



## News in Brief

### 'Hamoun and Darya' Bound for Japan

Iranian film 'Hamoun and Darya', directed by Ebrahim Forouzesh, is to compete at the 21st Tokyo International Film Festival.

The film is about two young lovers Hamoun and Darya who live in a village. Hamoun plays the traditional Iranian string instrument 'Dotar', and falls in love with his cousin Darya, who is a carpet weaver, IRNA reported.

Highlighting indigenous elements, 'Hamoun and Darya' features desert landscape and traditional Iranian music.

It was screened at the 26th Fajr International Film Festival. Forouzesh has received numerous international awards, including the 1992 Golden Leopard of the Locarno International Film Festival.

The 21st Tokyo International Film Festival is scheduled for October 18-26.



### 1st Internet Satire Festival Launched

The First Iranian Internet Satire Festival has been recently launched.

The move seeks to identify Internet satirists and extend support to them.

The best methods of satire writing are also offered at the site, IRNA reported.

According to a report by the PR Office of the festival, all webloggers as well as those writing for press sites can take part in the event.

Those interested in taking part in the festival should submit their works before October 3. Best works will be awarded in a special ceremony.

For further information, please visit [www.webtanz.net](http://www.webtanz.net)

### Ramadan TV Serials Criticized

The Supervisory Board of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting has expressed criticism about the TV serials being aired during the fasting month of Ramadan.

According to Fars News Agency, Hossein Mozaffar, head of the Supervisory Board, announced his criticism in a letter to the IRIB Head Ezzatollah Zargami.

Mozaffar criticized the superficial content of the films and said that they only serve as a means of amusement without any positive messages.

"The producers have tried to preoccupy the audience with films that have no substance," he said.

The official, however, noted that the works should have emphasized religious concepts such as prayer and supplication during Ramadan.

Mozaffar also referred to public criticism about the films, and said that depicting violence, family discord, and making fun of the lower class are among the major problems with one of the serials.

He also expressed concern that the taboo of using drugs has been broken in sections of the serial.

Mozaffar called on IRIB head to conduct investigations on the issue.

### Saramago Reaches End of Epic Journey

Portugal's Nobel Literature laureate Jose Saramago has announced the completion of his latest work "The Elephant's Journey".

The book is based on the real-life epic journey of an Indian elephant named Solomon who traveled from Lisbon to Vienna in the 16th century. The Independent reported.

Saramago's achievement marks a rebirth for the veteran writer, 86, whose flagging health, for which he received hospital treatment late last year, sounded alarm bells in the literary world.

The author describes the book as "a story rather than a novel".

It will be published shortly in Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan, and opens with the line: "However incongruous it may seem..."

His Spanish wife and translator, Pilar del Rio, writes on the author's website, "The tale is filled with the irony, sarcasm and humor typical of Saramago."

The work follows the rules that the author sets for all his books, she adds.

"Dialogues alternate with narrative to form a whole, which the reader has to sort out according to his or her own rhythm."



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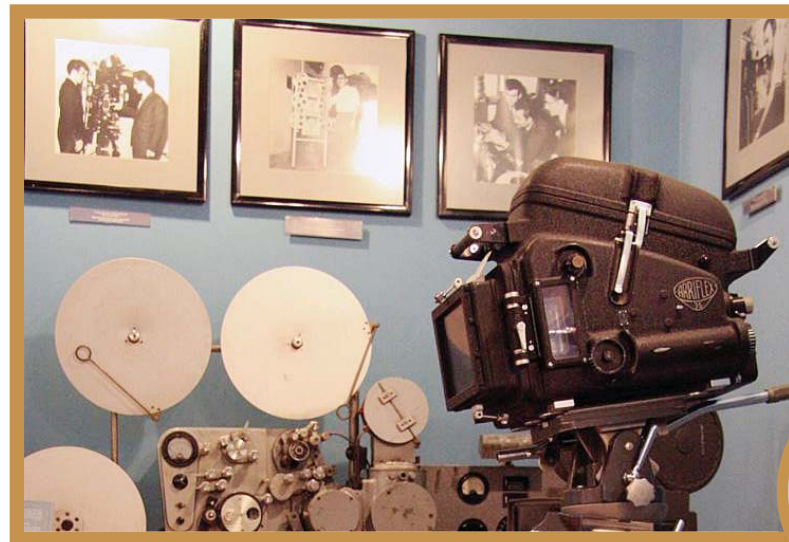
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September 11 marks National Cinema Day in Iran. The film 'The Cow', directed by Daryoush Mehrjouei is a turning point in Iranian cinema history.



## National Cinema Day

## Precious Koran Manuscripts Unveiled

Precious copies of the Holy Koran were unveiled in a ceremony on Tuesday at the Anthropology Encyclopedia Center.

Speaking at the ceremony, head of the center, Mohammad Sadeq Mahfouzi said that the works include a handwritten copy of the holy Koran

transcribed in Kufi Script on deer hide, IRNA said.

"It is attributed to Imam Zein al-Abedin, the fourth Imam of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) infallible household," he said.

Other manuscripts in calligraphy styles of 'Sols', 'Reqaq' and 'Nashk',

written by Kameleddin Qazzali and Abd al-Rashid Deilami, were also showcased at the event.

A handwritten copy of the Koran transcribed by Abdollah Ashour-Renani during the Qajar era, as well as a Koran designed by Jafar Abolqasem Sharif on the decree of the Qajarid King Fath Ali

Shah, were also unveiled.

Mahfouzi noted that the center boasts around 80,000 historical relics and manuscripts.

The Anthropology Encyclopedia Center and Ibn Sina Research Center will unveil other valuable books in the near future.

## Moradi Kermani Nominated for Astrid Lindgren

Noted Iranian author Houshang Moradi Kermani has been nominated for the 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

This is the third time the author has been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, one of the largest literary awards for writers and illustrators of literature for children and young people, ISNA said.

The prize was founded in 2002 in honor of Lindgren, the Swedish creator of numerous popular fiction characters, including Pippi Longstocking, who died 2002 at the age of 94.

A total of 153 candidates from 60 countries, including some 30 institutions that promote reading, were nominated for the \$300,000-dollar prize.

Australian writer Sonya Hartnett won



Houshang Moradi Kermani

the 2008 award. The 2009 winner is due to be announced in March.

Moradi Kermani is well-known for his children's stories. One of his memorable works, 'Majid Stories' was the basis of a TV serial on Iranian state television.

In 2006, acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Daryoush Mehrjouei directed 'Mom's Guest' based on the author's novel by the same title.

Moradi Kermani has won prestigious national and international awards, including the University of San Francisco's 2000 Book of the Year award and the 1992 Hans Christian Andersen Honorary Certificate of Honor.

Some of his books have been translated into English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic and Armenian.

## Weather

