

Iran's NLAI to participate in 88th IFLA conference

IRNA – The National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) is scheduled to take part in the 88th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Assembly, a globally recognized professional and trade federation that caters to the library and information services sector.

The event commenced on August 21 and will span five days in the city of Rotterdam, Netherlands.

A significant highlight of this annual international gathering is the convening of heads of national libraries, where discussions center around pressing challenges faced by national libraries of various countries, as well as issues related to librarianship and management experiences within the global scope of national libraries.

During this iteration of IFLA, various specialized areas of library knowledge and library management will come under scrutiny. Matters ranging from digital libraries and library standards to information technology and environmentally conscious libraries will be deliberated upon in numerous working committees and meetings. Special attention will be given to dissecting the role of artificial intelligence in shaping management mechanisms and library services.

Under the theme "Let's Work Together, Let's Library," the 88th conference aims to explore the ways in which libraries can contribute to fostering an inclusive society, one that ensures equal participation opportunities for all. Key topics of discourse encompass personal growth, the promotion of reading, language and digital skill development, open access to culture, as well as digital knowledge and innovation.

'Persian Tales and Proverbs' published for Persian learners

MEHR – The book 'Persian Tales and Proverbs', written by Navid Atarsharghi and Elaheh Nasirpoor, was recently published for Persian language learners.

The book which is appropriate for intermediate and upper-intermediate Persian learners, aims at familiarizing them with the Persian culture and proverbs with a simple method.

It teaches the correct use of some of the most famous Persian proverbs and the stories behind them, as well as strengthens language learners' reading, writing, and speaking skills.

The book contains three chapters and a total of 12 lessons and three review tests. Persian, also known by its endonym Farsi, is a Western Iranian language belonging to the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian subdivision of the Indo-European languages.

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Authorities plan to restore bas-relief of Fath-Ali Shah



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The director of Shahr-e Rey's National Cultural Heritage Base announced the forthcoming restoration of the bas-relief of Fat'h-Ali Shah, the second Shah of the Qajar dynasty, along with the ancient site of Cheshmeh Ali located in southern Tehran.

In an interview with an Iran Daily, Qadir Afrund provided details about the recent progress.

He explained that the project's tender process was concluded in the past few days, resulting in the selection of a contractor. The restoration work on both the bas-relief and the Cheshmeh Ali area is set to commence in the coming days. Cheshmeh Ali, an ancient site in Shahr-e Rey, stands as a historical and tourist marvel within the capital, with origins dating back approximately 8,000 years ago. Of particular significance is a bas-relief dating back to the Qajar era. This bas-relief, one of three inscriptions associated with Fat'h Ali Shah, who ruled Iran from 1797 to 1834, graces a rock wall and mountain at Cheshmeh Ali. The depiction showcases the king during a court ceremony, seated on a throne at the center of the composition, surrounded by 16 of his sons. Adjacent to the bas-relief are two inscribed



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A strategic committee will oversee the execution of the restoration and reconstruction of both the bas-relief and the Cheshmeh Ali area, ensuring that the endeavor adheres to the highest standards of principled preservation.

engravings, collectively lending a captivating allure to this ancient site.

Afrund emphasized that a notable aspect of this restoration initiative revolves around the prominent Qajar bas-relief crafted onto the stone walls in 1832 by order of Fat'h Ali Shah Qajar.

He elaborated on the condition of the bas-relief, noting that the passage of time had necessitated its repair and restoration. In recent years, media coverage highlighted the deteriorating state of this historical masterpiece.

In a lamentable incident from two years ago, the absence of a protective enclosure exposed the bas-relief

to vandalism, resulting in the application of colored substances that inflicted damage and distortion upon this national heritage. Afrund revealed that the new strategy pursued by the National Cultural Heritage Base has accorded significant priority to the preservation of the eminent Qajar bas-relief. Thanks to funding from the municipality, comprehensive restoration work will be executed under the vigilant oversight of Shahr-e Rey's National Cultural Heritage Base.

Turning to the historical Cheshmeh Ali site, Afrund explained the various interventions and alterations that have occurred over re-

cent years. These interventions disturbed the natural topography and visual harmony of the site, leading to a disruption in its geological integrity.

He emphasized the need for Cheshmeh Ali's status as a historical reservoir to be upheld in its natural and historical essence. To this end, efforts are underway in collaboration with the municipality to repair misplaced constructions. The landscape surrounding the Cheshmeh Ali spring had, in previous years, undergone inappropriate alterations, such as the use of concrete, stone, and ceramics, which conflicted with the ancient mountain and spring setting.

Furthermore, an incongruous access staircase had been installed on the mountain slope, compromising the site's intrinsic beauty and character, thereby rendering it an artificial and mundane space bereft of its historical significance. Responsible organizations are committed to restoring the site's original historical and natural features.

Afrund clarified that a strategic committee will oversee the execution of the restoration and reconstruction of both the bas-relief and the Cheshmeh Ali area, ensuring that the endeavor adheres to the highest standards of principled preservation.

Over 7,000 films to take part in TISFF

Spain leads the competition

The 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) witnessed a groundbreaking international presence this year, with a record-breaking submission of 7,216 short films from 31 countries. Spain led the pack with 913 entries, according to the festival's secretary. The festival's first press conference was held on

August 21, IRNA wrote. Speaking at the conference, Mehdi Azarpendar highlighted that this year's festival, marking its 40th round, released the call for international entries before the start of the new year, while the national call was announced in late April. Since the festival achieved OSCAR qualification level, its sched-

ule has been consistently maintained, aligning with previous editions. Azarpendar added that the festival received 1,787 national submissions and a record-breaking 7,216 from 31 countries in the international category. Among the national entries, there were 1,185 narratives, 267 documentaries, 222 experimental films, and 113 animations. In the International Section, a total of 3,390 narratives, 1,068 documentaries, 1,112 experimental films, and 936 animations were submitted to the festival's secretariat. Azarpendar noted the substantial demand from filmmakers this year, many of whom were in post-production and sought additional time, leading to a 10-day extension of the festival's

schedule. Azarpendar revealed that two new categories, "Truth Seekers" and "Silk Road," were added to the International Section this year. Spain led with 913 entries, followed by India with 553, France with 494, the United States with 448, and China with 413, in terms of the submitted works. The festival's motto, "A Mirror for All of Iran," seeks to portray diverse cultures, rituals, urban life, and ethnic diversity across the nation through filmmaking. This year, the emphasis remains on national and religious identities, storytelling, and genre in cinema. Azarpendar highlighted that, unlike the previous year, this edition features an opening ceremony, and plans are in place to com-

memorate the festival's 40th anniversary. The ceremony will also provide an opportunity to award winners in the festival's supplementary categories. The Iranian Youth Cinema Society, as the principal organizer of the short film domain in the country, aims to recognize and introduce selected short works on a national and international level. It seeks to catalyze competition among filmmakers and nurture the creativity of young cinema artists through its 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival, featuring both national and international sections. The 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival will take place from October 19 to October 24 under the auspices of Azarpendar in Tehran.



The secretary of the 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) Mehdi Azarpendar speaks at the festival's first press conference, held on August 21 in Tehran.

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