

## Iran cinema awarded in Armenia



ISNA – Iranian films have achieved recognition at the 20th edition of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan, Armenia. The festival honored two Iranian productions with awards. The Iranian feature film 'Endless Borders,' directed by Abbas Amini and produced jointly by Iran, Germany, and the Czech Republic, received the esteemed Best Film Award in the Panorama section. The thought-provoking film explores themes of identity and personal struggle.

In addition, the FIPRESCI award, presented by the International Federation of Film Critics, was bestowed upon 'My Worst Enemy,' directed by Mehran Tamadon. This film delves into complex social dynamics and interpersonal relationships. Among the other winners, the coveted "Golden Apricot" prize was awarded to the Greek film 'Black Stone,' directed by Spiros Jacovides.

The 20th edition of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival took place from July 9 to July 16 in Yerevan, Armenia. The festival provided a platform for filmmakers from around the world to showcase their creative works and foster cultural exchange.

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# 'Narration of the Murder of Nassereddin Shah' exhibition opens



### Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition, titled 'Narration of the Murder of Nassereddin Shah,' made its debut at Golestan Palace, marking the first time that inscriptions from the mausoleum of the Qajar king have been showcased to the public.

The golden inscriptions from Nassereddin Shah's mausoleum were loaned from the Museum of Astan-e Abdolazim Hassani and are currently on display at the Chador Khaneh of Golestan Palace, which once served as the seat of Nassereddin Shah's rule, according to ISNA.

The exhibition will be open to visitors from July 16 to July 31.

In addition to the remarkable inscriptions, the exhibition features various artifacts associated with Nassereddin Shah. These include his final diary, the blood-stained handkerchief used during his assassination, the chair upon which he sat following the attack until his death, and copies of the Qur'an from his mausoleum. During the opening ceremony, Alireza Behzadi, the executive director of the exhibition, revealed an intriguing discovery. He explained, "Last year,

we found several paintings at the Museum of Astan-e Abdolazim Hassani that depict the final days of Nassereddin Shah. Some of these paintings are currently displayed on the second floor, while the rest are kept in storage. With the assistance of the Museum of Astan-e Abdolazim Hassani, the inscriptions were safely transported to Golestan Palace."

Regarding the inscriptions, the researcher explained that they were meticulously crafted on copper sheets and adorned with gold plating. These inscriptions were installed around Nassereddin Shah's mau-

soleum four years after his burial in 1317 Hijri year. Notably, the body of Nassereddin Shah had been temporarily housed at the Takiyeh Dowlat for a year following his assassination until the completion of the mausoleum.

Speaking about the style of the inscriptions, Behzadi remarked, "The design of these inscriptions bears resemblance to Safavid-era inscriptions. We have extracted the complete text and will present it during a scholarly session on July 31."

Alireza Oudran, the head of the Museum of Astan-e Abdolazim Hassani, described

the exhibition as a momentous occasion, particularly considering its timing after the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

He revealed that around 46 inscriptions, which provide a narrative of Nassereddin Shah's murder, are housed in the museum's treasury. The decorative elements surrounding these inscriptions including mirror work, gypsum work, and brickwork underwent alterations during the revolution. Consequently, the inscriptions were relocated to the Museum of Astan-e Abdolazim Hassani.

Afarin Emami, the director of the Golestan Palace

World Heritage Site, drew an analogy between historical cultural objects and words, emphasizing their collective significance. She stated, "Historical objects are similar to words in that they possess individual meanings. However, when they come together to form sentences, their meanings become richer. When these sentences are arranged side by side, they create a book. Historical objects operate in a similar manner as their collective presence conveys an accurate narrative and story, surpassing the impact of observing scattered objects."

## Persian language, literature 'increase Iran's soft power'

### Arts & Culture Desk

The president of the University of Isfahan (UI) emphasized the importance of promoting the Persian language and literature as vital components in enhancing the soft power and strengthening the scientific and cultural diplomacy capabilities of the country. Hossein Harsij stated that language and literature play significant roles in cultural discussions and are important indicators of soft power in every nation. During the opening ceremony of a branch of the Society for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature at the University of Isfahan, Harsij highlighted the significance of networking in promoting the Persian language and literature, especially in the modern virtual era. He emphasized the need for universities to update the Persian language and literature books and collaborate through networking to realize the directives of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution in transforming Persian into the language of science.



Harsij believed that this approach would revive the culture and civilization of Islamic Iran.

The university professor acknowledged that non-Iranian students in Iranian universities are interested in the culture and civilization of Islamic Iran, adding that their intellectual and spiritual development would have a positive political impact.

Harsij outlined the important and necessary missions of the society's office at the UI, stating that its primary focus is community-centric. He maintained that the office aims to contribute to the development of civilization, which in turn enhances the country's power in various dimensions.

Therefore, Harsij emphasized utilizing the University of Isfahan's capacity to

support the government's efforts in promoting the Persian language and literature internationally.

Highlighting the internationalization of universities, Harsij underscored the need to strengthen the Persian language and literature centers, particularly in regional countries. He suggested training qualified individuals who can collaborate with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology and undertake this responsibility. Harsij identified publications as another key player in promoting the Persian language and literature at national and international levels.

He noted that many countries in the region ask for access to Iran's rich cultural resources, thereby significantly enhancing Iran's soft power.

Ali-Asghar Mirbaqerifard, the president of the Iranian Society for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature, mentioned that the society, both in terms of its membership and activities, is one of the largest scientific societies in the country.

Mirbaqerifard highlighted the society's establishment in 1971 and some of its contributions including publishing valuable works, organizing sessions and conferences, and sending professors to foreign chairs.

He further explained that the society revised its constitution in 2004, adopting two approaches focused on scientific innovation and practical application in promoting the Persian language and literature.

Mirbaqerifard highlighted the organization's international section and mentioned its branch in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, outlining the plans to establish 10 more branches in Turkey, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Mirbaqerifard described the provincial missions of the Society for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature, which involve assisting in scientific research, responding to societal needs, preserving and revitalizing native literature in each province, and identifying literary talents.

### PIC OF THE DAY

Kharanagh Castle, a magnificent historical fortress spanning over 10,000 square meters, proudly stands in the village of Kharanagh, neighboring the iconic Shah Abbasi Caravanserai. With a rich history dating back an impressive 4,500 years, this architectural gem has been officially recognized as a national heritage site in Iran since 2005.

Nestled in the heart of Yazd, the village of Kharanagh, locally known as "Khoranagh," carries a poetic meaning as "the birthplace of the sun." Its ancient origins are intertwined with tales of resilience, as the village faced relentless attacks from bandits and thieves in times long past. In response to these threats, the resourceful locals constructed the formidable Kharanagh Castle, seeking refuge within its fortified walls for generations.

