

## Iran to attend 21st Pune Book Fair in India



### Arts & Culture Desk

**IBNA** - Iran's publishing industry is set to participate in the 21st Pune Book Fair, scheduled to take place from October 11 to 15, showcasing its diverse range of literary works and cultural products.

In addition to presenting books and cultural products, Iran's Cultural House in Mumbai, India, will offer visitors an immersive experience by providing services that delve into the realm of Iranian culture and tourism.

P.N.R Rajan, the fair convenor, extended an official invitation to Iran's book industry, recognizing its significance and inviting its active involvement in this esteemed cultural event.

The exhibition, held at the renowned Creativity commercial complex in Pune's Yerwada area, serves as a platform for distinguished publishers from all Indian states, boasting over 100 meticulously curated booths. With a daily footfall of two thousand enthusiastic visitors and prospective buyers, the fair stands as a hub of literary engagement and commercial activity.

## Iranian short film 'Mattress' to be screened in Russia



### Arts & Culture Desk

**MEHR** - Arash Hasanpour, an acclaimed Iranian filmmaker, will showcase his short film titled 'Mattress' at the prestigious Zero Plus International Film Festival in Russia, scheduled to take place from October 1 to 8.

The film revolves around the story of eight-year-old Mohsen, who becomes the target of ridicule from his friends when they notice a yellow stain on the mattress hanging out to dry, according to the film's synopsis.

'Mattress' features a talented cast including Mohammad Soroush Al-Hashi, Salar Qadimi, Mohammad-Amin Mohammadi, Fatima Neyshabouri, and Yadollah Shademani. Prior to its participation in the Zero Plus International Film Festival, 'Mattress' has already garnered attention at the 36th edition of the Cinekid Festival in the Netherlands. Additionally, it had a screening at the renowned St. Louis International Film Festival in the United States.

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# Yazd 800-year-old Darayi-Bafi requires more support



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

Darayi-Bafi, an exquisite and distinctive handicraft industry, holds a significant place in Yazd Province. This art form, a type of fabric weaving, has thrived in the city of Yazd for centuries, faithfully preserving its traditional and authentic techniques.

While Darayi-Bafi was once practiced in other regions of the country, it gradually faded over time, leaving Yazd as the sole bastion of this craft in Iran. Presently, several workshops in Yazd, predominantly situated in the historic quarters of the city, are dedicated to producing Darayi fabric. Authorities in the province are actively pursuing its registration as an intangible heritage, under the name of Yazd, aiming to inspire Yazdi artists to safeguard this venerable art from fading into oblivion.



Masoud Malek-Sabet, a Darayi weaver in Yazd, has diligently pursued his craft for many years within a small room tucked away in the courtyard of Ziaieh School, also known as Eskandar Prison - an ancient monument within Yazd's historic section. The art of Darayi-Bafi runs deep in his family, with his grandfather having achieved renown as a Darayi weaver in Yazd. Masoud himself has dedicated a decade to honing his skills in this profession. Describing the distinctive features of Darayi, he explains, "Unlike other fabrics, Darayi undergoes meticulous design and patterning on threads, employing precise calculations before the actual weaving process begins." Traditionally, pure silk was used for weaving Darayi fabric, but nowadays, cotton and rayon threads (artificial silk) are used.

In the past, possessing 16 pieces of Darayi fabric in a girl's dowry was a symbol of pride and affluence, elevating her social status and suggesting she hailed from a prosperous family. According to Malek-Sabet, Darayi fabric was predominantly employed for making bedspreads, curtains, and *shamad* (thin cotton blan-



ket) in the past. However, contemporary products such as scarves, tablecloths, bags, and shoes now showcase this distinctive fabric. Explaining the process of Darayi fabric production, he reveals that weaving Darayi fabric is accomplished using a handloom - a practice that has been ongoing for over 800 years in Yazd. Once the fabric design is

established on the threads, the spindle is placed within the loom, allowing the weaver to skillfully move the threads from one side to the other. The weaver's feet operate four pedals, enabling the weaving of straight, diagonal, or diamond patterns by adjusting their positions.

Discussing the designs found in Darayi fabrics, he notes that these creations are adorned with intricate geometric patterns and motifs rooted in the culture, climate, customs, and traditions of desert-dwelling communities. A vivid and vibrant array of colors is skillfully employed throughout the weaving process.

In this weaving art, conventional thread knotting techniques are eschewed, as

they diminish the fabric's quality. If necessary, apricot tree resin is utilized to bind the threads together.

Regrettably, despite its longstanding presence, Darayi-Bafi remains relatively unknown on a national scale, risking gradual disappearance.

Malek-Sabet emphasizes that Darayi-Bafi demands tremendous labor and presents considerable challenges, thereby garnering limited interest among younger generations. To ensure the vitality and continuity of this craft, he calls upon the government and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to provide the necessary support and create an enabling environment for those involved in this field.

# Iran, Qatar pledge to strengthen cultural diplomacy

Officials from Iran and Qatar underscored the importance of bolstering cultural diplomacy between the two nations, with a focus on fostering closer ties through arts and culture. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al Thani, the Minister of Culture of the State of Qatar, made these remarks during a meeting with Yaser Ahmadvand, Iran's Deputy Minister for Cultural Affairs, held on the sidelines of the 32nd edition of the Doha International Book Fair, Mehr

news agency reported. Highlighting this year's participation of Iran in the book fair, the Qatari minister acknowledged a notable difference compared to previous editions. He proposed the organization of a cultural week in both countries to enhance collaboration and expand cultural relations. Ahmadvand, in turn, emphasized Iran's significant cultural potential for cooperation with Qatar, particularly in the field of book publishing. He

stressed the need to develop cultural relations between the two nations. The Iranian official expressed appreciation for Qatar's hospitality towards the Iranian delegation and for hosting various cultural meetings and programs. He also expressed gratitude for Qatar's presence as a special guest at the 33rd Tehran International Book Fair. The Doha International Book Fair, known for being one of the oldest and largest international book fairs



in the region, enjoys a stellar reputation, attracting significant interest from Arab and foreign countries.

The fair is currently taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center from June 12 to 21.

### PIC OF THE DAY

The 10th Digital Printing Exhibition is currently taking place at the Goftegoo Park's Permanent Fairground, organized by Tehran Municipality.

