

● **Managing Director:**  
**Parviz Esmaeili**  
Tel: +98 (21) 88800789  
esmaeili@tehrantimes.com

● **Editorial Dept.:**  
Tel: +98 (21) 88895450  
Fax: +98 (21) 88808214  
editor@tehrantimes.com

● **Switchboard Operator:**  
Tel: +98 (21) 88800293-5

● **Advertisements Dept.:**  
Telefax: +98 (21) 88896970-71  
ads@tehrantimes.com

● **Public Relations Office:**  
Tel: +98 (21) 88805807

● **Subscription & Distribution Dept.:**  
Tel: +98 (21) 88808895

● **Webmaster:**  
webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
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## PRAYER TIME

◆ Noon: 13:10  
◆ Evening: 20:22  
◆ Dawn (tomorrow): 4:43  
◆ Sunrise (tomorrow): 6:18



## Quran translator Fuladvand passes away at 88

Tehran Times Culture Desk

**TEHRAN** — Iranian scholar and the first translator of Quran into French, Mohammad Mehdi Fuladvand, died on August 5. He was 88.

Losing his ability to talk and his memory after a stroke two years ago, he had led a sedentary lifestyle.

Born in 1920 in the Iranian central city of Arak, he earned his Ph.D at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He studied literature, art, philosophy and Arabic linguistics during his 14 years at the university. His doctoral thesis was on Omar Khayyam.

He returned to Iran in 1965 and started his career as a university professor. He taught at several Iranian universities including the Fine Art Faculty of the University of Tehran and the Academy of Dramatic Arts. He taught philosophy, aesthetics, French language and literature, and history of religions.

He has translated Nahj-ul Balagheh and Sahifeh Sajjadih into Persian and his translation of the Quran is known as one of the best Persian versions of the holy book.

He had also translated Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" into Persian.

"Studying Quran," "Studying Khayyam," "First Lessons on Aesthetics," "Woman in God's View," "I saw God" and "Flowers from Quran" are amongst his books.

His translation of the Rubayat of Omar Khayyam 40 years ago was recognized by General Charles de Gaulle, who called him another Mallarmé (a 19th century celebrated French poet.)

The funeral procession set off from the Iran Quran News Agency on Bozorgmehr Ave. and progressed to the University of Tehran on Wednesday morning.

He was buried in Ebn-e Babuyeh Cemetery in town of Ray near Tehran.

Many Iranian cultural figures, literati and luminaries as well as athletes are buried there. Among them are Gholamreza Takhti, Ali Akbar Dehkhoda, Hossein Fatemi, Mir Qotbeddin Mohammad Anqa and Forugh Farukhzad.

## Music videos director falls for "Fiasco"

**LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter)** — Music videos veteran Samuel Bayer, who directed Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," has signed on to shoot the action thriller "Fiasco Heights."

The Universal Pictures project revolves around a gunman who returns to the crime-ridden city of Fiasco Heights and teams with a degenerate gambler/private eye to look for a beautiful woman and a mysterious briefcase.

Bayer is also attached to a remake of "Near Dark," a 1987 vampire horror originally directed by Kathryn Bigelow. His other music clips include Green Day's "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and Justin Timberlake's "What Goes Around Comes Around."

# Winners of Intl. Quran Competition announced in Mashhad

Tehran Times Culture Desk

**TEHRAN** — The winners of the 25th International Quran Competition were announced during the closing ceremony held in Mashhad's Qods Hall on Tuesday.

The awards were handed to the winners by President Mahmud Ahmadinejad.

Tehran's Charity and Endowment Organization director Hojjatollesalm Heidar Mosehi gave a brief report and said that over 55 countries had attended this year's competition.

He noted that the jury members were from Jordan, Indonesia, Syria, Philippines, and Lebanon, adding, "the participants competed in the two sections of memorization and recitation."

In the section of memorization of the Quran, Issa Khorshidi from Iran took the first place award, Ahmad Adnan Abdul-Razzaq from Iraq took the second place award, Issa Ahmad al-Emadi from Bahrain took the third place award, and Mohammad Mahmud Musa Yunes from Libya took the fourth place award.

In the recitation of the Quran section, Saleh At'harifard won the



first award and Ali Saleh Hassan from Lebanon won the fifth award. The jury did not select winners for the second, third and fourth place.

In addition, the best research

work were also selected and awarded. Rajab Abdel Monsef Abdul Fattah from Egypt won the first award, Kamal Sahraii from Iran won the second award, and

Bahram Akhavan-Kazemi also from Iran won the third award.

The 25th International Quran Competition was held in Mashhad from July 29 to August 4.

## Tribute paid to Iranian masters of nastaliq

Tehran Times Art Desk

**TEHRAN** — Iranian masters of nastaliq were paid homage during the closing ceremony of the second calligraphy exhibition here on Tuesday at the venue of Tehran's Art Bureau.

The second exhibition of masters of the nastaliq style of calligraphy ran for one month at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Director of Tehran's Art Bureau Hassan Bonyanian, culture minister advisor Mohammad-Hossein Nirumand and masters Gholam-

Hossein Amirkhani, Mohammad Salahshur, and Mohammad-Hossein Attarchian were among those who attended the program.

The ceremony began with screening pictures of late masters Hossein and Hassan Mirkhani in the presence of their family members.

Afterwards, secretary of the exhibit Amir Abdolhosseini gave the opening address and said that one of the goals of the second exhibit was to honor the two great masters.

"We also intended to encourage

youth interested in the field of calligraphy, so we organized a competition section in this exhibit. In addition, all the collection that was on display will be published in a book," he added.

Seminars on the traditional and contemporary art of Persian calligraphy were also arranged on the sidelines of the event, but were not held due to problems, Abdol-Hosseini said, adding, "We are planning to publish the submitted that were articles at a later time."

Honoring private collectors of calligraphy was the next program. Female collectors Mojgan Nankeli, Maryam Abutalebian, and Farzaneh Alavi were the first who were honored.

Fereidun Jahanshahi, Javad Alavi, Adib Nirumand, Mehdi Atiqi, Hassan Seddiq, Morteza Tadayyon, and Hadi Atiqi were also among the private collectors who were honored.

The ceremony ended with a music performance by tar virtuoso Keyvan Saket, Mehdi Fallah, and Maziar Sabri.

## Artists flock to cheap Berlin from around the world

**BERLIN (Reuters)** — If you're an artist and you dream of honing your skills alone in a tiny garret, hungry and cold but filled with inspiration, then Berlin may not be for you.

Because there is no such thing as a starving artist here.

Thousands of creative artists have flocked to this German city, drawn by low rents, cheap food, state support and the chance to be part of a community bubbling with ideas -- and live in a city that in many ways is an unfinished canvas itself.

They have turned Berlin into a 21st century hotspot for painters, actors, writers, filmmakers, musicians and designers.

"It's got a wonderfully creative environment," said Bonaventure S.B. Ndikung, 31, an artist and curator from Cameroon who settled here more than a decade ago.

"The city's inspiring, it's multicultural, it's diverse and best of all costs are low. You only have to sell things every once in a while to get by."

In the past, artists have flourished in other cheap cities during tough economic times -- such as New York in the early 1970s and London late in that decade.

Now, it's happening in Berlin where, for instance, it costs a painter like Finbarr Kelleher from Ireland only 550 euros (\$856) a month for his roomy flat and large studio in the trendy Prenzlauer Berg quarter.

Berlin is home to some 25,000 artists, a study by the DIW economic think-tank found. They're from Germany and Europe but also from Asia, especially China and Japan, and North America.

DIW said many get by on less than

10,000 euros (\$15,570) a year and the median annual income is about 18,000 euros (\$28,020).

Berlin's economy is weak and its cost of living is low because unemployment is relatively high at about 15 percent, rental property is readily available and population growth is stagnant.

"You're poor but you're so free because you've got no responsibilities, you're free from the pressures of life," said Kelleher, who came via Barcelona from Ireland and stayed after discovering a pulsating art scene in Berlin in 1999.

"You have no money but you have so much freedom and time, and if you do something creative is what you want to do, time is what you need," added Kelleher, 39, who now earns about 20,000 euros a year after initially getting by on less than half that.

### Exchange of ideas

Yet those in the creative crowd say it is more than the cheap rents and low costs that makes Berlin special.

"You can't put a price on the value of exchanging ideas," said Ndikung. "You can meet writers, musicians or designers at a cafe and it makes your day. You'll discover something new or just listen. No one cares about money. It's all secondary."

Swiss-born director Dani Levy agreed. He moved to the city in 1980 and later helped start what is now one of Europe's top independent film producers, X-Filme Creative Pool.

Coming from Switzerland, at first he was shocked by West Berlin's flourishing art scene and vibrant counter-culture.

"But, I fell in love with the theater

scene and whole way of life. It's a real buzz."

The city of 3.4 million was devastated during World War Two and split by the Berlin Wall during the Cold War. The big banks and industry that had made Berlin a prosperous European capital between the wars abandoned the divided city.

Yet those ravages, ironically, helped create a fertile environment for the arts. Even though the population has been stagnant since 1990, that figure masks tremendous upheaval: more than 1.7 million moved away and 1.7 million moved to Berlin since 1990.

"It may seem rather surprising at first that about half the city's population has come and gone in the last 15 years," Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit said in an interview with Reuters.

"But it's due to large numbers who moved to new suburbs just outside Berlin after the Wall fell and a high number of people, especially students and young people, who moved in since 1990."

It's hardly surprising Berlin features as an unpaid extra in a growing number of films. Wowereit, who has made cameo appearances in some film productions, said the post-industrial future for Berlin would be driven by artists and universities.

"The mass production and assembly lines are gone forever."

Berlin, battling to stave off bankruptcy and weighed down by 60 billion euros of debt, is indeed poor. But artists are also attracted by the fact that it is a "blank canvas", or work-in-progress.

"Berlin is definitely not a wealthy city," Wowereit said. "But it's got a

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Paco Peña licensed for Shiraz concerts

**TEHRAN** — The performing license for guitarist Paco Peña's concerts in Shiraz was issued.

World renowned flamenco guitar player Paco Peña plans to give concerts in Shiraz on August 16 and 17 and in Tehran on August 20, 21 and 22.

The performing license for Tehran performance has been issued previously.

### Zarbahang to perform in Spanish festival

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian band Zarbahang will give concerts at the Festival of Ancient Spanish Music on August 19.

The band's members play percussion instruments including the tonbak, daf, kuzeh and naqareh.

The festival will run through August 31.

### Niavaran to host piano recital concert

**TEHRAN** — Iranian pianist Nima Jarchi will give concerts at the Niavaran Cultural Center on August 7 and 8.

He will play pieces composed by world renowned musicians Beethoven, Chopin, Vangelis and Jean Michel Jarre during his piano recital.

## Royal books set for first showing



**LONDON (BBC)** — Illustrated books once owned by English monarchs are to go on public display for the first time.

About 150 medieval and Renaissance books and other literary artifacts will be put on display at the British Library in London in 2011.

They are among almost 2,000 manuscripts donated to the British Museum by King George II in 1757.

The exhibition follows a major research project supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Each manuscript will be examined to discover who they were commissioned by and why they were produced.

Researchers will also try and unearth information about the works' illustrators, scribes and how they may have been received and used by the monarchs who owned them.

Manuscripts featured in the exhibition will include a copy of Philippe de Mezieres's letter to Richard II and the Shrewsbury Book of romances presented to Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI, as a gift for their marriage in 1445.

Dr. Scot McKendrick, Head of Western Manuscripts at the British Library, said: "The Royal collection represents the only intact medieval and Renaissance English Royal manuscript collection."

"Its importance can hardly be overstated," he added.