

Iranian Surgeons Treat Fetal Disease Inside Mother's Womb



TEHRAN -- Iran's distinguished surgeons have for the first time in the West Asia region succeeded in treating a rare fetal disease inside the mother's womb.

The complex surgery was conducted at Imam Khomeini Hospital in the capital Tehran to correct a type of arteriovenous malformation in the fetal brain, which, if left untreated, would have caused dangerous problems for the fetus and after the birth, Press TV reported.

The fetus, as the surgeons said, was suffering from a type of swelling that was putting pressure on the blood vessels in the brain. "The goal of this operation is to treat the blood vessels in the fetal brain to mitigate

its possible complications," said Dr. Sedigheh Borna, a gynecologist.

The operation had successfully been performed for the first time in the United States under the supervision of Dr. Alireza Shamshir Saz, a prominent Iranian physician and head of the embryology department at Massachusetts General Hospital. Recently, he shared his experience with Imam Khomeini Hospital in Iran.

The professor at Harvard University said the new method uses ultrasound waves to treat "Galen vein" problems in fetuses, which, if left untreated, can lead to bleeding, stroke, or heart failure.

Fajr Festival Announces Iran Cinema Competition Lineup

TEHRAN -- The director of the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival on Thursday announced the line-up for the Iranian Cinema Competition section of the most significant cinematic event in Iran.

In a ceremony, Manouchehr Shahsavari named the 33 Iranian films curated for this section and thanked the selection committee for reviewing 92 submissions before making this selection.

A total of 13 films are directorial debuts, and a separate section was created for Iranian animated films due to their quantity and quality.

Below is the list of the 33 selected films and their directors, as well as the four animated films chosen for a special category in this section.

- '1968' directed by Amirmehdi Pourvaziri
- 'Pregnant' directed by Mostafa Tanabandeh and Muhammad Tanabandeh.
- 'Antique' directed by Hadi Naeiji
- 'March' directed by Danesh Egbashavi
- 'Tears of the Lagoon' directed by Mehdi Jafari
- 'Bloody Game' directed by Hussein Mirzamuhammadi
- 'End the Game' directed by Muhammad Ebrahim Azizi
- 'The People's Child' directed by Mahmoud Karimi
- 'Peshmerga' directed by Ali Ghaffari
- 'Taxidermy' directed by Muhammad Paydar
- 'Deep Crack' directed by Arman Zarrinkoub
- 'Almond Eyes' directed by Ebrahim Amini
- 'Khati' directed by Fereydoun Najafi
- 'God of War' directed by Hussein Darabi
- 'Justice' directed by Abolfazl Jalili
- 'All Alone' directed by Amir Hussein Saghafi
- 'Free' directed by Hesam Farahmand
- 'A Time in Eternity' directed by Mehdi Nozouzian
- 'Call Me Ziba' directed by Rasoul Sa-



- dr-Ameli
- 'Endless' directed by Reza Jamali
- 'King of Roles (Supporting Cast)' directed by Shahed Ahmadloo
- 'North by Southwest' directed by Hamid Zargarnejad
- 'Setareh's Husband' directed by Ebrahim Irajzad
- 'Hundred Traps' directed by Pedram Pouramiri
- 'The Hunter' directed by Javad Afshar
- 'The Cry' directed by Muhammad Reza Ardalan
- 'Closure' directed by Soheil Movaffagh
- 'Highway Deer' directed by Abolfazl Saffari
- 'Louli' directed by Reza Farahmand
- 'Maria' directed by Mehdi Asghari Azghadi
- 'The Calm Man' directed by Behnoush Sa-

deghi
'Prophet Moses' directed by Ebrahim Hata-mikia

'The Catcher in the Rye' directed by Muhammad Reza Kheradmandan

And the four animated films selected for a special competition category:

'Legend of Sepehr' directed by Emad Rahmani and Mehrdad Mehrabi

'Dolphin Boy 2' directed by Muhammad Kheirandish

'Zal and Roudabeh' directed by Muhammad Ali Sajjadi

'Juliet and the King' directed by Ashkan Rahgozar

Held in the Iranian capital city of Tehran and some other Iranian provinces, the Fajr International Film Festival pays tribute to quality national and international films.

It is an event that celebrates cultural exchange, displays the creative achievements of highly acclaimed cineastes and newcomers, and showcases films promoting artistic contribution to the medium.

Moreover, the festival pays special attention to films that seek justice and highlight humane and moral values.

Founded in 1982, the Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF) is Iran's largest annual film festival held in Tehran.

Since its establishment, the event has played a vital role in the development of Iranian Cinema.

Every year, veteran directors and new filmmakers devotedly present their works in the festival.

Over the years, Fajr has been honored by numerous significant film figures who have also worked closely with the festival as respectable jury members.

The latest edition of the festival is held in February 2025.

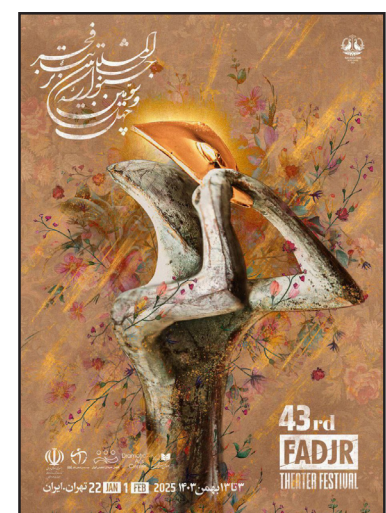
Official Poster of Fajr Theater Festival Released

TEHRAN -- The official poster for the 43rd Fajr International Theater Festival (FITF) has been unveiled during a meeting of the festival's policy council.

The event took place in the presence of council members, Nadereh Rezaee, the deputy minister for artistic affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Atabak Naderi, head of the general directorate of dramatic arts, Kheirollah Taghiyanipour, the festival's director, and several artists.

During the session, Rezaee highlighted the significance of theater veteran figures participating in the council, noting the limited time available for major changes but expressing hope for gradual improvements. "This festival is for artists and the people, and it is the public who decides which figures they wish to celebrate," she said.

Rezaee emphasized the festival's commitment to progress and encouraged the adoption of innovative suggestions, adding, "I urge the theater community to share their experiences with younger generations to inspire hope, which is needed now more than ever."



She also outlined plans for hosting dialogue sessions on core issues facing the theater community as part of the festival's program. "We must empower the industry and establish professional systems where executive tasks are managed by the guild itself," Rezaee stated, reaffirming the ministry's dedication to strengthening the theater's structural foundation.

The 43rd Fajr International Theater Festival is a platform for creative expression and cultural dialogue. It celebrates the legacy of Iranian theater while fostering innovation and collaboration.

The event is scheduled to take place from January 22 to February 1, 2025.

'Mother of Siberian Cranes' Passes Away in Mazandaran

TEHRAN -- Ellen Vuosalo, a Finnish researcher affectionately known as the "Mother of Siberian Cranes," has passed away at 95 in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran.

She dedicated over five decades to studying migratory birds, particularly Siberian cranes.

Vuosalo, who lived in the provincial cities like Fereydunkenar, Babolsar, and Royan, was deeply integrated into the local communities.

A graduate of zoology from UCLA, the U.S., and with a master's degree in journalism, Vuosalo moved to Mazandaran after marrying her Iranian husband.

Her work primarily focused on observing the

western flock of Siberian cranes that migrated annually to Mazandaran.

Her efforts included extensive research in zoology, biotechnology, biochemistry, and raising local awareness against hunting.

Vuosalo's significant contributions made her a prominent figure in the field of migratory bird research in Iran.

She was honored at various environmental events, including the 2017 Iranian Bio-Breeders Symposium.

The last Siberian crane visited Mazandaran two years ago and did not return, marking the end of an era for Siberian cranes in the region.



Leopard, Two Cubs Sighted in Savadkuh

TEHRAN -- Stunning images have been captured of a mother leopard along with her two cubs in the heights of the Savadkuh non-hunting area, in northern Iran.

In the photos, the leopards are seen feeding on the carcass of a dog.

About four years ago, the same mother leopard was filmed with her three cubs in the same area, feeding on a wild goat, by ranger Ali Akbar Imani.

Officials say the images highlight the vibrancy of wildlife and the importance of protecting natural habitats in this region.

Picture of the Day



The Gilan Rural Heritage Museum is Iran's only open-air eco-museum built in the forest park of Saravan. Photo by Mehr News