



## Iranian elites praised at Eternal Figures Gathering

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian elites from various field including cultural luminaries were praised during the eighth Eternal Figures Gathering at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) International Conference Hall on Thursday.

Veteran actress and dubber Jaleh Olov in dubbing, director Masud Jafari Jozani in cinema, composer Majid Entezami and vocalist Alireza Eftekhari in music, Abbas Akhveyan and Mohammad Salahshur in calligraphy have been selected as the cultural Eternal Figures of this edition.

The program was organized by the IRIB in collaboration with domestic universities, academies, unions, and foundations. Several cultural figures including IRIB Managing Director Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Head of



Honorees pose for a photograph at the Eighth Eternal Figures Gathering at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) International Conference Hall on November 18, 2010. (Fars/Mohammad Hassanzadeh)

University of Tehran Farhad Rahbar and artists Ezzatollah Entezami and Davud Rashidi attended the gathering.

At the ceremony, Ezzatollah Zarghami made a short speech about the eternal figures calling them "the identity of Iranian nationality" and said that IRIB as the organizer of the gathering is the representative of the Iranian nation.

"We have witnessed enormous successes in the field of science and culture despite various sanctions imposed upon Iran and the presence of eternal figures prove this claim," Head of the gathering Reza Purhossein mentioned at the ceremony.

Afterwards, Jaleh Olov made a short speech about her career saying that "I have done my work with love toward people and my country throughout my 63 year career."

The elite got on stage to receive their awards and Zarghami handed honorary diplomas and plaques to the selected figures.

Iran's eternal figures for 2010 are as follows:

Bagher Larijani, Mohammad Farhadi (Medicine)  
Javad Salehi (Electrical Engineering)  
Faramarz Rafipur (Sociology)

Ali Sheikholeslami, Mohammad Dabir-Moqaddam (Persian Literature)

Alireza Medghalchi, Seyyed Abdollah Mahmudian (Mathematics)

Alireza Rahaii, Mahmud Golabchi (Civil Engineering)

Reza Samqabadi (History)

Mohammad-Mehdi Alishahi (Mechanics Engineering)

Jafar Mehrad (Library and Information Sciences)

Mansur Falamaki (Architecture)  
Mohammad-Ali Molavi (Genetics)  
Muhammad Hozien (Philosophy)

## 'Publishers of Islamic world must improve their standards'

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN -- The Iran National Library and Archive (INLA) hosted a national conference of publishers last Tuesday that was attended by cultural officials.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hosseini, INLA Director Ali-Akbar Ash'ari, Majlis Cultural Committee Chairman Qolam-Ali Haddad-Adel, and conference secretary Ali Zarei Najafdari were among the participants.

Najafdari stated that the Islamic world's publishers are far from the standards of the West. "We can shorten this distance, but we need various organizations to collaborate."

"Publishers and authors play a major role in promoting the culture of Islam in the world, but they have yet not been able to prove their status to the West," he said.

Tehran hosted the first International Conference of Islamic World Publishers from June 20 to 21.

The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution member Mansur Kabkanian, who attended the conference, lamented the fact that Chinese publishers are currently publishing some Iranian periodicals, since the expenses are much less in China as compared to Iran.

"We must take this seriously and pursue the matter, as this is dangerous. If they continue to permeate our publishing industry, it will be hard to maintain control," he added.

"We also need to learn to link the publishing industry and production of science to develop the level of science in the country," he added.

Director of Tehran Guild of Booksellers and Publishers Nader Qadyani, also present at the conference, expressed his regret about the current situation of booksellers in Tehran.

"More space is dedicated to fast food and sandwich shops than to bookshops in Tehran," he said.

He said that there are currently over 700 book shops across the capital, "half of the bookshops are in central Tehran and the rest are scattered across the city. This shows there is no official center for bookselling."

We have not so far been able to gain permission for large-scale bookshops. "At the present time, investing in a supermarket or a restaurant in an area of 200m is much more profitable than establishing a bookshop.

"Publishers are among the oppressed in the country and a solution must be found for this," he stated.

## Artists gather to save Seyhun Gallery

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — After 44 years of exhibiting artworks, Tehran's Seyhun Gallery, one of the oldest in the city, has received an order from the landlord to evacuate, urging the artists to take serious action.

Seyhun Art Gallery was established by Masumeh Seyhun in 1963 on Jomhuri Street and was transferred to Khaled Eslamboli in 1973 and has been active since then. Owner Masumeh Seyhun died in May.

The gallery is currently run by her son Nader but after 44 years, the landlord needs his own place and is asking for the premises to be evacuated. Nader has not been able to convince the landlord to sell the property to him.

This situation urged veteran artists to gather at the gallery and sign a letter in support of it.

The artists, who were introduced to the society at this gallery, gathered there on Monday to sign the letter. Parviz Kalantari, Kambiz Derambakhsh, Ahmad Nasrollahi, Akbar Nikanpur, Davud Shahidi, Kurosh Adim, and Bahram Dabiri were seen among

the artists.

"We are not talking of the past; we are speaking about treasure, the treasure of a nation; the intellectual and spiritual treasure of a nation.

"Seyhun gallery is vast and glorious, not because of its location but for its history and background. The gallery was a start for many, for those who had something to say, for those who liked to speak in the mystic language of art.

"Now the gallery is facing imminent danger, because its history is being ignored and it may face evacuation," reads part of the letter signed by the artists.

They also wrote and signed a letter addressing Hamid Shahabadi, deputy culture minister for artistic affairs.

"Dear Shahabadi, please help this location, with its 44 years of continuous activity, stay alive and secure. Evacuation of the gallery equals destruction of this place. It would be an irreparable blow to the artistic community in the country.

"The gallery bears the memories of outstanding artists, those who grew and

gained fame from here. Seyhun Gallery was their home, Sohrab Sepehri, Reza Mafi, Faramarz Pilaram and many more grew here. Do not let their house be evacuated and destroyed. This gallery is the heritage of several generations of artists," reads part of the letter.

Veteran artist Parviz Kalantari who was among the artists at the gallery, told the Persian service of Fars, "many of my friends and I began here in this gallery. This disrespect is a catastrophe for our cultural heritage.

"In our country, many have destroyed our cultural heritage, and if the art and cultural officials are not fully aware of their responsibilities, we artists must draw their attention to our cultural heritage," he said.

Nader Seyhun, the current owner of the gallery, also said that they have approached the landlord about selling the location to him but he has refused to do so.

"We are waiting for the court to announce its verdict next month, but we hope this letter would make enough of an impression so that we could stay here," he said.

## Nobel author Vargas Llosa's home to become museum

AREQUIPA, Peru (AFP) — Peru plans to transform the early childhood home of new Nobel Prize-winning author Mario Vargas Llosa into a museum and tourist attraction, officials said.

"I envision the house being transformed into an historic site, a new space where tourists can come, one that will generate revenue for the city," Culture Minister Juan Ossio told reporters during a visit to the site.

The single-story house was uninhabited for several years but is in good condition "thanks to good maintenance by (successive) owners," Ossio said.

The house on Avenue Parra in Peru's second city will be converted into a museum built around Vargas Llosa's life and works and is expected to open by the end of next year.

Born in Arequipa in 1936, the author lived there during his early years with his mother and her family before they settled in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He moved back to Peru and settled in Lima at age 10.

The house last changed hands several months ago when it was purchased by a private company that was not aware it was the childhood home of the famed novelist.

Ossio said he was inspired by a recent visit to Russia where he saw that the homes of the towering novelists Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky had been made into "major tourist attractions."

## Five Iranian cultural elements registered on UNESCO list



Qashqai girls weaving a carpet in an undated photo

(Contd. from p. 1)

Performers are always male, and female roles are played by men, most of whom are amateurs who gain their living through other means but perform for spiritual rewards.

The traditional skills of carpet weaving in Fars region is mostly related to the Qashqai nomads. All tasks involved in weaving a carpet are shared by nomad men and women and all materials used in weaving are also made and processed by them.

Wool for the carpets is shorn by men in spring or autumn. The men then construct the carpet loom -- a horizontal frame placed on the ground -- while the women convert the wool into yarn on spinning wheels.

The colors used are mainly natural -- reds, blues, browns and whites produced from dyestuffs including madder, indigo, lettuce leaf, walnut skin, cherry stem and pomegranate skin.

The women are responsible for the design, color selection and weaving, and bring scenes of their nomadic lives to the carpet. They weave without any drawn design, thus no weaver can weave two carpets of the same design.

All these skills are transferred orally and by example. Mothers train their daughters to use the materials, tools and skills, while fathers train their sons in shearing wool and making looms.

These processes are also carried out by men and women in Kashan, in Isfahan Province.

The traditional skills of Kashan carpet weaving are passed down to daughters through apprenticeship under instruction from their mothers and grandmothers. Apprenticeship is also the means by which men learn their skills of designing, dyeing, shearing, loom-building and tool-making.

Last year, Noruz and the titles and items of the radifs in Iranian music were registered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



## President Ahmadinejad sends message to Tehran short filmfest

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — The 27th edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival opened with a ceremony on Friday noon during which a message from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was read.

"The creative artists and young filmmakers can deepen our perspective of the world by featuring the beauty of nature and spiritual and natural beliefs in their works so that the global audience can find justice, peace, faith and spirituality in their films," reads a part of message.

Antoni Ribas (France), Ahmed Rashwan (Egypt), Jochen Ehmann (Germany), Abishake Pathak (India), Hans Joachim Schlegel (Germany), Ailton Franco Jr. (Brazil) and Magnus Arnesen (Norway) are some of the 36 foreign guests of the festival.

The festival is currently underway in Tehran and will run until November 24.



NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iranian Artists Forum to host Seven Views expo

TEHRAN — The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will host the Seven Views expo beginning November 25.

The Aria, Elaheh, Dey, Golestan, Haft Samar, Vali, and Mah-e Mehr galleries are to display paintings, sculptures, calligraphy works, calligraphy-paintings, and other artworks by 224 artists.

Aidin Aghdashlu, Seyyed Mohammad Ehsaii, Nasrollah Afjehii, Sedaqat Jabbari, Farah Osuli, Ahmad Nadalian and Mostafa Dashti are some of artists whose works will go on display.

## Iranian photographers to participate in Turkish underwater contest

TEHRAN — Three Iranian photographers will participate in the 13th CMAS World Championships Underwater Photography which will be held from May 26 to 31 2011 in Bodrum, Turkey.

Esmail Golrokh, Behzad Turkizadeh and Siamak Derakhshan are Iranian photographers who are among the 30 participants.

The competition is held biennially. Several professional photography groups compete at the venue and Turkey is one of them, Golrokh told the Persian service of MNA.

## Tehran holds seminar on theater and religion

TEHRAN — The second seminar on theater and religion was held in Tehran on November 20 and 21.

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini and the Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Hamidreza Shahabadi made short speeches at the opening ceremony of the seminar.

Papers from different countries including Britain, the Netherlands, United States and Poland were presented at the seminar.