

Vatican’s Official Visits Shrine in Qom



TEHRAN -- The Vatican’s representative had paid a visit to the holy shrine of Hazrat Masumeh (SA) in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

The Vatican’s ambassador to Iran, Andrzej Józwiowicz visited the holy shrine of Hazrat Masumeh and was warmly received by the guardians of the shrine.

Located in Qom, the shrine is where the sister of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Shia Imam, is laid to rest.

Józwiowicz serves as the Apostolic Nuncio to Iran and his visit to this important shrine is a significant step in strengthening interfaith dialog between the Vatican and Muslims in Iran.

Mir-Emad Museum Showcases Iranian Calligraphy



TEHRAN -- The Mir-Emad Calligraphy Museum in Tehran’s Saadabad Historical Complex has put on display the rich history of calligraphy art in Iran.

Established in 1997 in honor of the Iranian famous calligrapher Mir-Emad Hassani of the Safavid era, the museum contains works from 10 centuries.

The works in the museum include pre-Islamic calligraphy, Islamic calligraphy, and other antique manuscripts.

With 196 square meters of area, the first floor of the building is allocated to artworks dating back to the pre-Islamic era.

The whole building has two levels where you can find many other fabulous pieces on the second floor. If you like any of them, you could ask the staff to send you the file on your phone number, which seems interesting.

Italian Festival to Screen ‘Deer’

TEHRAN -- Iranian short film ‘Deer’ by Hadi Babaeefar has made its way to the 2023 Trento Film Festival in Italy.

Reports said ‘Deer’ will compete in the 71st edition of the Italian event.

The film is about “a little boy who has to watch helplessly while his sick brother struggles to remain alive”.

“When his parents take him away to relatives, Ehsan sets off for home again through a snowy night, to defend his brother against the angel of death”, a synopsis for the film reads.

‘Deer’ was previously awarded at the 2022 edition of the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) in Germany.

Earlier reports said Iranian short ‘The Dream of a Horse’ will also vie at the Trento Film Festival.

The Trento Film Festival is “the oldest international film festival dedicated to the mountains, adventure and exploration”, the event’s website reads.

The 71st edition of the event will take place on April 28-May 7, 2023.

Iran Marks National Day of Attar

TEHRAN – April 14 is considered a significant cultural event for Iranians to commemorate the great Persian poet, mystic, and philosopher Attar of Nishapur.

Abu Hamid bin Abu Bakr Ibrahim, also known as Farid ud-Din was born in the city of Nishpur (Neyshabur) located in the north-east of Iran. It is believed that he lived between c. 1145 – c. 1221.

Attar means ‘apothecary’ and this nickname was given to him due to his profession. He was probably the son of a prosperous chemist, receiving an excellent education in various fields. He practiced the profession of pharmacy. The people he helped in the pharmacy used to confide their troubles in ‘Attar and this affected him deeply.

Eventually, he abandoned his pharmacy store and traveled extensively, seeking wisdom in Baghdad, Basra, Kufa, Mecca, Medina, Damascus, Khwarizm, Turkistan, and India, before finally returning to his birthplace Nishapur.

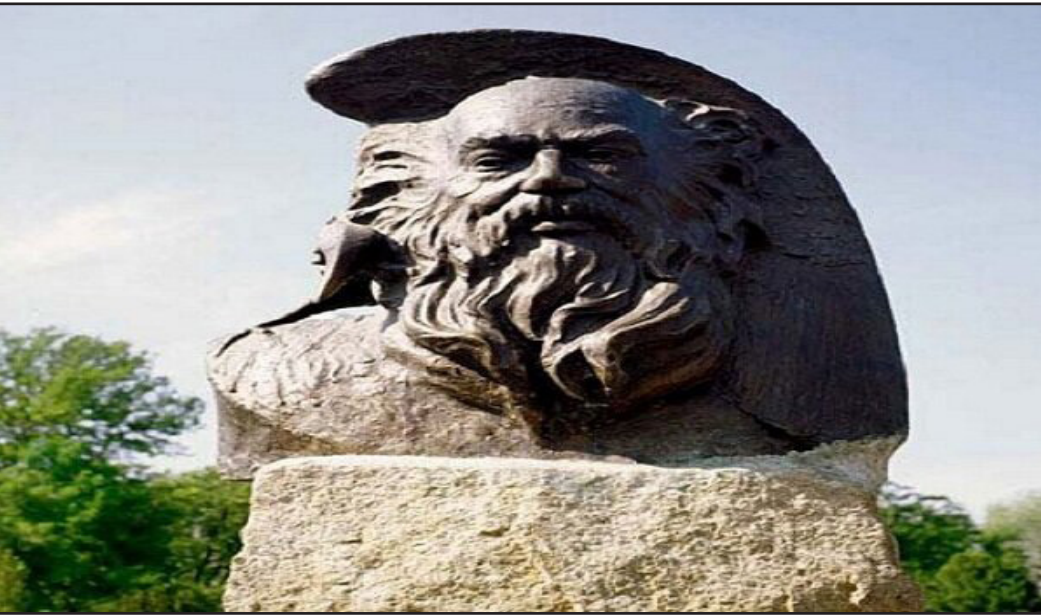
Attar is one of the most famous mystic poets of Iran. His works were the inspiration of Rumi, Hafiz, Jami, Nava’i and many other mystic poets.

Ilahi-Nama, Mukhtar-Nama, Musibat-Nama, Jawahir-Nama, Sarh al-Qalb, Divan, Tadhkirat-ul-Awliya (Memorial of the Saints) and Mantiq-ut-Tayr (The Conference of the Birds) are among his major works.

Considered by Rumi to be “the master” of mystic poetry, Attar is best known for ‘The Conference of the Birds’, a magnificent allegorical tale about the soul’s search for meaning. He recounts the perilous journey of the world’s birds to the faraway peaks of Mount Qaf in search of the mysterious Simorgh, their king. Attar’s beguiling anecdotes and humor intermingle the sublime with the mundane, the spiritual with the worldly, while his poem models the soul’s escape from the mind’s rational embrace.

At the age of 78, Attar died a violent death in the massacre which the Mongols inflicted on Nishapur in April 1221. Today, his mausoleum is located in Nishapur. It was built by Ali-Shir Nava’i in the 16th century.

Every year, a number of literati and scholars gathered at the mausoleum of the Persian poet Attar of Nishapur to mark Attar National



Day, which was on April 13.

Here are some lines from his poem “The Conference of the Birds”, translated by Sholeh Wolpé:

The home we seek is in eternity;
The Truth we seek is like a shoreless sea,
Of which your paradise is but a drop.
This ocean can be yours; why should you stop
Beguiled by dreams of evanescent dew?
The secrets of the sun are yours, but you
Content yourself with motes trapped in its beams.
Turn to what truly lives, reject what seems --
Which matters more, the body or the soul?
Be whole: desire and journey to the Whole.

Cleveland Festival Awards Iranian Flick

TEHRAN -- Iran’s animated short flick ‘It’s a Gray, Gray World!’ has been awarded at the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF), an Oscar-qualifying festival, in the U.S.

The Iranian Youth Cinema Society reported that ‘It’s a Gray, Gray World!’ won the Best Animated Short Award at the 47th edition of the CIFF.

Directed by Sayyed-Mohsen Pourmohseni-Shakib, the film is about a colorful young man who lives in a completely gray world.



“He is forced to change his color in order to live in that society, but his real identity scares people as it has been accidentally revealed by a playful boy,” the film’s synopsis reads.

The Cleveland International Film Festival is “a leader in helping the world discover the power of the film arts to educate, entertain, and celebrate an inclusive human experience”, the website of the event reads.

The CIFF47 announced its winners earlier this month.

‘Mom Shokouh House’ Competes at Moscow Festival

TEHRAN – The documentary “Mom Shokouh House” directed by Mehdi Bakshi Moghadam made it to the Documentary Film Competition of the Moscow Festival.

The long-form documentary “Mom Shokouh House” directed by Mehdi Bakshi Moghadam is the story of a woman who spends days after quitting addiction in a common space.

The film has entered the Documentary Film Competition of the 45th Moscow International Film Festival in Russia which is slated to be held on 20-27 April.

“Mom Shokouh House” was screened at the 16th “Cinema Haqiqat” festival, at the end of which, the special prize of the jury was awarded to Mehdi Bakshi Moghadam and Mehdi Shamuhammadi (producer).

The film also received the award for best voice acting (Muhammad Hussein Ebrahimi).

Last year, two Iranian documentaries “Rain and Bullet” (out of competition) and “Eighteen Thousand Feet” were also screened in the Documentary Film Competition of the Moscow Film Festival.

Picture of the Day



On the eve of the International Quds Day, a new mural has been unveiled on the Revolution Square of Tehran, promising the imminent liberation of Quds.

Photo by IRNA