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Tomorrow's weather

TEHRAN	SHIRAZ	TABRIZ	YAZD	RASHT	MASHHAD	AHVAZ	ISFAHAN
37▲ ▼26	40▲ ▼27	35▲ ▼24	43▲ ▼28	28▲ ▼24	36▲ ▼20	45▲ ▼28	39▲ ▼26

Poem of the day

There is no occasion for our rejoicing at a foe's death
Because our own life will also not last for ever.

Sadi

Prayer Times

Noon:13:09 Evening: 20:16 Dawn: 04:49 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 06:22 (tomorrow)

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New interpretation of Holy Quran published in Tehran

TEHRAN TIMES Culture Desk **TEHRAN** — A new thorough and detailed interpretation of the Holy Quran written by Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Qera'ati, known for his TV programs in which he teaches lessons from the Holy Quran, was unveiled during a ceremony in Tehran on Thursday.

Comprised of 3,000 programs each lasting seven minutes, the interpretation has been produced in a collection of 75 DVDs, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Friday.

Qera'ati has been leading the TV program "Lessons from the Quran", which has been broadcast on state TV channel 1 over the past decades in which Quranic lessons are taught to a variety of audiences in his own style of pedagogy.

The unveiling ceremony took place at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla where the 19th International Holy Quran Exhibition is currently underway.

Hojjatoleslam Mohsen Qara'ati (C) holds a DVD collection of the interpretation of the Holy Quran during a ceremony at the 19th International Holy Quran Exhibition in Tehran on August 11, 2011. Assembly of Experts Deputy Chairman Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmud Hashemi Shahrudi (L) and Quran exhibition director Hojjatoleslam Hamid MOhammadi are seen in the photo. (Mehr/Ali Kaveh)

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hosseini who was taking part in the ceremony expressed his appreciation to Qera'ati for his lifetime efforts in producing the digital interpretation.

He regarded this type of interpretation as one of the best ways to teach Quranic lessons easily.

"Hojjatoleslam Qera'ati has always stressed promoting Islamic education since we are all living in an Islamic country," Hosseini added.

Qera'ati also explained about his project, saying that each verse from the Holy Quran first appears on the monitor, is recited by a Quran reciter and then is followed by its interpretation.

"We all need to experience the sweet taste of the Quran. Interpretation of Holy Quran is a must for every individual. Each particular group of people also needs to have their special interpretation. For example, children need one type of interpretation while employees need another special type," he added.

"We are still on the very beginning of the way and I hope others will be encouraged to present additional new interpretations," he added.

NEWS

Doc to chronicle life of actor Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk **TEHRAN** — The documentary film chronicling the life and career of veteran stage and screen actor Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz will soon enter the editing phase.

Maryam Pirvand, who has produced the documentary, told the Persian service of ISNA that the documentary includes everyday life of the actor as well as his trips and interviews with his colleagues.

"I began making the documentary three years ago and the work has been prolonged because I wanted to confirm each part with him and I also wanted to conduct more interviews for the last part," she said.

He has been hospitalized in Tehran's Atieh Hospital because of a broken thighbone.

The 81-year old actor was admitted to the hospital last week and has been in the ICU since then. He had apparently fallen down in his home and hurt his leg.

He successfully underwent surgery on Thursday and he is now in the recovery ward of the hospital.

After a 32-year hiatus in acting in the theater, Keshavarz had plans to return to the stage with "An Inspector Calls", which he called a swansong for his stage career.

Keshavarz has not acted in a play since he appeared in a performance directed by Mohammad-Ali Jafari in 1979.

Born in 1930 in Isfahan, Keshavarz began his stage acting career in 1948 and entered the world of cinema with "Night of the Hunchback" by Farrokh Ghaffari in 1964.

He has so far acted in many famous hits including "Mother", "Kamalolmolk" and "Delshodegan" by Ali Hatami, as well as "Through the Olive Trees" by Abbas Kiarostami and "Once Upon a Time, Cinema" by Mohsen Makhmalbaf.

His roles in TV series such as "Sarbedaran" and "Hezar-Dastan" are also significant.

Record numbers for graffiti show

LONDON (BBC) — An exhibition about graffiti and street art, featuring the work of Banksy, has attracted record numbers to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

The museum said 201,352 people went to view Art in the Streets which opened in April and closed on Monday.

Previous attendance records were set in 2002 when 195,000 people saw an Andy Warhol Retrospective.

However, the Art in the Streets exhibition ran for four weeks longer than the pop art exhibition.

It is thought that free entry every Monday to the Streets event - sponsored by Banksy - helped boost visitor numbers.

The museum said on average more than 4000 visitors attended on the free day and a daily average of 2,486 people would visit during the rest of the week.

The final day of the exhibition attracted an all-time daily high with 8,424 people through the door.

Other artists featured included Shepard Fairey and Space Invader.

The institution also said that nearly 2,500 new members joined during the exhibition's 17-week run.

The results come in the first year of director Jeffery Deitch's tenure at the museum.

"It is my mission to increase MOCA's attendance and to engage new audiences," he said.

White House rejects claim about bin Laden raid film

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Moviemakers producing a film about the U.S. special forces raid that killed Osama bin Laden are getting help from the Pentagon, but the Obama administration dismissed concerns on Wednesday that classified information has been divulged.

The film, focusing on one of President Barack Obama's key successes in office, is due to be released in October 2012, less than a month before the election in which the Democrat is seeking a second term.

Republican Peter King, chairman of the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, called on Tuesday for an investigation into contacts between the administration and the filmmakers. King questioned whether special operations methods had been compromised.

"The claims are ridiculous," White House spokesman Jay Carney told a White House briefing.

"We do not discuss classified information. And I would hope that as we face the continued threat from terrorism, the House Committee on Homeland Security would have more important topics to discuss than a movie," Carney added.

U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Defense Department is cooperating with filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal as they work on a motion picture about the raid that killed bin Laden.

The two, who collaborated on the Oscar-winning Iraq war movie "The Hurt Locker," had been developing the bin Laden film even before the al Qaeda leader was killed in May in a raid on a compound in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad.

In a statement, the pair said their movie covered a period of three different U.S. administrations that searched for bin Laden, including those of Presidents Clinton and Bush.

Turkish TV networks airing Iranian series

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk **TEHRAN** — Iranian series "Mokhtarnameh" and "Prophet Joseph (AS)" are currently being broadcast on Turkish TV networks.

The 40-episode "Mokhtarnameh" is about an uprising organized by Mokhtar Saqafi after the events of Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, to take revenge against the killers of Imam Hussein (AS).

The Kanal 7 airs this serial, which has been directed by Davud Mirbaqeri over a period of eight years.

The last episode of the TV series was broadcast on IRIB's Channel 1 on July 29.

Directed by Farajollah Salahshur, "Prophet Joseph (AS)" is being broadcast on Star TV, Turkey's first private TV channel.

The series depicts the life story of Prophet Joseph (AS), Jacob's eleventh son who sold into slavery by his brothers.

It was broadcast by Channel 1 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in 2008 and 2009.

"Prophet Joseph (AS)" has been aired by Tajik, Pakistani and Afghan TV networks.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

BY *Mojtaba Heidari/Mehr*

A foreign artists creates a calligraphy work at the 19th International Holy Quran Exhibition in Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla on August 11, 2011.

Iranian films line up for Montreal festival

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk **TEHRAN** — Several Iranian films and documentaries have found ways into the 35th edition of the Montreal World Film Festival that runs from August 18 to 28.

"Here without Me" by Bahram Tavakkoli is an entry in the competition section of the festival, the international distributor of the film, the Iranian Visual Media Institute, announced on Friday.

"Here without Me", currently on screen in Iranian theaters, is a contemporary Iranian adaptation of Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie" and will be competing with 20 other films at the festival.

Starring Negar Javaherian,Fatemeh Motamed-Arya, and Saber Abar, the movie features the story of a single mother who works hard to find a match for her painfully shy and lame-legged daughter, while her son dreams mostly of the cinema and escaping the trap of family obligations.

The other two in the non-competition section are "A Cube of Sugar" by Reza Mirkarimi and "Facing Mirrors" by Negar Azarbaijani.

In "A Cube of Sugar", Four sisters come home to help with preparations for their youngest sister's engagement party and not everything goes as planned.

"Facing Mirrors" narrates the story of a transgender girl who encounters a traditional young woman while fleeing Iran in order to have surgery in a foreign country.

Iranian symphony orchestra closed

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk **TEHRAN** — The Rudaki Symphony Orchestra was shut down due to financial issues.

Arash Amini conducts the Rudaki Symphony Orchestra during its debut concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on June 20, 2011. (Mehr/Ali Kaveh)

No official comment has been made after the report published by the Persian service of Mehr News Agency on Friday.

The orchestra was established in February by the Rudaki Foundation, a nongovernmental artistic and cultural institution.

It made its debut concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on June 20. This concert, which was attended by many Iranian officials, turned out to be the swansong of the orchestra.

Swiss conductor Emmanuel Siffert, who has led several prominent orchestras around the world, had announced his willingness to conduct the Rudaki Symphony Orchestra.

Conductor Barenboim to be Nobel nominee

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentinean conductor Daniel Barenboim will be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for using music to bring peace to the Middle East, supporters announced Wednesday.

An official announcement about the 69-year-old musician's nomination will take place on August 17 at the Academia Argentina de Letras language academy in Buenos Aires.

Around 2,500 people in Argentina have expressed their support for the nomination.

Former president of Uruguay Julio Maria Sanguinetti and writer Juan Jose Sebreli were among those promoting the nomination.

Along with his friend, late Palestinian intellectual Edward Said, Barenboim brought together young talents to form an orchestra in 1999, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which tours the world.

"Music cannot solve conflicts but music has the ability to make people interested and passionate about the same thing," Barenboim said Tuesday before his orchestra performed a concert in South Korea.

Since 1992, Barenboim has been a conductor at the Staatsoper in Berlin, one of three opera houses in the German capital.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1942 to Jewish parents of Russian origin, the musician uses his international fame to promote peace .Barenboim also has Spanish citizenship and a Palestinian passport.

Argentina currently has five Nobel Laureates.