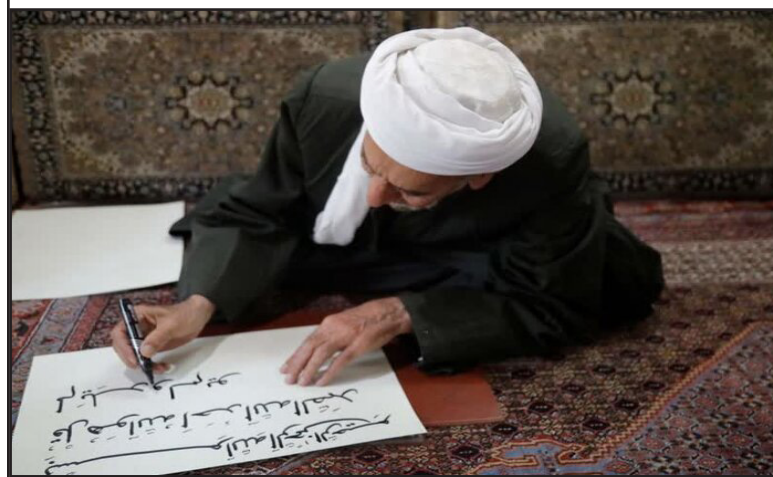


Qur'an Calligraphy Event Held to Protest Desecration



TEHRAN – A group of masters and students of calligraphy in Iran have written the text of the Qur'an to protest against the desecration of the holy Muslim book that took place in Sweden on June 29. The calligraphers gathered in a mosque in western Iranian province of Kordestan to write the holy Qur'an in various styles of Persian calligraphy including Nastaliq, Naskh and Thulth, a

provincial cultural official told reporters on Wednesday. Afshin Azadi described the participation of the calligraphers in such a cultural campaign as a move to help foil plots against the World of Islam. A Swedish extremist burned pages of the holy Qur'an in front of the eyes of about two hundred Muslims in Stockholm on June 29.

FAO Designates Fig Orchards as Heritage System



TEHRAN – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has formally designated a unique rainfed fig-growing region in Iran as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS), along with two other sites in Asia.

During a meeting of the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group held in Valencia, Spain from July 4-7, the UN agency recognized the Estahban Rainfed Fig Orchards Heritage System in Iran's southern Fars province as a new GIAHS site in Asia.

The other two designated sites include an area near Tokyo known for its use of fallen leaves as compost for agriculture, and a system in western Japan that practices unique genetic preservation methods for breeding beef cattle.

GIAHS recognizes notable land use systems and landscapes full of life and biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, and valuable cultural heritages managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people.

The UN agency further underlined the importance of Asia's centuries-old agricultural practices in feeding the world's growing population and combating climate change and biodiversity loss.

Under the flagship program of FAO, the selection criteria stipulate that sites must be of global importance, have value as a public good, supporting food and livelihood security, agro-biodi-

versity, sustainable knowledge systems and practices, social values and culture as well as outstanding landscapes.

Recognizing these sites also spurs communities to continue sustainably managing these jewels of biodiversity and tradition.

The Estahban Rainfed Fig Orchards Heritage System in Iran is one of the world's most important areas for rainfed fig production.

The communities living in this mountainous part of the country have been cultivating unique fig gardens for at least 250 years, using precious and ancient varieties of fruit.

With the latest additions to the global agricultural heritage systems list, FAO's worldwide agricultural heritage network now consists of 77 systems in 24 countries around the globe.

The program held a major event in May to award certificates to the most recently designated sites and use immersive experiences to celebrate the diversity of GIAHS systems worldwide.

The two Iranian sites of the Qanat-based Saffron Farming System in Gonabad and the Grape Production System in Jowzan Valley in the provinces of Khorasan Razavi and Hamadan were granted GIAHS awards in the event.

The Qanat Irrigated System of Kashan, Isfahan province, was also designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in 2014.

Havva Festival Celebrates Women, Family

TEHRAN -- The inaugural Havva International Film Festival, dedicated to women and the institution of family, is currently in full swing, presenting a captivating lineup of feature films, short films, and documentaries at Tehran's Farhang Cinema.

The event, organized by the Goharshad International Foundation, is taking place not only in Tehran but also simultaneously across various provinces throughout the country.

Fatemeh Javahersaz, the director of the festival's International Section, shared an exciting update from the festival's news headquarters. Despite time constraints, the festival has received an impressive number of submissions—approximately 300 films spanning the genres of feature films, documentaries, and short films—from numerous countries around the world.

Highlighting the festival's international reach, two esteemed guests from China grace the occasion. Li Zeqing, a highly regarded director and filmmaker, brings her expertise as a jury member for the documentary section.

Additionally, the festival hosts Jiang Wen, a prominent film producer from China, adding further depth to this prestigious gathering.

Both guests expressed their delight and anticipation to be part of this year's festival, emphasizing their enthusiasm for the celebration of women and family.

With inspiration drawn from the influential Women's Congress, the first Havva Interna-



tional Film Festival aims to fortify the cultural discourse surrounding the pivotal roles of women and family.

Under the resonant slogan "We Stand for the Family", the festival strives to create a platform for expanding the distribution and exhibition pathways for works centered on women and family, both in Iran and across the globe.

It seeks to foster a collective alliance among filmmakers who recognize the significance of family, while emphasizing the instrumental role of women within it.

The festival presents a rich selection of outstanding films, each exploring profound themes related to women and family, showcased in separate national and international sections. This diverse range of narratives promises an enriching cinematic experience for attendees.

Commencing on July 7th, the event will captivate audiences until July 14th, coinciding with Iran's national observance of "Family Day".

This alignment with the country's calendar further underscores the festival's significance and resonance within the local context.

First Group of Iranian Tourists to Visit Egypt

TEHRAN – The Egyptian minister of tourism and antiquities says 25 Iranian tourists will travel the Arab country soon through Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport.

Ahmed Issa said hotel bookings have been carried out for the group.

"The destination of the Iranian tourists will be the southern coasts of Sinai, Nubia and Taba," he said adding that a delegation from the Egyptian Tourism Organization will welcome them.



Regarding measures taken to resume relations between Iran and Egypt, Haitham bin Tariq, the Sultan of Oman, made separate trips to the two countries. The trips were mainly considered as an attempt to mediate between the two countries.

Many West Asian leaders have decided to reduce tensions and engage in dialogue to resolve their disputes, and the rapprochement of Cairo and Tehran is an important step in this direction.

Italian Festival Awards Three Iranian Films

TEHRAN – Iranian short films "A Butterfly is Knocking on the Window", "The Melody of Loneliness", and "They" were awarded at Tracce Cinematografiche Film Festival in Italy.

Directed by Seyyed Morteza Sabz-Qaba, the short film "They" received a special award of the Mediterranean section of the festival.

The short film depicts the story of a group of people who leave Dezful city, southwest, Iran, with a heavy heart, to go to their families. They haven't been too far since the city starts getting bombed with warplanes.

The Iranian short film had previously won the honorary diploma and the third-best movie award at the 4th edition of 'Three Acts of Goodness Micro Film Festival' in Taiwan.

"The Melody of Loneliness" by Samira Azimian won the best animation award, while "A Butterfly is Knocking on the Window" by Muhammad Hassani was named the best social film.

The 12th edition of the Tracce Cinematografiche Film Fest was held in Rome on July 4-9.

Russia, Iran to Hold Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Culture Muhammad Mehdi Esmaili said Wednesday a film festival is to be held as part of an agreement between Iran and Russia.

Esmaili told reporters on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting that the Caspian International

Film Festival will be held soon.

According to agreements between Iran and Russia, cultural centers in Tehran, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and some other Iranian cities will host festivals as part of the two countries' efforts to broaden cultural cooperation.

Last year, an Iranian animation was screened in Russia, Ismaili said, adding that the animation sold about \$2.5 million.

He expressed hope that Iranian cinematic works would be screened in Russia according to agreements between the two countries.

Picture of the Day



More than 30,000 flamingos have landed in the satellite wetlands of Lake Urmia National Park, such as Sayran Goli, Sulduz and Kani Brazan wetlands.

Photo by IRNA