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● Editorial Dept. Tel
● Address
● ICPI Publisher
● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
● Website
● Email
● Printing House

+98 21 84711411
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
+98 21 88548892-5
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



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Iran's 'In the Shadow of Cypress' wins 2025 Oscar for Best Animated Short Film

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short animated film 'In the Shadow of Cypress,' co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani, won the 2025 Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards, held on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

The 20-minute animation secured the prestigious award against four other contenders, including the Belgian-French-Dutch short 'Beautiful Men,' Japan's 'Magic Candies,' the Dutch animation 'Wander to Wonder,' and France's 'Yuck!,' IRNA reported. Produced by the Iranian Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, 'In the Shadow of Cypress' became the first Iranian animated or live-action short film to win an Oscar. It was only the second Iranian short film ever nominated, following 'Our Uniform' by Yeganeh Moghaddam, which vied for the same award at the 96th Academy Awards but did not win. Overall, this marks Iran's third Oscar victory, following Asghar Farhadi's Best Foreign Language

Film wins for 'A Separation' in 2011 and 'The Salesman' in 2016. During their acceptance speech, Molayemi and Sohani expressed deep gratitude, stating, "We dedicate our film and this special award to all those who continue to fight their inner and outer battles heroically, and nobody knows about that."

Molayemi added, "This is a miracle, and speaking before this expectant audience is overwhelming. But if we persevere and remain faithful, miracles do happen." 'In the Shadow of Cypress' employs geometric 2D animation to portray the relationship between a father and daughter as the father battles PTSD. According to the directors, the film serves as a tribute to veterans of the Iran-Iraq war, particularly those still grappling with PTSD. It explores the psychological and physical struggles of a sea captain and his daughter as they live in isolation at sea.

This historic Oscar win marks the first time Iranian filmmakers have claimed an Academy Award in this category. Initially,

the directors were not expected to attend the ceremony, but they obtained a last-minute visa and arrived in Los Angeles just three hours before the event.

In a previous interview with Variety, Molayemi and Sohani revealed that the film took six years to complete due to self-funding throughout development and production. They also cited longstanding sanctions as a significant challenge, stating that restrictions had intensified since President Donald Trump's tenure. Prior to its Oscar victory, 'In the Shadow of Cypress' garnered major accolades at the LA Shorts International Film Festival, Lebu International Film Festival, and Tribeca Film Festival. It also earned multiple nominations at the Venice International Film Festival, Annie Awards, Annecy International Animation Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, and Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival. Following the Oscar win, Iran's House of Cinema congratulated the filmmakers, stating, "It is a great joy and source of pride to see representatives of Iranian cul-



ture and art shine on the world stage and carry the Iranian flag at the 97th Academy Awards. With honor, we extend our congratulations to Hossein Molayemi, Shirin Sohani, and the entire production team of 'In the Shadow of Cypress,' wishing further success for Iranian cinema."

The Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association also praised

the achievement, calling it "a great honor for Iranian cinema and a brilliant step toward global recognition of Iranian animation." The association extended its congratulations to the film's creators and the animation community, hoping this success would inspire new, innovative works.

The Iranian Film Directors Guild echoed the sentiment, noting,

"The illustrious history of Iranian animation, which has quietly advanced since before the revolution, was missing an Oscar—until now. Thanks to the creativity and artistic vision of Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi, 'In the Shadow of Cypress' has filled that gap. The Iranian Film Directors Guild proudly celebrates this monumental achievement."

UN tourism chief praises Iran's role in global tourism growth



United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary-General Zorab Pololikashvili has emphasized Iran's significant role in the global tourism sector and called for strengthened cooperation to advance sustainable tourism develop-

ment. In a letter to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, Pololikashvili acknowledged Iran's position in the international tourism framework and underscored the importance of continued structural collaboration between Tehran and the UNWTO, according to a statement from Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Monday.

Pololikashvili praised the organization and participation in the 18th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE), held from February 11-14, describ-

ing it as a strategic platform for fostering global tourism exchanges, IRNA reported.

He cited a report from UNWTO official Ian Wilko, who attended the event and recognized its role in bridging public and private sector cooperation in tourism.

The UNWTO chief also highlighted two key areas of future collaboration: The organization of an upcoming global urban tourism forum in Tehran and expanding Iran's engagement with the UNWTO's affiliate members to boost scientific, technical, and investment partnerships in the sector.

Iran calls for Afghanistan cooperation to combat drug trafficking

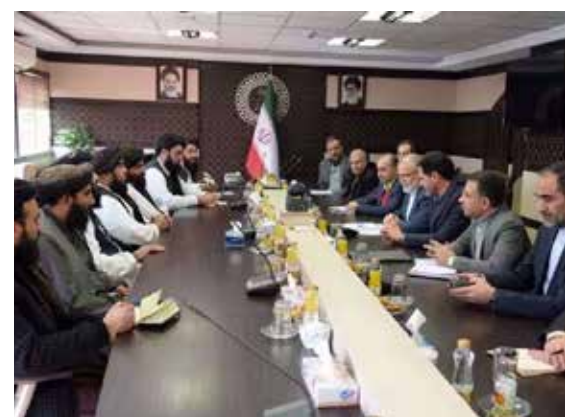
Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Ali Akbar Pour Jamshidian says Iran and Afghanistan should increase joint cooperation in the campaign against narcotics.

Jamshidian made the remark in a meeting with an Afghan delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics, Lieutenant General Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund Hammar, in Tehran on Monday, Press TV reported.

"The ban on the cultivation, purchase and sale of narcotics in Afghanistan was a very good action that can lead to greater outcomes with the formulation of a comprehensive strategy by the Afghan government," Jamshidian said. Afghan authorities banned all cultivation of opium poppy and all narcotics under strict laws in April 2022.

Back in September, the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) reported that Methamphetamine trafficking in and around Afghanistan has surged in recent years, despite the Taliban's pledge to contain the illicit drug trade.

It added that Taliban's efforts to crack down on the drug trade in the country had little impact, both on the opium production and the bur-



geoning meth industry.

Jamshidian noted that advancement, peace and development of the Iranian and Afghan governments and nations are intertwined with each other.

He added that close cooperation between police forces of Iran, Afghanistan and subsequently Pakistan would be an appropriate way to combat drug trafficking. The Iranian official said the anti-drug combat currently requires scientific work, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic's police, equipped with modern equipment and training, can transfer experience to the Afghan police. Elsewhere in his remarks, Jamshidian said Iran has been hosting Afghan refugees for years, adding, "The government and people of Iran and Afghanistan have close relations."



Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Ali Akbar Pour Jamshidian meets with an Afghan delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics, Lieutenant General Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund Hammar, in Tehran, on March 3, 2025.
● IRNA

He noted that approximately 4.5 million legal and some two million illegal Afghan migrants are living in Iran, affirming Tehran's resolve to improve interaction with Kabul and solve bilateral issues.

Akhund Hammar, for his part, said there has been no prohibition on the cultivation, purchase and sale of narcotics in Afghanistan over the past 45 years, but the issue has been largely addressed in recent years. He also thanked Iran for hosting the Afghan refugees over the past decades.

Invitation to Tender

Second Announcement



شرکت ملی مسکن ایران

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to hold a tender for "Procurement of Rotary Blasthole Drill Rigs with ability to perform drilling diameter of 11-13 inches". For more information, please refer to the official website of company as below:

<https://en.nicico.com/>

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