is more important than the territorial integrity of that country. The third problem is Gaza. Trump's solution in this case

is very clear. A member of Trump's election team stated about Israel's actions in the Gaza war that Trump had asked Netanyahu to do whatever it took against Iran but to end the war before the official start of his term. Experts believe that Trump wants to stop funding Israel's war against Gaza. Although he is aware that he will be pressured by Israeli lobbyists in the US, Trump aims to shift the focus from politics to economics to avoid spending more money. In general, Trump avoids spending any kind of money on problems outside the United States. Newsweek presents Trump's positions in the first round of his presidency in this regard: President Donald Trump criticized US spending of more than

\$7 trillion on conflicts and reconstruction efforts in the Middle East and Afghanistan shortly after officials stated that the US would not pledge money to a major conference aimed at helping Iraq rebuild after more than 15 years of conflict. Trump's remarks, which coincided with the release of his 2019 budget proposal, targeted the choices of past administrations, especially concerning foreign policy in the Middle East and Central Asia since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. Trump argued that the costly struggle to stabilize Afghanistan, as well as Iraq, which the US invaded in 2003, has only exacerbated economic difficulties at home. In a nutshell, since Trump refused to spend money abroad during his first term in office, it

seems that his foreign policy is based on the same general principle. Instead of finding a final solution, he tries to suspend big problems in the world because it costs less money for Washington. He is deliberately trying to disprove the stereotypical expectations of America to solve world problems. No doubt that Trump has a business and economic personality stronger than a political one. The overall policy of suspending political issues to reduce economic costs is an opportunity for countries like Iran, as Trump is not interested in spending money and is striving to quickly reduce the costs incurred on the United States by suspending global problems and issues. Will the Iranian government have a plan to take advantage of this opportunity?