

Judges for Int'l Qur'an Competition in Mashhad Named



TEHRAN -- The organizers of Iran's 41st International Holy Qur'an Competition have announced members of the final round's panel of judges.

In addition to Iranian Qur'an experts, ten judges from seven other countries will serve on the panel.

The final round will start in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad on January 26 and run until January 31.

In the preliminary stage, a total of 350 participants from 102 countries were evaluated by judges in five categories in the men and women sections.

Ultimately, 57 Qur'an reciters, memorizers, and Tarteel reciters from 27 countries advanced to the final stage.

In the final round, Zahra Sarihinejad from Iran will head the panel of judges in the women section.

Members of the panel are Marziyeh Dayyani, Hajar Heydari, Zahra Afkhami, Halleh Firouzi, and Nahid Soltani from Iran as well as

Joziyana Elitama from Lebanon, Halimah al-Saadiyah from Indonesia, Maryam Shadab from Afghanistan, Nur Nizam Najmeddin from Iraq and Badriyah al-Abduli from Kuwait.

The chairman of the panel of judges in the men section is Ali Sarabi and the members are Hamid Reza Mostafid, Behruz Yarigol, Hamid Derayati, Ali Akbar Kazemi, Hashem Roghani, Mutaz Aghaei, Mehdi Hassani and Ahmad Moqimi from Iran, Muhammad Ali Juwin from Egypt, Maytham al-Rikabi from Iraq, Talal Mismar from Lebanon, Mobin Shahramzi from Afghanistan, and Abdul Fattah al-Kabsi from Yemen.

The International Holy Qur'an Competition of the Islamic Republic of Iran is organized annually by the country's Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization.

It aims to promote the Qur'anic culture and values among Muslims and showcase the talents of Qur'an reciters and memorizers.

New Iranian TV Series in Production



TEHRAN -- Filming has kicked off for 'Bright Night', a series dedicated to the sacred Laylat al-Qadr nights (night of decree).

Produced by Hamid Ansari and directed by Seyyed-Jamal Seyyed-Hatami, the series features notable actors Farhad Qaemian and Alireza Jafari.

A product of the Simafilm Center, 'Bright Night' is written by Sajjad Abolhassani.

The story follows Habib, whose reputation and livelihood are deeply tied to his daughter, Somayyeh. However, Somayyeh's actions push both herself and her father toward a precarious situation.

Filming is underway in north of Iran, with additional cast and crew details to be announced later.

The upcoming TV series 'Engineering Operation' is set to explore a critical chapter in Iran's history.

Written by Hussein Torabnejad, the series delves into the tense confrontations between the IRGC intelligence team and the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization during the 1980s.

The series is produced by Muhammad-Reza Shafiee and directed by Soroush Muhammadzadeh.

Yusef Teimouri, Maryam Saadat, Khayyam Kashani and Sareh Rashidi make the main cast of the series.

Acclaimed director Ahmad Moazzami, known for his expertise in security and police-themed productions, ventures into a new historical drama with 'Gate to Paradise'.

This series narrates a story set shortly before the events of Ashura.

Produced by Muhammad Mesripour and written by Somayyeh Tajik and Hamid Rasoulpour, 'Gate to Paradise' is a fresh perspective on historical narratives.

Qom to Host Conference on Centers of Islamic Studies

TEHRAN -- The International Conference of Directors of Educational and Research Centers in Islamic Studies will be held on January 26-27 at Qom University.

The event is organized collaboratively by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) and Qom University.

The conference will host 33 international participants, including presidents and department heads from universities and institutions specializing in Islamic studies across 13 countries. Delegates from Iraq, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Senegal, Tanzania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, and Russia will join over 30 representatives from Iranian universities to explore collaborative opportunities in Islamic education and research.

Over two days, attendees will participate in specialized panels focusing on potential partnerships in various fields of Islamic studies.

Topics to be discussed include jurisprudence and theology, philosophy, Islamic mysticism, comparative theology, religions and sects, Islamic governance,



Islamic law and economics, as well as Islamic lifestyle and family studies.

The conference aims to foster academic dialogue and exchange, with participants sharing their experiences and achievements in Islamic studies. It also seeks to establish an international consortium for scientific and academic cooperation in Islamic studies, alongside the launch of a permanent secretariat for the conference.

Additional activities include visits to prominent institutions, such as the Noon Center, the Ayatollah Marashi Najafi Library, and other academic centers. Participants will also meet with prominent Islamic scholar Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli.

As part of the lead-up to the event, a press conference under the theme "Islamic Education as a Driver of Civilization" will be held on January 23.

Simurgh Nameh Platform on Iranian Art Launched

TEHRAN - Simurgh Nameh, a newly developed online platform, is set to be a brief reference for researchers and enthusiasts of the Iranian arts and culture.

The Tehran-based platform is named after the mythical Simurgh, a benevolent, giant bird in Persian mythology, symbolizing the idea of unity and transcendence, Mehr news agency reported.

Much like the Simurgh, which is believed to carry immense power and wisdom,



Simurgh Nameh aspires to bring together the fragmented

pieces of Iran's rich cultural history and reconnect them

through an interconnected web of knowledge.

According to its website, the platform's mission is to gather and present the scattered cultural and artistic works of Greater Iran. Its offerings span museums, libraries, and private collections worldwide being represented in a unified digital archive. It aims to provide researchers, art enthusiasts, and the wider public with access to these invaluable artifacts in a comprehensive and organized virtual space.

'Dolphin Boy 2' to Debut at Fajr Film Festival

TEHRAN -- The final version of the animated movie 'Dolphin Boy 2', produced by Muhammad-Amin Hamadani and directed by Muhammad Kheirandish, is set to make its debut at the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF).

According to the project's public relations team, the sequel comes two years after the successful release of the first installment in the 'Dolphin Boy' animated series.

Despite the global acclaim and extensive international screenings of the original movie, 'Dolphin Boy 2' will have its first-ever public screening at the FIFF.

The animation recently completed its technical production phase.

Voice actors for the sequel include Nahid Amirian, Hamed Azizi, Maryam Joleini, Sorayya Qassemi, Sharareh Hazrati, Arsalan Joulace, George Petrosi, and Touraj Nasr.

'Dolphin Boy' was screened in 30 countries, including Canada, Russia, Turkey, Spain, the U.S.,

Italy, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and Germany.

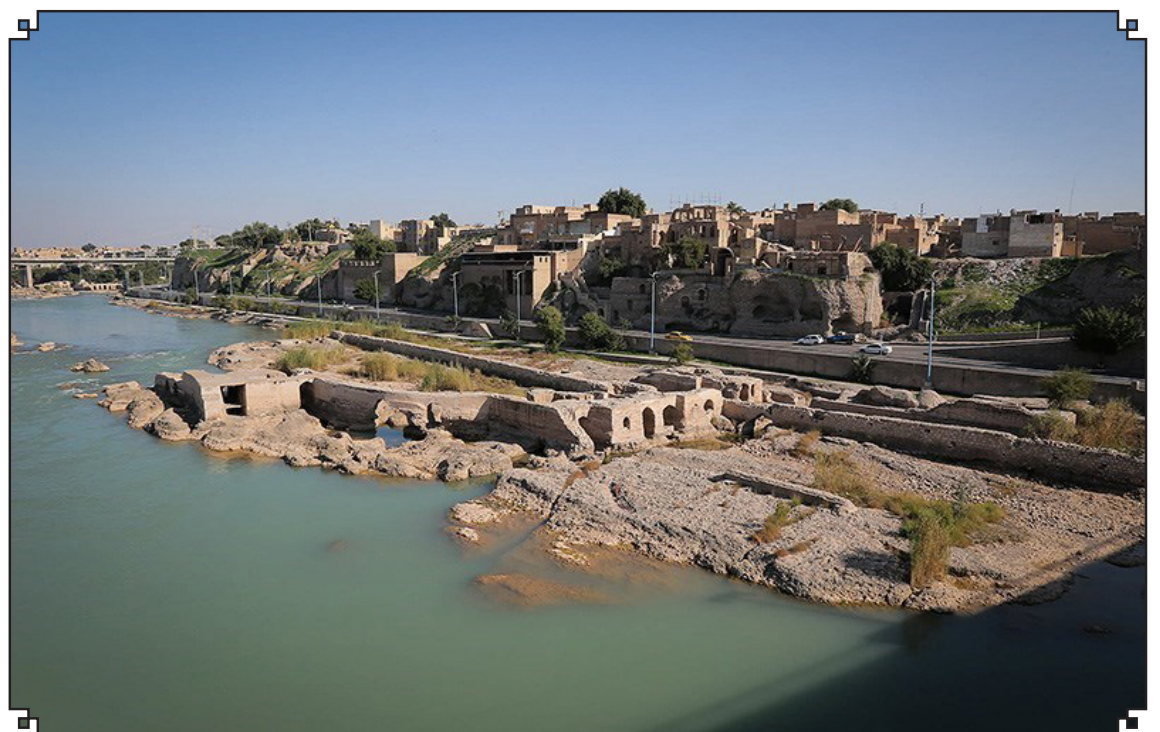
Additionally, it gained a wider audience through streaming

platforms such as Netflix, Apple TV, and Amazon Prime Video.

'Dolphin Boy 2' will be screened on the sixth day of the

Fajr Film Festival, Wednesday, February 5, during the second evening slot at the Milad Tower's Media Hall.

Picture of the Day



Dezful is one of the oldest cities of Iran's Khuzestan province, dating back to several thousand years ago.

Photo by Tasnim