

In the news today

Contributed by Jutta Höflich
Monday, 29 June 2009

Fighting for the survival of Hamburg's Italian Consulate

The Italian consulate at Feldbrunnenstraße 54 could be closed at the end of 2010. (photo by Jutta Höflich)

Last Friday, on the occasion of the farewell summer party for Dr. Maria Mazza, director of the Italian Institute of Culture, a committee collected signatures for a petition to save Hamburg's Italian consulate, which is under threat of closure by Italy's Foreign Ministry. More information is available at www.salviamo-il-consolato.de or italiani@salviamo-il-consolato.de.

Kenyans win Hamburg Half-Marathon

More than 5,000 runners participated in the Hamburg Half-Marathon on Sunday morning. According to the organizers, this was a participation record. The winner was Gilbert Kipruto Kitwa of Kenya. With a time of 1:01:52, he established a new course record. The women's winner, Caroline Chepkwony, with a time of 1:15:22, is also from Kenya. The women's course record of 1:14:01 was established in 2002 by Gitte Larshoj of Denmark.

Hamburg Harley Days ends with parade

Hamburg Harley Days drew to a close yesterday with its traditional parade along a 33-km course through the city. According to the organizers, 75,000 bikers and half a million visitors came to attend Germany's biggest biker festival. For the first time, the event took place this year at the HSH Nordbank Arena, which was decorated in the Harley-Davidson colors of orange and black.

Iranians in Hamburg continue their protest

Iranian protesters sing their national anthem with ardor. (photo by Jutta Höflich)

On Sunday at 1 p.m., about 400 people met at Gänsemarkt in order to demonstrate against the Iranian government and the regime of Mahmud Ahmadinedschad. With contributions, cultural activities and a moment of silence for victims of government crackdowns, the Iranians and some German supporters called attention to the situation in Iran. To end the demonstration, protesters let fly red, white and green balloons. Every day at 6:30 p.m., people come together for a vigil in front of the Iranian consulate at Bebelallee 18.

Hamburg Ballet Days honor "Ballets Russes"

Yesterday, the thirty-fifth "Days of Balett" at the Hamburger Staatsoper (opera house) opened with the premiere of Hommage aux Ballets Russes. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the famous Russian dance company, John Neumeier, ballet manager of the Hamburger Staatsoper, said his company will focus on the "many-sidedness" of the former Russian troupe. George Balanchine's The Lost Son will run through July 15, followed by The Holiness of Spring by Waslaw Nijinski and John Neumeier's new creation, Le Pavillon D'Armide. Tickets: 040 - 35 68 68.