

## Standard Chinese added to Iranian school curriculum



**IRNA** – Iran has expanded its foreign language offerings in schools by adding Standard Chinese to the curriculum.

The Education Ministry's Supreme Council, with the approval of the president, has introduced this change in order to diversify educational programs and fulfill public demands. The new law allows schools to select Arabic, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Standard Chinese, in addition to English, as languages to be taught. It is important to note that Farsi is recognized as the official language of Iran according to Article 15 of the constitution, while Article 16 mandates the teaching of Arabic in all subjects and grade levels. The inclusion of Arabic is attributed to its significance as the language of the Holy Qur'an and Islamic teachings, which are deeply intertwined with Persian literature.

## Iran to produce 'The Survivor 2'



**IRNA** – Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation announced plans to produce 'The Survivor 2,' a sequel to the film 'The Survivor' made approximately thirty years ago.

The late Seifollah Daad directed the original film, which was produced by Manouchehr Mohammadi and depicted the Arab-Israeli conflict in Haifa. Daad once revealed that 'The Survivor' was inspired by Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani's novella 'Return to Haifa.' Currently, the film script for 'The Survivor 2' is in its final phase, and details regarding the director and cast will be unveiled shortly.



● License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 ● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453  
 ● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684  
 ● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5  
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617 - irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
 ● Website: www.irandaily.ir  
 newspaper.irandaily.ir  
 irandaily@icpi.ir  
 irandaily@icpi.ir  
 ● Email:  
 ● Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Mottahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran



Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

# Iran's Regional Music Festival underway

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 16th Iran's Regional Music Festival is currently being held in a national scope from June 27 to July 14.

The festival, organized by the Iranian Music Association in collaboration with the Cultural and Islamic Guidance Departments of various provinces nationwide, is non-competitive in nature, according to IRNA. The event, hosted by five provinces, namely Golestan (June 27 to 29), Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari (July 1 to 3), East Azarbaijan (July 5 to 7), Kermanshah (July 8 to 10), and Kerman (July 12 to 14), is overseen by Mohammad-Ali Mer'aati as the secretary and is carried out under the auspices of the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

In Golestan province, the festival came to an end on June 29 after showcasing four captivating folk music

performances of different styles.

For a span of three days at the city's Varna venue, various musical groups hailing from the provinces of Golestan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Qazvin, North Khorasan, and Alborz entertained the crowd with their distinctive folk and local music in a non-competitive festival, the report added.

Although the festival was traditionally held annually in Kerman, southern Iran, last year the organizers decided to move it to Gorgan, reportedly due to a lack of technical infrastructure at the central hall of the city that was supposed to accommodate the participating musicians.

The 15th festival concluded with the introduction of the Lotfi Medal by the organizers. The medal is named after Mohammadreza Lotfi, the late master of stringed



Iranian instruments and composer, who worked with great musicians such as vocalist Mohammadreza

Shajarian. The decoration will be awarded biennially to musicians with outstanding

works. In the previous year, the festival welcomed four musical groups from Turkey, Tajikistan, Uz-

bekistan, and Afghanistan alongside various ensembles originating from diverse regions of Iran.



### Arts & Culture Desk

Homayoun Shajarian, the renowned Iranian traditional music vocalist, is set to commence his European concert tour in the month of Shahrivar (August-September) this year, starting from

Istanbul. According to IRNA, Shajarian plans to hold his concerts abroad after a one-year hiatus. Accompanied by the Siavash Orchestra, he will grace the stage on August 30 in Istanbul, Turkey, and on September 1

## Homayoun Shajarian's European concert tour to start in Istanbul

in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Furthermore, Shajarian's concert will be held on September 2 in Frankfurt, Germany, on September 3 in Berlin, Germany, and on September 8 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Sweden's Gothenburg and Denmark's Copenhagen will be the next destinations for Shajarian's concert on September 9 and 10, respectively. Last summer, Shajarian successfully performed the 'In Color of Voice' concert with the leadership of Arash Gouran and the Siavash Orchestra at the

Ministry of Interior Hall. Due to its overwhelming reception, the concert was extended for three additional performances, increasing the number of performances from five to 30, setting an unprecedented record in the country's music history after four years.

Following this success, the 'In Color of Voice' concert was scheduled to be held on September 2 and 3 in Toronto, September 4 and 5 in Montreal, September 9 and 10 in Vancouver, and on September 11 last year in Calgary, Canada. However, due to the delayed

issuance of visas for some members of the orchestra, the Toronto and Montreal concerts were postponed until January, and only the Vancouver and Calgary shows took place as scheduled.

Moreover, the concert tour of 'In Color of Voice' was intended to be held in the autumn of last year in certain European cities such as London, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Milan, and Vienna. However, it was canceled due to Shajarian's personal decision. Now, after a year, the concerts of this renowned vocalist are set to take place.

## 1,200-year-old 'Viking graffiti', the oldest drawing ever discovered in Iceland

Archaeologists in Iceland unearthed the country's oldest known drawing: a scratched-out piece of "Viking graffiti" that looks like a partly drawn boat.

The researchers found the graffiti in the remains of a longhouse, said Bjarni F. Einarsson, an archaeologist and manager at his private company Fornleifafraedistofan (The Archaeological Office) and the project's excavation leader. The scribble was engraved on a 1-inch-wide reddish clay stone and dates to shortly

after A.D. 800, Live Science reported.

The ship isn't complete, which is typical of Viking boat graffiti, Einarsson said. But the carving shows a sail with vertical lines, a rope from the sail to the front of the ship and a partly drawn hull. "It's very common that the ships are not drawn [fully] in their hull," Einarsson told Live Science.

Viking Age ship graffiti — both depictions of lone boats and carvings of fleets — are common

in Scandinavia and are often found on fragments of bone, stone and timber, he noted.

The clay stone is just one of many artifacts discovered in the longhouse, which Einarsson uncovered in Stöð, east Iceland, in 2007 while doing an archaeological survey for a company that planned to lay down fiber-optic cable in the area.

Einarsson found the ship graffiti while excavating a wall from the middle settlement phase, when



the hall was about 141 feet (43 m) long. There are a few contenders for the second-youngest carving in the country, but one

shows an engraving of a walrus face from a Viking Age farm in western Iceland that dates to the 10th century, he said.