

Iran's 'Okht-o-Reda' warmly welcomed in Pakistan



IRNA - The Iranian film 'Okht-o-Reda' ('Reza's Sister') directed by Mojtaba Tabatabai, was screened in Pakistan's city of Quetta and was warmly received by the Pakistani people. The film's director is renowned for directing acclaimed documentaries like 'Cloudy Sky' and 'The Footsteps of Water'. The film narrates the journey of Hazrat Masumeh (PBUH) from Medina to Qom. Produced by Soureh Cinema Organization, the film has not only been available for viewing in cinema theaters over the past month but has also been screened at special locations as part of mobile screenings. After watching the film, Pakistani audiences expressed their delight at the screening of 'Okht-o-Reda' and extended their gratitude to the filmmaker. They praised the film, stating that it ranks among the finest works they have seen, following TV series like 'Mokhtarnameh' and 'Prophet Joseph'.

Iran's 'Mr. Babak's Family' selected for Polish film festival



IRNA - The Iranian short film 'Mr. Babak's Family', directed by Aminreza Alimohammadi and produced by Amin Rafiei, is slated to be screened at the 17th Lublin Film Festival in Poland. The film, co-written by Solmaz E'temad and Aminreza Alimohammadi, marks its ninth international appearance at global film festivals. The cast of 'Mr. Babak's Family' includes Afshin Hasanloo, Touran Ramezani, Abbas Imani, Amir Moqimi, Leila Hosseinzadeh, and Saeed Karimi. The Lublin Film Festival, scheduled from November 17 to 26 in Lubelskie, Poland, features a selection of 1,700 films, with awards and trophies being presented to the top 12 films. Previously, 'Mr. Babak's Family' participated in the 7th edition of the Shibuya TANPEN Film Festival in Japan from December 22 to 24.

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Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
 Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
 Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
 ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
 Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
 & Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 Website: www.irandaily.ir
 Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
 irandaily@icpi.ir
 Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Iran, Pakistan collaborate on joint film project celebrating Iqbal

The Minister of Culture of Pakistan, Jamal Shah, lauded the dynamism of Iran's cinema industry and announced the collaboration between Iran and Pakistan on a joint film project, including one that pays tribute to Allama Muhammad Iqbal, known as Iqbal Lahori. This announcement comes as part of Pakistan's commitment to strengthening cultural and artistic ties with Iran. In an interview with IRNA, Jamal Shah revealed Pakistan's determination to develop cultural and artistic connections with Iran. He highlighted the recent meeting with his Iranian counterpart on the sidelines of the Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World in Doha, expressing Pakistan's eagerness to host an Iranian film festival. The Iranian Minister of Cul-

ture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, and the Director of the Cinema Organization of Iran, Mohammad Khazaei, were invited to visit Islamabad to attend this festival. Furthermore, Minister Jamal Shah disclosed that several Iranian officials, including directors and filmmakers, are scheduled to participate in the festival in Islamabad. This gathering aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences and negotiations towards the finalization of the joint production of a film on Iqbal Lahori. Jamal Shah underscored that Iqbal Lahori is an important cultural and shared heritage of both Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed Pakistan's readiness to provide the necessary facilities for the development of other collaborative cultural and artistic productions and

films. The Pakistani official praised the progress made by Iran in various cultural fields, particularly in music, filmmaking, and visual arts, after the Islamic Revolution. He underlined the honor it brings to the Islamic community, making special note of Pakistan's keen interest in mutual exchange and joint production in the film and cinema industry. "We are eager to not only benefit from Iran's achievements in various cultural fields, but also to utilize their experiences in the field of film," said Jamal Shah. He further announced Pakistan's Ministry of Culture's readiness to collaborate with the Cinema Organization of Iran for the joint production of films, emphasizing the role such projects play in deepening cultural ties between the

two countries. He expressed Pakistan's enthusiasm for hosting an Iranian film festival as proof to the strength of Iran's cinema industry. Minister Jamal Shah highlighted the long-standing and strong cultural, historical, religious, and geographical ties between Iran and Pakistan. He recalled that these relations came before Pakistan's establishment, dating back to a time when this region was under Persian rule. In conclusion, Jamal Shah stressed the need to promote multifaceted cultural, artistic, educational, and literary cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. He called for immediate action to prevent the ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in Gaza, and for the world community, Islamic nations, and leaders to join forces in sup-



● IRNA

porting the defenseless people of Gaza against the relentless Israeli aggressions. Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Reza Amiri-Moqaddam expressed satisfaction with the strong people-to-people relations between the two neighboring countries and emphasized the importance of diversifying cultural ex-

changes. He confirmed Iran's willingness to expand comprehensive cultural, artistic, and cinematic cooperation with Pakistan. During their meeting, Esmaeili and his Pakistani counterpart agreed on the organization of a joint cultural week celebrating the cultural heritage of both nations in Islamabad.

Fath-Ali Shah Qajar relief partially saved from destruction



By Sadeq Dehqan
 Staff writer



● WIKIPEDIA

In the wake of official registration on Iran's National List for Cultural Heritage, the only section of the last bas-relief of Fat'h-Ali Shah Qajar, a prominent figure from the Qajar era, has been saved from complete destruction. The Fat'h-Ali Shah relief, dating back to 1869, features an impressive depiction of the Qajar king mounted on a horse, engaged in a hunt for a brutal lion. This massive relief, covering an area of approximately 30 square meters, was intricately carved into the side of Sorsoreh Mountain, located in Shahr-e Rey, in southern Tehran. Regrettably, around half a century ago, this historical masterpiece was subjected to severe damage and destruction as it became the raw material for the local Shahr-e Rey Cement Factory, which was established in there. However, small remains of this exceptional relief, as well as some inscribed panels in nasta'liq script, managed to survive, preserving the memory of the dramatic encounter

between the Qajar king and the lion. Qadir Afrund, the director of Shahr-e Rey's National Cultural Heritage Base, in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, shed light on the historical significance of this relief, saying, "During the Qajar dynasty, the Qajar kings had two significant hunting grounds in the Shahr-e Rey area, one extending along the western slopes of the Bibi Shahrbanu Mountain range, part of which leads to Rashkan Castle. Another part of these hunting grounds stretched towards Naqareh Khaneh Mountain (also known as Tabarak Mountain). The Sorsoreh Mountain, where the iconic relief of Fat'h-Ali Shah was carved, was an integral part of this landscape." Afrund emphasized that both Tabarak and Sorsoreh mountains had been almost entirely consumed as

building materials by the Shahr-e Rey Cement Factory. He elaborated, "Another Qajar king's hunting ground was located in the Cheshmeh Ali region in Shahr-e Rey, where Fat'h-Ali Shah ordered the construction of another impressive stone relief, known as the Fat'h-Ali Shah relief, or Cheshmeh Ali relief, which still stands intact. This relief has a history of approximately 180 years, while Cheshmeh Ali itself dates back to eight thousand years ago." Speaking about the fate of the Fat'h-Ali Shah relief on Sorsoreh Mountain, Afrund provided a historical account, saying, "The Shahr-e Rey Cement Factory was inaugurated in 1933, and in 1934, an American archaeological team began its fieldwork on the southern slopes of the Rashkan Castle and Sorsoreh Mountain."

Afrund added, "During that time, the Ministry of Industries sought to establish Iran's first modern industrial cement factory, the Shahr-e Rey Cement Factory, to supply cement for the construction of the North-South Railway. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Science, Research and Technology signed a contract for archaeological excavations with the American team."

He said that professor Smith, the head of the American team in the archaeological project, had objected to the destruction of historical artifacts by the cement factory but, in 1936, during the first Pahlavi era, sections of Tabarak Mountain and Rashkan Castle, dating back to the Al-Buwayh and Seljuk periods, were razed, and their stones were utilized in the cement factory. Afrund added, "The

Fat'h-Ali Shah relief on Sorsoreh Mountain was situated in an area that essentially served as a backdrop for a recreational site during the Qajar period, which the Qajar royal family used as a secluded and recreational place. Eventually, only small parts of this iconic relief survived. Recently, with the efforts of history and culture enthusiasts in Shahr-e Rey, this part of the stone relief has been registered

as a national heritage in Iran, and although most of it has been lost, what remains is a priceless and unparalleled historical artifact." The preservation of this significant relic offers a glimpse into Iran's rich cultural heritage and the efforts to safeguard its historical treasures, ensuring that these remnants of the past continue to be celebrated and protected for future generations.

PIC OF THE DAY



Iranians from all walks of life take to the streets nationwide on November 4, 2023, to mark the National Day against the Global Arrogance as well as the 44th anniversary of the takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, commonly known as the Day of Espionage in the country.
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