

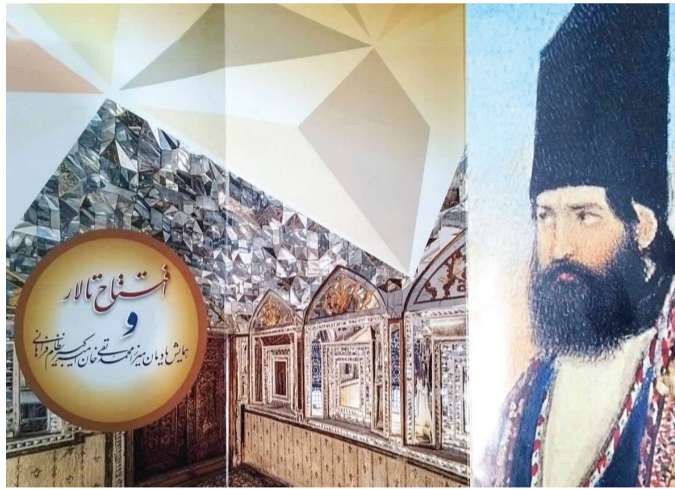
Iranian film 'Wood' to compete at Russian festival

The short documentary film 'Wood,' helmed by Morteza Payehshenas, has been chosen as a competitor in the ninth edition of the LAMPA Film Festival in Perm, Russia. The festival is scheduled to run from October 3rd to 8th.

Golestan Palace hosting Amir Kabir Memorial Hall



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Iranica Desk

Golestan Palace in Tehran, the historical residence of the Qajar dynasty, was established during the rule of Shah Abbas Safavid (1571-1629 CE). The government citadel, registered on UNESCO's List in 2013, was in use for 130 years during the rule of the Qajar dynasty. Mirza Taqi Khan Farahani, better known as Amir Kabir, was Nasereddin Shah's prime minister, and one of the most prominent figures of the Qajar dynasty.

He published Iran's second newspaper and made extensive efforts to make a change in the way of governance and adapt it to the conditions of the times. The Amir Kabir Memorial Hall was inaugurated in the Talar-e Almas (Diamond Hall) of Golestan Palace in May, following a three-day conference held to commemorate this outstanding figure. The hall is located in the southern section of Golestan Palace, next to the wind tower building. It is called Diamond Hall because of the exceptional

mirror works which resemble diamonds. Afarin Emami, head of Golestan Palace's World Heritage Site, said that based on the strategies adopted by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, museums should not be just a place to display cultural and historical objects anymore. "Efforts should be made to convey to visitors the stories behind the artifacts and increase their knowledge about them," she said. She said that studies conducted on various sections

of the palace indicate that no perfect place is available for narrating the tales of the Qajar period. Thus, setting up a museum for the purpose is seen as a necessity. Emami noted that the establishment of a museum is no easy task; it requires a set of actions. "We decided to create a museum that deals with the cultural, political, social and artistic aspects of the Qajar period," she said. "However, since it is a time-consuming process, requiring a comprehensive

work plan and an adequate budget, we selected Almas Hall to serve as a pre-museum for the purpose, and named it after Amir Kabir." Before the main museum is launched, various events will be held in the hall. Emami observed that Almas Hall is among the oldest sections of Golestan Palace, which was used during the tenure of Amir Kabir and the nearest one to his office. The stucco and mirror works of Almas Hall, which is to keep its original name, were restored

during a renovation project to prepare it for hosting the museum. Some antiques, which were previously collected and displayed in Almas Hall, were transferred to other parts of the palace to make it an exclusive place for an Amir Kabir memorial. Emami noted, "A number of scholars, university professors and history experts participated in the three-day conference held on the occasion of the opening of the memorial hall. The results of their research will

help us complete the museum in the near future." In addition to the photos of some documents, a page from a book entitled, 'One Thousand and One Nights,' is among the most important objects showcased in the hall. In this book, which is not directly related to the Qajar period, Sani al-Molk, an Iranian painter, book illustrator, miniature and lacquer artist, has used the images of the famous characters of the Qajar era, including Amir Kabir and Nasereddin Shah.

Isfahan's historical, cultural heritage require global registration

Arts & Culture Desk

Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department head emphasized the critical need for global registration of Isfahan's historical and cultural heritage. Highlighting the significance of Isfahan's historical fabric, he stressed that it is the core identity of Iran's oldest city in its modern form. However, attention has predominantly been given to preserving a limited number of historical sites, such as Chehel Sotun and Imam Square. During a recent ceremony called 'Paternal Heritage,' which honored investors and revitalizers of Isfahan's historical structures and buildings, Alireza Izadi made remarks praising the city's uniqueness. He expressed admiration for other Iranian cities like Yazd, Shiraz, and Hamedan, but firmly stated that Isfahan stands out, with its exceptionally beautiful and outstanding fabric. Isfahan possesses a distinct artistic quality evident in its struc-



tures and monuments.

The provincial official emphasized the philanthropic nature of investors in revitalizing the historical fabric, as they sacrifice their time and efforts to preserve their homeland's cultural and historical values. However, he questioned the absence of funding for the restoration and revival of integral parts of Isfahan's identity, such as the Imam Mosque, Jame' Mosque, and Ibn Sina School. He noted that although some historical sites were previously restored by philanthropists, insufficient education and an economic perspective have

deterred today's philanthropists from undertaking such endeavors. Izadi drew attention to the negative impact of road construction in rural areas, leading to the migration of rural residents to cities and urban sprawl. This phenomenon has resulted in the loss of the former charm and uniqueness of villages. He criticized the prioritization of economic development over cultural cultivation, leading to the neglect of culture and its transformation into a mere commodity. By allowing access to historical fabrics and valuable structures without fostering a proper understanding, ignorance

has inadvertently spread among the new generations. He pointed out that the mention of "culture" is now commonplace in every neighborhood and district when discussing Isfahan's achievements and historical background. However, without acknowledging the grandeur and intricate historical details comprising the city's urban fabric, this word holds no true meaning or significance. Izadi stressed that the current generation is responsible for safeguarding this paternal heritage and must exert efforts to preserve and protect it. He emphasized that Isfahan's integrated fabric, being the sole historically valuable fabric, should serve as the primary model for sustainable cultural development. As narrators of this grand historical city's identity, it is our duty to transmit its history and heritage to future generations. Only through awareness of this legacy can our children defend their own identity.

23 countries set to partake in first Havva Int'l Film Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

The secretariat of the first Havva International Film Festival received submissions from 23 countries. In total, 350 films have been submitted to the international section of the event, including feature films, documentaries, and short films from the fol-

lowing countries: Italy, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Belgium, China, Taiwan, Lebanon, India, Argentina, Turkey, Syria, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Denmark, Hungary, Armenia, Lithuania, Austria, Spain, Tajikistan, and others. Furthermore, the international guests include a group of filmmakers, producers, and cultural and artistic figures from 14 countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Armenia, Iraq, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, China, Mongolia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, and India, who will participate in the film event. Organized by the Go-harshad International Foundation and led by Mahdieh Sadaat-Mehvar, the event will be held from July 7 to 14 at the national level and from July 11 to 14 in Tehran this year. This event focuses on the themes of women and family and collaborates with various cultural centers and organizations in pursuing its activities.