

11th Persian Painting Nat'l Biennial to open today



ISNA - The 11th Persian Painting National Biennial will open today at Tehran's Saba Cultural and Artistic Institute.

This year, 221 works by 152 artists will go on display. The exhibition will host 77 taz'hib (illuminated manuscript) artworks from 55 artists, 23 miniature designs by 12 artists, and 58 miniature paintings by 40 artists. Organized by Visual Arts Center, the cultural event is to develop and elevate the status of miniature painting in contemporary Iran, and create an appropriate platform for the growth and flourishing of miniature painting. The biennial will run through April 9.

Wuthering Heights church to be restored

Church Times - A crumbling redundant church, which appeared in a film version of 'Wuthering Heights,' is to be restored as part of the cultural heritage of the Yorkshire Dales. Lunds Church, in High Abbotside, was built in the 18th century to serve the farming community in the remotest corner of Upper Wensleydale, but the rural population declined, congregations shrank, and the building was deconsecrated in 1981.

The Grade II listed building has little to distinguish it as a church. It could at first glance be mistaken for a historic school; only the graveyard, with its few remaining headstones, gives away its former function. It was the smallest church in Ripon diocese, seating just 60 people, and featured in the 2011 film version of 'Wuthering Heights,' by the Oscar-winning director Andrea Arnold.

The cost of the work is likely to run into five figures, but is expected to be covered by grants: its exterior will be protected from the elements; its single door and windows will be replaced with period replicas; an inscription, "God is Love", will be reinstated above the east window; and the tiled altar floor and wooden rail will be reinstated. The bell, currently in the Dales Countryside Museum, in Hawes, nearby, will be rehung, and electricity reconnected for heaters to combat damp.

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Iran, India ink MoU to expand cultural cooperation

Iranian and Indian officials signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of publication.

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the 31st edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), in the presence of Director of National Book Trust Shri Yuvraj Malik and CEO of Iran Book and Literature House Ali Ramezani, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Iran is participating in the book fair for the eighth time with more than 600 books.

Ramezani said within the framework of the memorandum, organizers of book fairs of both Tehran and New Delhi will provide booths to Indian and Iranian publishers free of charge.

Shri Yuvraj Malik also added that based on the agreement, India and Iran participate in each other's book fairs in order to expand cultural communication between the people of the two countries.

Malik stated that the signing of the MoU is an excellent point for further cooperation.

The 31st edition of NDWBF officially began on February 25 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, and is scheduled to go on till March 5.



Egypt unveils hidden corridor in Giza pyramid



Scientists discovered a hidden passage inside Egypt's Great Pyramid, the authorities announced, part of a seven-year international research project.

The passage is nine metres (30 feet) in length and more than two meters in width, the antiquities ministry said in a statement, AFP wrote.

Egypt's Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ahmed Issa told reporters at the ancient site in Giza also known as the Khufu, or Cheops, pyramid, that the "gabled corridor" with a triangular ceiling "was found on the northern face of the Great Pyramid of King Khufu".

The discovery was part of the ScanPyra-

mids project, launched in 2015 as a collaboration between major universities in France, Germany, Canada and Japan and a group of Egyptian experts.

Archaeologist Zahi Hawass, Egypt's former antiquities minister, heads the committee supervising the project, which uses advanced technology to visualize hidden parts of the pyramid's interior without having to excavate it. The technology is a mix of infrared thermography, muon radiography imaging and 3D reconstruction - all of which the researchers say are non-invasive and non-destructive techniques.

The Great Pyramid is the largest in Giza, standing 146 meters tall, and the only surviving structure of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Built some 4,500 years ago, it has three known chambers, and like other pyramids in Egypt was intended as a pharaoh's tomb. Hawass told reporters at the pyramid on Thursday that "there is a great possibility... the tunnel is protecting something. In my opinion, it is protecting the actual burial chamber of King Khufu."



The 13th International 100-Second Film Festival was held at the Mellat Cineplex in Tehran from February 28 to March 3. The event hosted 290 cinematic works from 127 countries.
 ● AMIN JALALI/IRNA

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Guggenheim Museum @Guggenheim

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Did you know the first known writer was a woman? From Ancient Greece to today, women have always been creating. Watch, read, and listen to stories about their art through history.

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