

Iranian films to spotlight cinema made under war at Antalya festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Three Iranian films will be screened in a special section of the Antalya Golden Orange International Film Festival devoted to filmmakers working under war and occupation. The section, "Roots, Light and Camera", brings together films from Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine and Palestine. It highlights filmmakers who have continued to make films despite conflict and difficult working conditions. The Iranian selection includes "No Sight No Sound", directed by Yazdan Tabrizi and produced

by Hossein Bozorgzadegan. The film will have its international premiere at the festival. Also selected is the short film "Out of Tune", directed by Vahid Mazraeh and produced by Sam Shojaei. "Hanieh", another Iranian short, is directed by Ali Andarz and produced by Taha Khanjani. The three films will be internationally distributed by White Dreams Film, which is managed by Mastaneh Mohajer. The special section brings together films from countries where war and occupation have directly affected the lives

and work of filmmakers. The program presents cinema as a way to keep telling stories and expressing experiences despite those conditions. The 63rd Antalya Golden Orange International Film Festival will be held in Antalya from Oct. 24 to Oct. 30. The festival, established in 1963, is one of Turkey's longest-running film events. The selection gives the three Iranian productions an opportunity to reach audiences outside Iran while placing them within a program focused on filmmaking under pressure.

Huge Castle registered as national heritage site

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Iran has registered the 22-hectare Kalfir Castle in northwestern East Azerbaijan as a national heritage site, recognizing a large military compound whose star-shaped layout reflects Qajar-era defense architecture and possible links to the Russo-Persian Wars. The castle, in Ahar, has four pentagonal towers at its corners, with geometric extensions forming a star-shaped plan. The design served defensive and surveillance purposes and shows the influence of European military methods on Qajar-era fortifications, said Ahmad Hamzehzadeh, director general of East Azerbaijan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Historical evidence places the castle in the period of the Russo-Persian Wars. Given the military presence and activities of Qajar Crown Prince Abbas Mirza in the region, the complex may have been used to support or station troops. Its exact role, however, has not been firmly established and requires further historical and archaeological study. The castle's 22-hectare footprint also provides scope for studying the organization of military defenses, troop deployment and changes in the region over time. The national registration provides a stronger basis for research, conservation and protection. But parts of the castle and surrounding area have already been affected by agricultural activity, with trenches and other defensive structures damaged.



Protecting the site's boundaries and buffer zone is therefore a priority. Archaeological surveys are also needed to identify surviving remains and historical layers and to guide future conservation. The exact year of construction and the identity of its builder have not been established by reliable historical evidence. Further research could help clarify the castle's role and significance in Iran's military architectural history.

Iranian cinemas draw over 6.58m spectators despite war

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Iranian cinemas drew 6.58 million spectators in the first half of the Persian calendar year, despite wartime conditions, while box-office receipts topped 8.25tn rials (nearly \$3.1 million). The figures, recorded by the Cinema Sales and Screening Management System (SAMFA), cover the six months to Sept. 22. The period followed the start of a war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran on February 28, Mehr News Agency reported on Tuesday. Attendance picked up sharply toward the end of the period. September was the busiest month, drawing more than 2.23 million spectators. Kourosh Cinema Complex led the country with more than 365,000 spectators. Iran Mall Cinema Complex followed with more than 287,000, while



Hedish Cinema ranked third with more than 190,000. The Death Bath, directed by Kazem Daneshi, was the most-watched film, drawing more than 1.25 million spectators. The Pool, directed by Soroush Sehat, came next with more than 1.16 million. Adventure on James Bond Island, directed by Bahman Goodarzi, ranked third with more than 754,000 spectators.

When algorithm replaces ...

START II (1993) never entered into force, while START III was never signed and remained at the stage of proposals and negotiations. New START, the final link in this chain, expired on February 5, 2026, leaving, for the first time since 1972, no legally binding ceiling on the US and Russian strategic arsenals. The arms control architecture of the Cold War has effectively collapsed. This collapse is not accidental. When the principal balancer of the order is no longer the bomb alone, treaties that only counted bombs lose their relevance. The question is: What is the new balancer?

Every technological leap, a new order

History offers a fairly clear answer to this question. Whenever a technological leap has entered the arena, it has disrupted the balance of power and pushed the international order toward a new configura-

tion. Gunpowder made feudal fortresses obsolete and gave rise to centralized states. Steam power and electricity replaced land-based power with industrial power. Air power broke through the boundaries of the battlefield. The internet turned information into a field of competition. Artificial intelligence is now making inroads simultaneously into the economy, military, information, education and governance, and this reach is broader than that of any previous technological leap. Chinese scholars such as Yan Xuetong, one of the country's leading international relations theorists, argue that the turning point in the transformation of the international order in our time will come through competition over digital technologies. If that is the case, the question is not whether AI will reshape the order, but who will rein it in and how.

Washington moment

The news of the end of the

Trump-Xi meeting should be read through this very question. According to the White House, the two sides agreed to establish a "US-China dialogue on superintelligence" to exchange views on its risks and benefits, as well as to launch a dedicated "bilateral communication channel" for AI-related incidents. The idea for the channel was put forward by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng: if either side identifies an AI-related incident that threatens national security, such as a cyberattack or a biological risk, it would notify the other side. Xi also stressed that the two countries share a responsibility to keep the technology "under human control." Let's be honest: this agreement still has no ceiling and no counting mechanism. Reports have also emphasized the absence of a major substantive agreement on tariffs, rare earths and chips. Critics argue that the channel is more

akin to the direct hotline established in 1963 following the Cuban Missile Crisis than to SALT I. But that very resemblance to the hotline is itself part of the argument. SALT I was not a comprehensive ceiling either. It was an interim agreement that froze the number of launchers at existing levels and paved the way for subsequent negotiations. Its significance lay not in the numbers, but in the "moment of recognition." The two rivals acknowledged that an unrestrained race over nuclear bombs capable of determining the balance of power would hurt both sides. Precisely this logic was reproduced in Washington in 2026: what came to the table was not a race over development, but a mechanism for control. And what is noteworthy is that, unlike any previous technological agreement, the two sides are discussing how and to what extent to constrain an emerging technology before it reaches full maturity.

Order taking shape

If "AI SALT I" succeeds, the order that emerges from it will be fundamentally different from the previous one. It will have three characteristics. First, it will be post-bipolar. The bomb concentrated power in two poles, but AI is a multi-layered technology: chips, data, algorithms, computing infrastructure and human expertise each create a separate center of power. Instead of a single pole, we will face multiple centers of power, with different actors occupying positions within each of them. Second, it will be post-human. Robots and intelligent systems will play decisive roles in economic, military and information-related decision-making. The role of humans will shift from executors to framework designers and overseers. China's leader's emphasis on keeping AI "under human control" shows that this concern has moved from academic circles into the leaders' negotiating

room. Third, it will be post-Western. The growth of digital technologies and AI in non-American and non-European countries is breaking the West's historic monopoly over rule-setting. SALT I was written by two European-descended powers; this time, one of the signatories is in the East, while middle powers and developing countries will ultimately seek a share as well. SALT I consolidated the bipolar order and gave the world several decades of relative stability. It is still too early to know whether what began in Washington will lead to SALT II or, like it, stall somewhere along the way. But one thing is clear: the new balancer of the global order has acquired a name and an identity. The difference is that this time, the subject of negotiations is not a warhead that can be counted, but an algorithm that is changing every day. And perhaps that is the hardest and most consequential difference between the two orders.