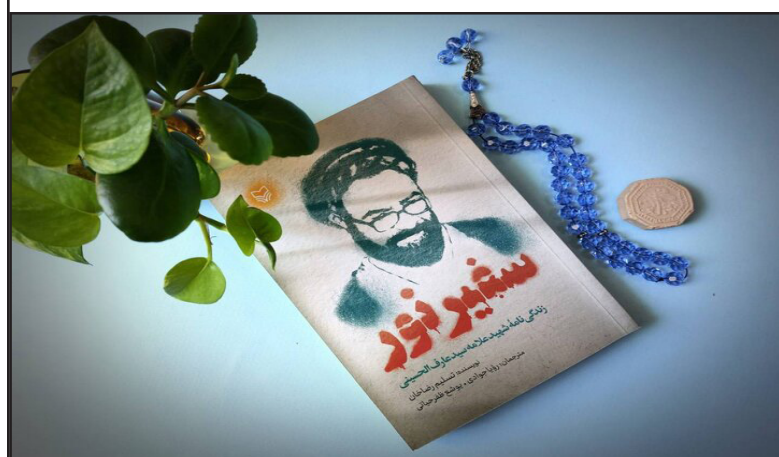


Book on Pakistani Scholar Released in Persian



TEHRAN -- A book titled "Safer E Noor" by Tasleem Reza Khan and translated from Urdu into Farsi has been released in Iran in a bid to shed light on the life and endeavors of the Pakistani figure Syed Arif Hussain al Hussaini.

The book "Safer E Noor" meaning "The Ambassador of Light" published by Surah Meher Publications, spans 428 pages and explores the biography of Shahid Allameh Syed Arif Hussain al-Husseini.

In two chapters, the book explores a Pakistani Shia cleric and leader of the Jafariya movement.

In 1967, Arif al-Husseini attended Najaf Ashraf University for religious studies during Imam Khomeini's exile in Iraq, when the Baath Party held power.

In Najaf, he met Imam Khomeini, embraced his ideas, and became both a disciple and a soldier, admiring his jurisprudential, moral, mystical, and political qualities.

Guests Pay Tribute to Fajr Music Festival

TEHRAN -- Amano Manish, an Indian slide guitar player, who traveled to Iran to take part in the 40th Fajr International Music Festival, has hailed the centuries-old cultural exchanges between Iran and India, saying it encompasses not only arts and culture but also goods and food.

According to the public relations office of the festival, Manish, who has visited Iran four times, described the festival atmosphere as "excellent."

He emphasized the importance of such cultural events in fostering understanding and eliminating misconceptions between cultures.

The musical artist pointed out Indian music has been influenced by Persian music, and that many Indian poets have written in Persian, adding Iranian poets like Saib Tabrizi have also lived in India for years.

Manish who is on the Ava-ye Zamin ensemble, led by Iranian musician Vahid Ayrarian, featured Indian tabla player Pavann Nayak and vocalist Pavan Naik, and blending Iranian and Indian musical traditions.

The performance was part of the festival's mission to promote cross-cultural dialogue.



Manish has previously collaborated with Iranian artists, including Rouzbeh Nemattollahi. He praised the festival for its international flavor, bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds to showcase their traditions.

Meanwhile, Spain's Ambassador to Iran Antonio Gaspar has expressed his delight at the inclusion of renowned flamenco guitarist Daniel Casares in the 40th Fajr International Music Festival.

Casares, a native of Malaga, performed a solo flamenco guitar recital, showcasing a solo of Spain's most challenging musical

traditions, according to the Public Relations Office of the 40th Fajr International Music Festival.

"I've known Daniel since he won his first award at 16. His solo performances are exceptional, and I congratulate the festival organizers for inviting him. He is an excellent representative of Spanish flamenco music," Gaspar said.

He voiced hope that Casares' visit to Iran will not be his last, noting the guitarist's regret at having to leave so soon.

Gaspar, who attended the performance with his family, praised the festival's atmosphere and the Iranian audience's appreciation for Spanish music.

"I was surprised by how many Iranians spoke Spanish and enjoyed the performance. Music transcends language and brings cultures closer together," he remarked.

The ambassador also expressed his admiration for Iran's rich and diverse musical traditions, stating, "Iran is a vast and culturally rich country. I hope to contribute to introducing this heritage to Spain during my time here."

Tehran Museum to Exhibit Over 60 Picasso Works in March

TEHRAN -- A special exhibition featuring over 60 works by Pablo Picasso from various stages of his career will open in Tehran in early March.

According to the public relations office of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, the exhibition will include 26 aquatint pieces from the Tauromachia collection, or The Art of Bullfighting, which have never before been displayed in Iran.

The Tauromachia collection is a significant artistic portfolio consisting of 26 aquatint prints, created in an edition of 261, and is housed in major museums worldwide, including New York's Museum of Modern Art, MoMA.

The exhibition is being organized with the cooperation and approval of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, as well as the Niavaran Palace Museum.

collection is worth as much as \$3 billion.

Only a small portion of the work has been exhibited since 1979 but in recent years, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has been showcasing some of its most captivating pieces.

The Eye to Eye exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened in October 2024, was extended twice due to overwhelming public demand, running until January 2025.

The display was widely regarded as one of the most significant exhibitions in the history of the museum, and it also became its most visited.

The showcase featured more than 15 works unveiled for the first time, including a sculpture by Jean Dubuffet - marking its first-ever appearance in an Iranian exhibition.

From abstract expressionism to pop

Artists Bid Farewell to Legendary Voice Actor Valizadeh



TEHRAN -- The Iranian art community gathered on Friday at the House of Artists here to bid farewell to the late Manouchehr Valizadeh, a legendary voice actor and dubbing artist who passed away on Wednesday.

The somber ceremony, held under rainy skies, was attended by prominent figures from Iran's cinema and dubbing industry.

Valizadeh, whose professional career spanned over six decades, was celebrated for his iconic voice that brought to life countless international and domestic films and series.

He began his journey in 1961 with the film Khoda Dad and became a household name, lending his voice to stars like Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks, and Eddie Murphy.

His work in dubbing, theater, and radio left an indelible mark on generations of Iranians.

Mahnaz Ghanbari, a fellow voice actor, opened the ceremony, praising Valizadeh's unparalleled talent and dedication.

Other speakers, including Ali

Dehkordi and Manouchehr Zendeheh, highlighted Valizadeh's contributions to Iran's cultural landscape, calling him a "symbol of love and excellence in dubbing."

Valizadeh's nephew, Khosrow Valizadeh, spoke on behalf of the family, describing him as a man who cherished life, family, and his work.

The ceremony concluded with a funeral prayer, after which Valizadeh's body was taken to Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery, south of Tehran, for burial.

Resistance Festival Seeks to Break Media Blackout on Gaza

TEHRAN -- The secretary general of the 18th Resistance Int'l Film Festival (RIFF), Jalal Ghaffari, has strongly condemned the silence of international film festivals on the atrocities committed in Gaza.

Speaking during a meeting with media activists from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and Armenia, Ghaffari highlighted that over 500 films centered on resistance were submitted to the festival's 18th edition.

Ghaffari emphasized that the festival remains the only global cinematic event dedicated to supporting the oppressed.

"Our goal is to be a global voice for the oppressed. Cinema is the most important cultural tool for conveying messages to the world, but unfortunately, colonial powers have exploited the film industry to serve their inhumane goals."

Addressing the ongoing war in Gaza, Ghaffari pointed out that more than 50,000 women, children, and innocent civilians have been killed, yet international film festivals remain silent.

The Resistance Film Festival, he said, received over 500 international films depicting Gaza's struggle and resistance.

Ghaffari also criticized the use of cinema as a means to distort reality, accusing some regimes of using films

to polish their image and portray themselves as victims.

He said the Resistance Film Festival seeks to break this media blackout and provide a platform to expose the suffering of the oppressed.

Ghaffari expressed hope for a future based on justice and humanity.

"Certainly, the world of tomorrow will be more just and merciful, and we hope to be part of this noble human society," he said.

Esfaril Kaliji, an official from the festival's International Committee, said the concept of resistance is one of the highest human values and should have a strong presence in global cinema.

He criticized the hegemonic forces controlling the film industry, stating:

"The cinema of resistance stands firmly against this system and seeks to break its monopoly on the global cultural scene."

Calling on independent media professionals to support resistance cinema, Kaliji urged them to stand on the right side of history and help amplify the voices of the oppressed.

The Resistance International Film Festival positions itself as a cultural front against global media control, aiming to challenge the narrative imposed by dominant powers and provide a platform for free and independent media to reveal the truth.



The collection includes Jackson Pollock's Mural on Indian Red Ground.

It is a collaborative effort between various Tehran museums and will be held in the galleries of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

The museum, with the participation of art specialists, researchers, and documentary experts, is preparing this exhibition as part of its cultural programming for the upcoming Persian New Year celebrations.

For decades, masterpieces by the likes of Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock have been kept in the basement of a museum in Iran's capital Tehran.

It has been dubbed one of the world's rarest treasure troves of art but few people outside its host country know about it.

According to estimates in 2018, the

art, the collection at the museum serves as a time capsule of pivotal artistic movements.

The collection includes Henry's Moore's Reclining Figure series - an iconic piece by one of Britain's most celebrated sculptors - and Jackson Pollock's Mural on Indian Red Ground, a vibrant example of the American's painting technique pulsing with energy and emotion.

Picasso's The Painter and His Model - his largest canvas from 1927 - also features, a strong example of his abstract works from the post-cubism period.

And there is Van Gogh's At Eternity's Gate - one of the very rare survivals of his first printmaking campaign during which he produced six lithographs in November 1882.

Photo Exhibition Displays Palestinian Refugees

TEHRAN -- The exhibition, titled "Keys That Are Older Than Israel," is being held at the Palestinian Contemporary Arts Museum here.

According to one of the event organizers, the photos on display are accompanied by narratives that already resonated deeply with international visitors.

The exhibition's photographer, Vahab Ramzi, traveled to four Palestinian refugee camps in Palestine to capture images of the people living there.

The title of the exhibition itself underscores the fact that Palestinian history cannot be erased. The displayed keys in the exhibition symbolize a connection to a past that predates the establishment of the Zionist regime.

Picture of the Day



The economic benefits of banana cultivation have prompted some greenhouses in Isfahan province to cultivate the popular fruit.

Photo by Mizan Online