

News in Brief

Cannes to Screen '10+4'

The film '10+4', directed by Mania Akbari, will be screened by the Association of Independent Cinema, ACID, at the 2008 Cannes film festival.

In what can be considered a sequel to Abbas Kiarostami's award-winning '10', in which she starred, Akbari reprises her role as a strong woman fighting breast cancer. The film depicts the stages of her illness and treatment. She presents the reality and observes how others react to the disease (and to her).

The cast of the film includes Akbari, Amin Maher, Behnaz Jafari and Roya Akbari, IRNA reported.

The 77-minute film will be screened on May 15 and 24. The first screening will be held along with a question and answer session.

'10+4' has won numerous international awards including the Silver Crow Pheasant Award and the Golden Crow Pheasant Award of India's 12th International Film Festival.

The Agence du Cinéma Indépendant pour sa Diffusion (ACID), was founded in 1992 to promote independent filmmakers around the world.

The 61st Cannes International Film Festival is slated for May 14-25 in southern France.

Caricaturists Shine In Canadian Event

An Iranian caricaturist won the third prize of the International Editorial Cartoon competition recently held in Canada.

Masoud Ziaei, came third in the international event themed 'Rewriting History', presstv reported.

The prize-winning Iranian artist competed with cartoonists from 40 countries and his work was selected among 700 cartoons submitted to the competition.

Another Iranian artist Mahmoud Salami received the competition's certificate of excellence.

Russian Ivan Anchukov and Gilbert Daroy from the Philippines took first and second places, respectively.

Qajar Documents at Archive Museum

A collection of Qajar era documents was unveiled in a ceremony at Iran's National Archive Museum to mark May 6 as the National Archive Day.

The collection consists of 96 letters exchanged between Qajar king Nassereddin Shah (1831-1896) and his Chancellor Mirza Taqi Khan (Amir Kabir), Fars news agency reported.

Mirza Taqi Khan is widely respected by Iranians as 'Iran's first reformer', a modernizer who attempted to bring gradual reform to Iran. However, he became the victim of political conspiracies of the king's mother and her aides who asked the king for an order to execute Amir Kabir. Soon he was executed in Kashan's Fin Bath.

The museum's organizers also plan to hold an exhibition of Qajar era marriage certificates on the sideline of the program.

Author of Korean Saga Dies

Park Kyung Ni, one of the most celebrated South Korean novelists, best known for her epic saga set against 19th and 20th century turbulence on the Korean Peninsula, has died at the age of 81.

Park made her debut as a writer in 1955, and many critics have described her 16-volume saga, 'The Land', as the best South Korean novel. It took Park about 25 years to write and has been made into a TV series, a movie and an opera, IHT reported.

The sweeping book has hundreds of characters from across the peninsula and follows them from the late 19th century, through Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, to the division of the peninsula.

A culture ministry official said Tuesday that the ministry would posthumously award Park the country's top medal for those who promote South Korean arts.

Park, who suffered from lung cancer, died over the weekend, the official said.

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Noted Islamic historian Seyyed Jafar Shahidi was honored during a ceremony on May 4. A bust of the late teacher was also unveiled at the event. (Photo by Sara Sassani).

Shahidi's House Becomes Museum

Residence of noted Islamic historian Seyyed Jafar Shahidi has been transformed into library-cum-museum by Cultural and Artistic Organization of Tehran Municipality (TM).

According to ISNA, Shahidi was also commemorated in a ceremony on Sunday attended by Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf as well as Ali Sheikholeslami, president of Tehran University's Literature and Humanities Faculty.

Speaking at the event, Qalibaf said, "Shahidi was a great scholar and theologian who was proficient at both Persian and Arabic literature."

He added that the TM seeks to familiarize the public with figures such as Shahidi, renowned philosopher Martyr Morteza Motahhari and Martyr Mohammad Beheshti, who played an active role in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Shahidi library-cum-museum provides a comprehensive databank on the late scholar's research works and biography.

A bust of Shahidi was also unveiled during the ceremony.

Shahidi (1918-2008) studied both in university and Islamic seminary and held a Ph. D from the Tehran University as well as an Ijtihad degree from the seminaries of Qom and Najaf.

The former president of Allameh Dehkhoda Lexicography Foundation, Shahidi was a biographer of the infallible household of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

His works include the translation of Nahj ul-Balagheh, a book of adage and maxims from Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the infallible household on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Shahidi died in Tehran in January.

Top Names Coming to Vahdat



Alireza Shafaqinejad

Jalal Zolfonoon

Tehran's Vahdat Hall will host concerts by prominent musician and composer, Jalal Zolfonoon as well as the Nouri Choral Band which is named after veteran singer Mohammad Nouri.

Zolfonoon, who specializes in traditional string instrument 'Setar', will stage the concerts from May 8-9.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, he told ISNA that a number of traditional pieces by Soroush Zolfonoon will be featured at the event along with improvisations.

Meanwhile, Nouri Choral Group, con-

ducted by Alireza Shafaqinejad, will perform a series of concerts from May 13-17.

Shafaqinejad noted that the choral group will perform the musical composition Carmina Burana for the first time.

"Carmina Burana is composed in 25 parts, ten of which were presented earlier by choral group of Bahman Cultural Complex. However, all the pieces will be presented for the first time by Nouri Choral Group," he said.

Carmina Burana is a scenic cantata composed by Carl Orff between 1935 and 1936. It is based on 24 of the poems found in the medieval collection Carmina Burana.

>>> Weather

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