

Iran identifies 1,200 donors of rare blood types



Social Desk

Iran identified 1,200 donors of rare blood types, making it the first Muslim country to join the International Rare Donor Panel, the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) said on Thursday. IBTO's Deputy for Technical and Innovative Technologies, Ebadollah Salekmoqaddam, speaking on the National Rare Blood Day, said that Iran had successfully registered 354 units of rare frozen blood, stored at a chilling -80 degrees Celsius, reserved for emergency injections to patients in need, IRNA reported.

Out of around 40,000 nationwide blood donors examined, 1,200 have been recognized as donors of rare blood type, comprising 95% men and 5% women, Salekmoqaddam added.

"If a person's blood group is found in only one to five individuals per thousand, it is considered rare. If it is not found in a population of 5,000 or more, it is considered extremely rare," he said.

Iran becomes the 16th country to join the 27 nations capable of technologically and scientifically distinguishing rare blood types.

Regarding the process of rare blood supply and maintenance, Salekmoqaddam said that after identifying individuals with rare blood type, their donated blood would undergo special preparation methods.

"Preservatives are added, and the blood is stored at -80 degrees Celsius to be readily available for patients in need."

Currently, 100 units of extremely rare blood types are stored in the IBTO's rare blood bank, with 170 donors identified.

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Shiraz designated as Asian Capital of Environment in 2024



Arts & Culture Desk

Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) has designated the Iranian city of Shiraz in southern Iran as the Asian Capital of the Environment in 2024. The decision was announced

by the AMF, which is an international non-governmental organization that seeks to expand and exalt relations and cooperation between mayors and city managers in Asia.

Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Gar-

den, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jaame Mosque of Atiq, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

In addition, the AMF also

picked Hamedan as the Asian Capital of Tourism in 2024, Press TV reported.

Hamedan's Mayor Masoud Hosseini, while announcing the news at a press conference, hailed the efforts made by the Hamedan City Council

to introduce the city's tourism potential to the world. He also praised activities undertaken by the city's Municipal Tourism Headquarters in urban tourism, saying that the center has so far taken significant steps toward introducing the city's tourism potential.

Hosseini also expressed hope that with the close cooperation of the Hamedan Municipality and the AMF, the city can introduce its tourism capacities better than before.

Believed to be among the oldest Iranian cities, Hamedan is the capital city of an eponymous province in western Iran, offering an enormous wealth of tourist attractions, including Ali-Sadr Cave, Tomb of Abu Ali Sina, Ganjnameh Ancient Inscriptions, and Alaviyan Dome, which guarantee a rewarding visit.

Mohammad Javad Zarei, the director of Communications and International Affairs of Hamedan Municipality, said the AMF also picked the city of Ghoheiry in Lebanon as the Cultural Capital of Asia for the year 2024.

Palestine to be highlighted in Fajr Int'l Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The 42nd Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF) is set to highlight the talents of filmmakers from around the globe, with a total of 621 films submitted by 87 countries. According to the festival's secretary, this year's In-

ternational Section features a diverse selection of films.

In a recent interview on the "Film Critique" program, Mojtaba Amini discussed the festival's unique features, emphasizing the significant participation from various nations, IRNA reported.

He noted that in response to the injustices posed by Israel and support for the Palestinian people, a special section will be dedicated to Palestine, catering to the concerns of filmmakers worldwide. Amini expressed satisfaction with the widespread interest in the National



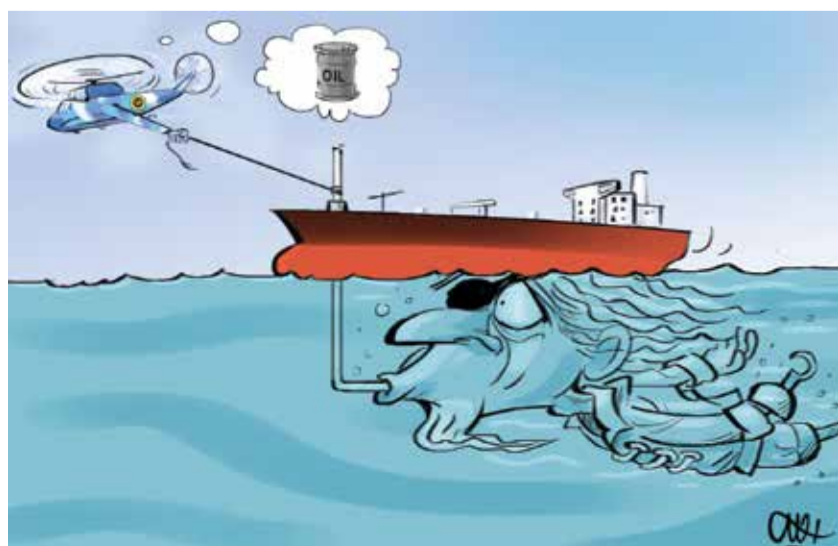
Section, revealing that 106 films have registered this year, indicating an increase in film production. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic in recent years, this edition

of the festival has witnessed a coordinated effort between the government and private sectors to boost film production. The festival's president also explained the selec-

tion process, saying that out of 106 entries, 51 are debut films, indicating the possibility of discovering new talents in the days to come.

Acknowledging the difficulty in the selection process, Amini assured audiences that this year's jury faced a tough task, and the festival promises to showcase outstanding works. Amini concluded by announcing the reintroduction of the New Perspective Section and the inclusion of four animated films that bring good news for families, particularly in the children and adolescent categories.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Cultural relics show ancient Iran's glory at Beijing Palace Museum

An exhibition titled "The glory of the ancient Persia: Exhibition of Iranian cultural relics" has opened at the Beijing Palace Museum in China in a ceremony attended by Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister Ali Darabi, Iranian Ambassador to China Mohsen Bakhtiar, and Chairman of the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China Li Chun. Running from January 12 to April 11, 2024, the exhibition showcases 216 cultural relics from various Iranian museums, offering

a glimpse into the artful charm of ancient Iran. The artifacts demonstrate the country's rich history and its role as a hub for East-West cultural exchanges, China Daily reported. The event aims not only to introduce the cultural heritage of Iran but also to encourage Chinese tourists to visit the country. Recognizing the impact of exhibitions on attracting foreign tourists, the display from Iran's National Museum in China seeks to enhance cultural under-

standing and foster tourism between the two nations.

