

Five Iranian provinces to host Craft Week programs



ISNA – Iran Craft Week will take place in five provinces starting from June 7.

The opening day will feature a press conference in Tehran, followed by events in Alborz, Zanjan, Ardebil, and Isfahan.

A special program will be held in Isfahan on June 10 to commemorate World Handicrafts Day, with the presence of local and international guests, along with officials from the World Crafts Council and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

On June 12, officials from the World Crafts Council and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts will visit Ardebil Province, followed by their travel to Zanjan Province on June 13.

Spain to honor Iran's filmmaker Farhadi



ISNA – Spain's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will honor Iran's Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi in a ceremony called 'Masters' cycle on June 28.

Isabelle Huppert and Manolo Zarzo will also receive recognition from the institution. In 2018, Farhadi directed the Spanish-language film 'Everybody Knows' with stars such as Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz, and Ricardo Darín, which was chosen as the opening film of the Cannes Film Festival.

This film received nominations in eight categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor and Actress in a Leading Role, Best Supporting Actress, Original Screenplay, Editing, and Music, at the 33rd edition of the Goya Awards, organized by the Spain's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

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Ancient mosque in NW Iran turned to tourist attraction

Arts & Culture Desk

According to the deputy head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department in East Azarbaijan, the Jame' Mosque in Marand, with its 700-year history and cultural value, has undergone a transformation from a religious site to a prominent tourist attraction.

Vahid Navadad, in an interview with IRNA, expressed their plan to separate the central section of the mosque from the rest, highlighting its touristic appeal after completing the restoration of its main and central parts.

The main objective of the provincial department is to safeguard the mosque from potential damage while enhancing its focus on tourism, enabling visitors to easily explore this remarkable historical site at any time of the day.

Navadad reminded that the restoration of the mosque had been underway for several years, emphasizing its prioritization among cultural heritage restoration projects. They are determined to finish the restoration and renovation by the year's end.

Utilizing modern preservation techniques, the historical mosque is being restored and renovated based on references from historical images, enabling a compre-



hensive reconstruction process that reflects different historical periods.

Navadad highlighted the Blue Mosque of Tabriz as a prime example of this restoration approach. Despite the destruction caused by the 1780 earthquake and the absence of a dome in historical images, the various reconstruction efforts successfully incorporated a dome into the original structure. Navadad also mentioned the preservation and maintenance of the

mosque's main entrance door. This intricately crafted door, adorned with verses from the Qur'an and composed of several stone pieces, will be relocated to the central area after the restoration operations are completed.

The mosque's 700-year history is considered a cherished heritage for Azerbaijan and Iran, with its architectural and religious significance traced back to the Seljuk and Ilkhanid periods.

The provincial department's pri-

mary objective is to comprehensively address the current condition and preservation of historical artifacts and structures through restoration and reconstruction efforts.

Navadad explained that previously, fire-resistant bricks were used in certain sections of the mosque's restoration. However, those bricks have been removed to reveal the original structure of the walls and ceiling, ensuring authenticity and historical accuracy.



Arts & Culture Desk

The president of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) announced on Wednesday the launch of the Iranian

Writers International Book Database.

This citation database was established to strengthen the diplomacy and scientific and technological interactions of the

Iranian Writers Int'l Book Database launched

country, he added.

Seyyed Ahmad Fazelzadeh noted that the high capacity of the Iranian Writers International Book Database is a significant step towards strengthening the scientific and technological authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the international level, IRNA reported.

He invited universities, research institutions, and technology centers of the country to submit their published international

book information to ISC for review and registration in this database.

Fazelzadeh announced that the database currently covers information on more than 1,200 book titles, adding that the process of its completion and expansion continues. The ISC has launched the first database of Iranian Writers' International Book Information, which includes their writings published by reputable international publishers, he concluded.

He stated that the creation of knowledge, as one of the most important missions of scientific and academic centers in the country, can be observed and monitored through the publication of books, articles, and registration of inventions at the national and international levels, noting that citation and information databases facilitate this monitoring, significantly influencing the country's major scientific decisions and policies.

Rabat to host 28th international book fair

Rabat's Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication announced that it will organize the 28th edition of the International Book and Print Fair (SIEL) 2023, scheduled between June 1-11.

The fair will see the participation of over 660 Moroccan and foreign authors and poets. Over the 10-day period, the participants will take part in book signings, debates, and workshops, moroccoworldnews.com

reported. The fair area will extend over 35,000 square meters in the Souissi area in Rabat and will include over 700 exhibitors, 139 of whom are from Morocco.

The SIEL is an opportunity for the general public to meet authors and discover new publications from Morocco and around the world. The list of new publications includes Abdellatif Laabi's 'The Earth Is a Bitter Orange,' set to be published by

Le Castor Astral Editions on June 8. Other notable events at the fair include a meeting on self-translation led by Abdelfattah Kilito on June 4, with participation from Abdesslam Benabdellah and Aissa Makhoul.

Quebec will be the event's guest of honor, with a meeting on Quebecois literature being set for June 5. The meeting will bring together Jeremie McEwen, Etienne Beaulieu, and Mustapha

Fahmi. Over 220 cultural activities will be organized as part of SIEL 2023, as well as 660 activities in the children area, which aim to strengthen children's relationship with books.

Last year's book fair welcomed over 200,000 visitors, featuring 712 exhibitors from 55 countries with 100,000 titles and two million copies covering all disciplines.

