

Ashura Exhibit Opens Friday

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--The first major exhibition featuring culture of Ashura will open here at the Tehran International Fairground on Friday February 23 with the hoisting of a banner donated by Imam Hussein (AS)'s shrine in Karbala, Iraq.

Ashura is the tenth day of the lunar month of Muharram when the third Shiite Imam, Imam Hussein (AS) and 72 of his most loyal companions were martyred in the plains of Karbala, in present-day Iraq.

According to the Persian daily Iran, deputy head of Martyr Foundation for research and cultural communications affairs, Abbas Khamseh-Yar said, "We are trying to do away with innovations and distortions of the Ashura Movement through scientific, cultural and literary meth-

ods." The exhibit pursues three main objectives which include providing a better insight into Imam Hussein (AS) uprising to the young generation through modern and attractive ways, creating conditions for materializing the youth's artistic and literary talents on Ashura and eliminating the superstitious concepts about Ashura.

The exposition will be held in three sections of visual arts and film, performing arts and scientific and cultural.

Some 500 titles of books about Ashura, which were published between 1978 and 2006, will be put on sale in the event. The most significant section of the exhibit is to introduce the best literary works in the field of poetry and story, three of which will be awarded, said Khamseh-Yar. The exhibit will end on March 2.

Seminar to Review Imam's Thoughts

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--Second International Seminar on the founder of Islamic Revolution the late Imam Khomeini presided by the former president Seyyed Mohammad Khatami will be held here on May 30-31, Fars reported.

Deputy head of the Institute for Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works, Hamid Ansari, who was speaking at a press conference on the seminar, pointed to the undeniable role of Islamic Revolution in restoring identity to international communities and said such cases make it imperative to present an updated version of the thoughts of Imam Khomeini as the architect of the Revolution to enable those interested to make use of it.

Stating that much has been done to publicize Imam's ideas, he referred to the establishment of Imam

Khomeini Research Center and said that the entity will be upgraded to a university. It will conduct courses on political thought, history of Islam and contemporary history with a focus on Imam's thoughts.

Stating that some 20 seminars on Imam have been held since the establishment of the institute, Ansari said that in addition to the interaction between participants in the events, 90 books containing articles presented at the events have been published.

He further said that the upcoming seminar on Imam will deal with religion and human greatness in his thoughts.

The seminar also seeks to consolidate unity among Muslims, he noted, adding that the event will not pursue publicity; rather it will take a scientific view of Imam's ideas.

Int'l Symposium on Sculpture

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--First International Sculpture Symposium was inaugurated here in Chitgar Park Monday with the participation of 22 artists from around the world.

According to ISNA, the artists began creating their artworks Tuesday morning.

The 20-day event, which focuses on three pivots of science, art and spiritualism, was opened with a speech by the secretary of the event Mohammad Hossein Agharpor.

Citing the softening of urban

ambience and installing artworks by international artists as the objectives of the symposium, he said, "We will witness great works at the end of the event."

He added that the event helps promote cultural dialogue, which is more important than the other considerations.

After the secretary's speech, the participants introduced themselves and their undertaking and received plaques of honor and cash awards.

An artist from Poland, who called his sculpture 'Mankind and Bird',

referred to the most ancient human civilization of Iran and said that the bird is a symbol of eternal spirit and divine position.

Li Dong Liang, a sculptor from China, is participating in the symposium with 'Memory of Flight' sculpture.

Commenting on his work, he said that wing symbolizes flying towards human ideals.

Ali Jabbar Hussein, an artist from Iraq, is scheduled to create a yet unnamed, but dramatic artwork for Iran.



A farm in Minoodasht, Gorgan province, growing peanuts (Photo by Javad Arab-Ameri)

THEATER

Winter Light
Director: Saeed Shapouri
Time: 8 p.m.
Add: Sayeh Hall, City Theater, Enqelab St., Vali-e Asr Crossroad

Farewell to The Emperor
Director: Ali Pouyan
Time: 7 p.m.
Add: Chaharsou Hall, City Theater, Enqelab St., Vali-e Asr Crossroad

Backyard
Director: Chista Yasrebi
Time: 6 p.m.
Add: Sayeh Hall, City Theater, Enqelab St., Vali-e Asr Crossroad

INFORMATION

Prayer Timings
Dawn: 5:20
Sunrise: 6:44
Noon: 12:18
Evening: 18:11

WEATHER GUIDE

	THU	FRI
Tehran:		
High:	13 °C	15 °C
Low:	-1 °C	2 °C
	High °C	
Athens:	15	15
Ankara:	12	4
Cairo:	25	21
Copenhagen:	-2	-4
Frankfurt:	9	10
Karachi:	28	30
Kuwait City:	22	23
London:	11	11
Madrid:	14	16
Moscow:	-18	-15
New Delhi:	22	23
Paris:	10	11
Riyadh:	28	27
Rome:	17	18
Vienna:	10	7

'Night Bus' Eligible for Cannes

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--Iranian movie 'Night Bus' stands a good chance of being selected for the upcoming Cannes International Film Festival in southern France given the enthusiasm for the film shown by foreign guests at Fajr International Film Festival.

Expressing this view, Mojtaba Raee, a member of the jury at the recently concluded Fajr Festival, told Fars that 'Night Bus' directed by Kioumars Pourahmad was one of great films of

this year's event and for this reason it was selected for the event's best director award.

"What was interesting for us was the fact that all kinds of audience watched 'Night Bus'. Intellectuals and ordinary people alike took keen interest in the film," he noted.

Commenting on a film titled 'Eqlima', Raee noted that the film was one good film of the festival and it attracted a large audience.

Irano-French Play Under Production

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--'Where Is the End of Sky' directed by Ali Razi is the title of a play which is being produced jointly by Iranian and French artists.

French expatriate Iranian director, who is currently in Iran to make preparations for the play, announced that 'Where Is the End of Sky' written by Naghmeh Samini will be performed in the French festival titled 'Divided Friendship', slated for early spring.

Persian daily Bonnie Film reported. In addition to the play, the festival, initiated five years ago in Paris, will feature three other Iranian dramas on Iranian culture.

Last year, Ali Razi, Naghmeh Samini and Kioumars Moradi staged the play 'Sky's Horses Rain Gray' for ten nights in Iran and France.

The performance was well received in both countries.

Razi further said that 'Where Is the End of Sky' is a play with episodic structure, which attempts to portray the eternal dream of

mankind from the past to present and from today till the future in three episodes. A French company called 'Opprime' has undertaken to produce the play.

He further said that 'Opprime' was initially scheduled to produce the play jointly with Center for Performing Arts but for the time being nothing is clear. If the center does not support the venture, the play will be performed only in France, he added.

This year's festival will feature Iranian works

Oscar Winners Selected

HOLLYWOOD, USA, Feb. 21--The winners and losers of this year's Academy Awards have been decided, with all votes for the most prestigious prizes in show business now cast, reported BBC.

More than 6,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had until 1700 Los Angeles time on Tuesday (0100 GMT Wednesday) to vote.

The winners in the 24 categories will be revealed at a glittering ceremony at Hollywood's Kodak Theater on Sunday.

Crime drama 'The Departed' is book-makers' favorite to be named best picture.

It is thought to be leading the race ahead of Babel and Little Miss Sunshine. Dame Helen Mirren is expected to add an Oscar to her host of best actress awards for 'The Queen', which is also up for best picture alongside Clint Eastwood's Letters from Iwo Jima.

Martin Scorsese is tipped to take his first best director Oscar for 'The Departed' after five previous nominations in the category.

Preparations for the event are under way, with giant Oscars statues in place and grandstand seating erected outside the Kodak Theater.

A flurry of specialist film awards ceremonies were held in Hollywood at the weekend as the countdown to the 79th Academy Awards entered its final stages.

'The Writers of Children of Men' won the Scriptor Award for best adaptation of a book.

'Casino Royale', 'Curse of the Golden Flower' and 'Pan's Labyrinth' were the big winners at the Production Design Awards.

Best production design went to 'Casino Royale', while Curse of the 'Golden Flower' won in the period film category and Pan's Labyrinth's took the prize for a fantasy film.

Rare Artifacts Display Put Off

TEHRAN, Feb. 21--An exhibition titled 'Unseen Artifacts of Iran's National Museum' will not be held in the current Iranian year (ends March 20) as there is

not much time left for Iran's National Museum to arrange the event, reported CHN.

Announcing this, Curator of Iran's National Museum Mohammad Reza Kargar said that although the artifacts have been identified for display due to shortage of time the exhibition will not be held and has been postponed until the next Iranian year (March 2007-2008).

Commenting on the artifacts which are to be featured in the exhibition, he noted that they include the most superior ones that are kept in the museum's treasury.

Iran's National Museum



Some artifacts on display at Iran's National Museum.

maintains all precious and rare artifacts excavated from ancient cities and cemeteries.

