

Iran, Yemen keen on expansion of cultural ties



ILNA – During a meeting between Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, and Yemen's National Salvation Government ambassador in Tehran, Ibrahim al-Daylami, which was held at Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Esmaeili expressed Iran's willingness to sign an agreement to enhance cultural ties with Yemen. Esmaeili emphasized that there are no limitations to the development of cultural exchanges between the two nations.

The Yemeni envoy, for his part, conveyed Yemen's keenness to create a conducive environment for the expansion of cultural and artistic relations between the two countries.

"The people of Yemen aspire to benefit from the valuable experiences of the Islamic Republic in the realm of culture," the envoy concluded. This meeting underscores the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering positive relations between nations.

With Iran's commitment to expanding cultural ties with Yemen and the latter's enthusiasm for learning from Iran's cultural heritage, it is expected that this partnership will yield fruitful results for both countries.

Iranian film awarded at US festival



IRNA – The Iranian short film, titled 'A Few Strands of Hair', directed by Shahin Jabbarzadeh, was honored with the Best Short Film Award at the 15th IndieFEST Film Awards in the US. Produced by the West Azarbaijan Youth Cinema Society, the film delves into various social issues.

The film has already been showcased at the London Lift-Off Film Festival and the Maharaja International Film Festival in India, receiving positive reviews from critics and viewers alike.

According to Ehsan Mehdi, the head of the society, the film society has made plans to produce 10 family-oriented films, in addition to their previous works. Notably, two of their films have already garnered international recognition. Jabbarzadeh's achievement in winning the Best Short Film Award is a testament to his skill as a director and the society's commitment to producing quality films that tackle important issues.

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Hundreds of old Farsi manuscripts kept in Sarajevo library

There are about 10,000 old manuscripts in Gazi Husrev-beg Library which were written in Farsi, Arabic, or Ottoman

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Some 600-year-old Farsi manuscripts are kept in the Gazi Husrev-beg Library in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the director of the library told Iran Daily in an interview.

Osman Lavic said Bosnia and Herzegovina is interested in cooperating with Iran in preserving and restoring old manuscripts. Lavic is currently visiting Iran as the head of a delegation touring Iran's libraries and cultural centers.

"I have come to Iran at the invitation of Iran's public libraries along with six of my colleagues who are all experts in the fields of library sciences and restoration of manuscripts," he said. "During this trip, we signed a memorandum of cooperation with Iran Public Libraries Foundation to promote relations. This includes the exchange of information and restoration of manuscripts."

Lavic added that the deal will also pave the way for boosting ties between the cultural centers of Iran and



On May 8, 2023, Osman Lavic (R), the Director of Gazi Husrev-beg Library in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Seyyed Baqer Mirabdollahi, an official of Iran Public Libraries Foundation shake hands in a meeting held at the Tehran Central Library after signing an MoU aimed at enhancing library cooperation.

● IRNA

Bosnia and Herzegovina. As Sarajevo's oldest cultural center, he noted, the Gazi Husrev-beg Library was founded nearly 500 years ago and as such, it preserves and restores really old manuscripts. "There are about 10,000 old manuscripts in Gazi Husrev-beg Library which were written in Farsi, Arabic, or Ottoman," he said, adding that these are legacies of past generations, and we should make efforts to preserve them. "Apart from old manu-

scripts, about 250,000 manuscripts in Eastern languages are kept in this library, and we intend to publish the information we extract from them across the world," Lavic maintained. The University of Sarajevo has even dedicated a department to study the Farsi language and literature. We turned to talk briefly with Amela Lepir, a member of the delegation that is visiting Iran. She has worked as a libr-

ian in the Gazi Husrev-beg Library for years. "I was not familiar with the state of libraries and book reading in Iran before visiting the country, but during this trip, I realized that Iran has achieved a lot in the publication of books and other cultural works, to say nothing of the large book fair that is held in Iran every year," Lepir said. Lepir added that she has long been interested in visiting Iran and getting familiar with its culture.

Afghan children in Iran receive same education as Iranian students: UNHCR



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Deputy Representative Inna Gladkova stated on Tuesday that Afghan children in Iran have access to educational facilities equivalent to those provided to Iranian students. During a visit to Kerman Province, Gladkova, accompanied by ambassadors from Switzerland, France, and Austria, pointed out that approximately 10 percent of the province's population consists of Afghan refugees. According to IRNA, at many schools in the province, the refugee population outnumbers Iranian students. Gladkova commended the Leader of the Islamic Revolu-

tion for ensuring that all Afghan children have access to the same educational opportunities as Iranian students. She expressed her gratitude to the Iranian government for the services it provides to refugees and stated that her visit to Kerman provided a valuable opportunity to observe the challenges and projects affecting refugees. She further noted that the UNHCR is well aware of the Iranian government's considerable efforts to assist a large refugee population in Kerman. Gladkova concluded that Iran's strategy of incorporating a significant refugee population into its national policies is of great significance to the international community.

7,000-year-old tomb in Oman holds dozens of prehistoric skeletons

Archaeologists found the remains of dozens of people who were buried up to 7,000 years ago in a stone tomb in Oman, on the Arabian Peninsula. The tomb, near Nafun in the country's central Al Wusta province, is among the oldest human-made structures ever found in Oman. The burial area is next to the coast, but it is otherwise a stony desert, Live Science reported.

"No Bronze Age or older graves are known in this region," Alžběta Danielisová, an archaeologist at the Czech Republic's Institute of Archaeology in Prague, told Live Science. "This one is completely unique." Danielisová is leading the excavations at the tomb for the institute, which is part of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS). The tomb itself was discovered about 10 years ago in satellite photographs, and archaeologists think it dates to between 5,000 B.C. and 4,600 B.C. A report on the project said the tomb's walls were made with rows of thin stone slabs, called ashlar, with two circular burial chambers inside divided into individual compartments. The entire tomb was covered with



an ashlar roof, but it has partially collapsed, probably because of the annual monsoon rains. Several "bone clusters" were found in the burial chambers, indicating that the dead had been left to decompose before being deposited in the tomb; their skulls were placed near the outside wall, with their long bones pointed toward the center of the chamber. Similar remains were found in a smaller tomb next to the main tomb; archaeologists think it was built slightly later. Danielisová said there is evidence that the dead there were buried at different times, and three graves of people from the Samad culture, who lived thousands of

years later, were found nearby. The next stage will be to carry out anthropological and biochemical assessments of the human remains — such as isotope analysis, a look at the differing neutrons in the nuclei of various key elements — to learn more about the diets, mobility and demographics of the people who were buried in the tomb, she said. According to a statement from the CAS, these projects include an expedition in southern Oman's Dhofar province that has found a stone hand ax that may date back to the first early human migrations out of Africa, between 300,000 and 1.3 million years ago.