

## Ancient ceramic bowl discovered in S Iran



IRNA - The city of Ram-hormoz in Iran's southern province of Khuzestan witnessed a significant archaeological find as a local law enforcement commander announced the discovery of a large enameled ceramic bowl dating back to the early Islamic period.

The artifact was found during a search of a suspect's residence in the city. The suspect was apprehended in connection with the historical item, and the discovered artifact was handed over to the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department of the Khuzestan Province, IRNA wrote. Colonel Mohammad Mohammadi-Nasab emphasized that Iran's police will not tolerate any attempts to loot or profit from the country's historical treasures.

## University of Tehran aims to cement ties with Iraq



IRNA - The President of the University of Tehran Mohammad Moqimi emphasized the institution's commitment to enhancing scientific collaboration with Iraqi universities.

During a meeting with Abdul Muhsin Naji Al-Muhaisen, the president of the Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University of Iraq, Moqimi expressed readiness for joint research endeavors and the exchange of professors and students between the two academic centers.

One of the key initiatives discussed in the meeting was the establishment of a new Persian language education center in close proximity to the Iraqi border city of Basra. This center aims to facilitate easy access to Persian language education for the Iraqi people.

The University of Tehran has pledged to provide Persian language teachers and instructors to Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University, intending to bolster Persian language education — but it shall be subject to the availability of suitable space at the Iraqi academic center.

In response, Naji Al-Muhaisen expressed his enthusiasm for fostering scientific cooperation between the two universities and extended an invitation to Moqimi to visit the Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University of Iraq.

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# Iran's 'Paper Dream' wins Best Producer Award in Greek festival

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian drama 'Paper Dream' achieves resounding success at the 68th Athens International Film & Art Festival, securing the prestigious Best Producer Award.

This film, helmed by talented director Ali Atshani, narrates the poignant tale of a young man living in seclusion due to his albinism. However, his life takes an unexpected turn when a cunning young girl exploits his pure-hearted nature and transforms him into a social media influencer. As their bond deepens, he finds himself captivated by her.

The film's captivating storyline has already earned

recognition at various international film festivals, including the Bridge Film Festival in Vancouver, the World Film Carnival in Singapore, and the Newark International Film Festival in the United States. It also clinched the Best Director Award at the South Texas International Film Festival in Edinburg and received the Best Film Award at both the Black Hat Film Festival in Budapest, Hungary, and the Independent Producers Indie Film Festival (IPIFF) in Bucharest, Romania.

The festival, renowned for its celebration of avant-garde, independent, alternative, and world media, showcases a diverse range of works, spanning



from 35mm and 16mm feature films to video and digital media installations.

Embracing artists from all walks of life, genres, and creative approaches, this

festival stands as a beacon of artistic excellence in the global film community.

## Iran's theatrical production 'Current', an insightful human-centric play

### Arts & Culture Desk

Alireza Maroufi describes 'Current' as a politically and socially oriented piece, but at its core, it delves deep into the human experience, offering a fresh perspective on humanity. The play's content and atmosphere set it apart from his previous works, making it a unique and distinct creation.

In essence, 'Current' is a theatrical exploration of the human condition, allowing each audience member to form their own interpretation of the work while addressing universal human concerns.

The director's enduring fascination with war becomes evident in 'Current.' While his other works have not always focused on the perpetuity of war, he seeks to break away from clichéd narratives and explore lesser-known aspects of conflict. For Maroufi, war remains a con-

stant concern, and he is open to the possibility of creating more works centered around this theme in the future.

The storyline of 'Current' is set in the early 1990s and revolves around Mustafa, a writer and documentary filmmaker. When he publishes materials against a prevailing current, he faces challenges that drive the plot forward. The play's themes are relatable to all members of society, as the issues presented can resonate with anyone, regardless of their position in life. In a way, 'Current' serves as a bridge between the present and the past, addressing timeless human dilemmas.

Maroufi typically writes his own scripts and directs his works, approaching his writing from a purely realistic standpoint without considering the execution at the time of writing. Once the writing is com-

plete, he takes on the role of a director, envisioning the presentation. The intimate knowledge he has of his own scripts enables him to fully comprehend their essence. However, he remains open to collaborating with a separate writer in media other than theater, allowing for fresh perspectives on his directorial vision.

The absence of elaborate stage decor in 'Current' is a deliberate decision by the director to bring a new dimension to the performances. By stripping away all non-essential elements, the focus is placed entirely on the actors, dialogues, form, and movements. This approach allows for a more direct and impactful connection with the audience, as they can project their own interpretations of the play's setting and atmosphere.

Maroufi's use of the mise-en-scène, where he incorporates space and stair-

ways between the seats, contributes to creating a dynamic and engaging experience. This technique enhances the audience's connection with the performance, allowing them to witness the play's unfolding up close.

Furthermore, Maroufi embraces the idea of non-linear performance in 'Current' and other works, using temporal breaks to create a sense of suspension that stimulates the audience's curiosity and comprehension of the play's underlying themes. When casting for 'Current,' the director prioritizes actors with strong expressive abilities encompassing speech, body language, and emotion. He seeks actors who can skillfully embody their roles, rather than merely relying on their popularity or fame. The play features a mix of veteran actors and recognized figures from the theater community, enhancing the ensemble's performance. Maroufi celebrates the

expansion and diversification of the play's themes, which enables 'Current' to present a formalistic drama that delves into various facets of the human experience. He hopes that the audiences witnessing the performances will find a shared understanding and appreciation for the play's language and exploration of humanity's intricacies.

With its human-centered approach and innovative performance, 'Current' promises to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression on all who experience its unique perspective on humanity. Written and directed by Maroufi, 'Current' is on stage at Tehran's City Theatre main hall from July 20 to August 11.

Ruzbeh Hesari, Vahid Nafar, Elaheh Shahparast, Saleh Lavasani, Maziar Mehregan, Mohammad Niaz, Mehdi Rahimi-sadeh, Farzad Tajalli, Mohammad Hossein Samari, and Zoha Rajaeifar are the cast of the play.



Iran's theatrical play 'Current', written and directed by Maroufi, is on stage at Tehran's City Theatre main hall from July 20 to August 11.

● REZA MO'ATTARIAN  
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