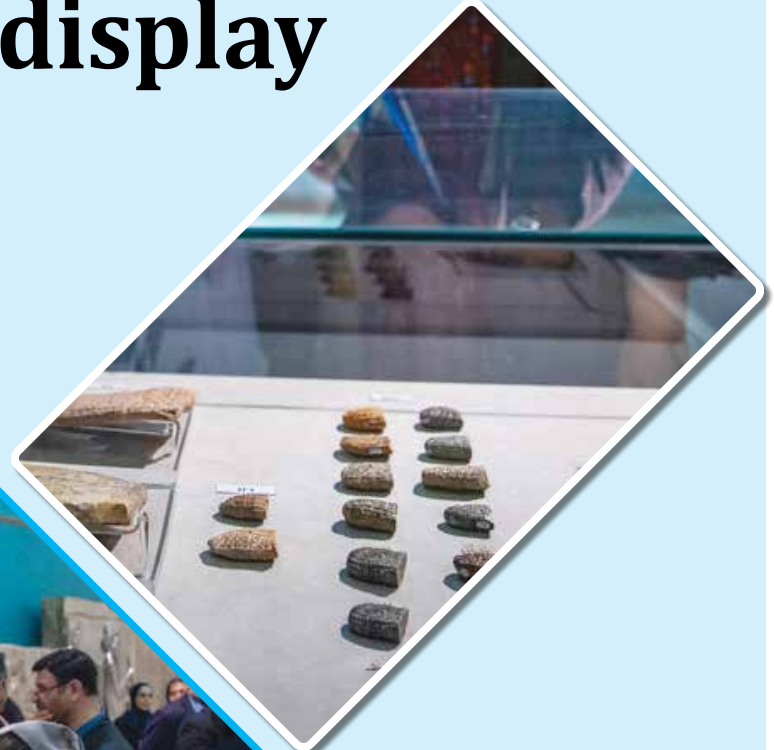




Nat'l Museum of Iran puts on display 163 Achaemenid tablets



Arts & Culture Desk

The National Museum of Iran unveiled 163 Achaemenid tablets that were returned to the country from the US last year. The showcase took place on Saturday, with the attendance of the deputy minister of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization, and several foreign ambassadors, IRNA reported. The return of these ancient

artifacts follows the repatriation of 3,506 Achaemenid tablets to Iran in September 2023. This significant event occurred during Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi's visit to New York, marking the end of more than 85 years since the tablets had left Iran. According to the director of the National Museum of Iran Jebrael Nokandeh, this recent exhibition represents the fifth shipment of tablets returned to the country. In addition to the showcase of the Achaemenid tablets, over 120 lesser-seen museum

and archaeological artifacts were unveiled in 11 provinces of Iran. This unveiling coincided with the International Museum Day (May 18) celebrations. The ceremony at the

National Museum of Iran featured representatives from foreign embassies in Iran, UNESCO office members, archaeologists, and museum man-

agers from both private and public institutions. Seyyed Ahmad Mohit Tabatabai, the head of the National Committee of Museums (ICOM Iran), emphasized the crucial role of museums in the development of a country, adding that the presence and maintenance of museums are key indicators of a nation's advancement. During the event, Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ali Darabi, announced the opening of 14 online exhibitions across 11 provinc-

es. These exhibitions feature significant artifacts, including the millennia-old Gold Bowl of Hasanlu, a significant archaeological find named after the location where it was excavated some 66 years ago from West Azarbaijan and historical coins from East Azarbaijan. Darabi also highlighted the contributions of the media in raising public awareness and interest in cultural heritage. Darabi mentioned that several priority projects for the current Persian year include the completion of the Jiroft Museum and ongoing restoration efforts nationwide.

● ISNA

UK faces child poverty crisis



More than four million children in the United Kingdom are currently living in poverty, marking the highest number in twenty years. Among them, one million children are described as being in extreme poverty or destitution, struggling to stay fed, clean, dry, and warm. Currently, nearly all state primary school children in London, Scotland, and Wales are offered free school meals. However, in the rest of England, only children up to the age of seven receive this benefit, and it is not universally available in Northern Ireland, itv.com reported. Will Baker from Bristol University found that schools are now the largest source of charitable food and household aid for fam-

ilies. "About 20% of all primary and secondary schools now run a food bank. That equates to over 4,000 school-based food banks, disproportionately located in disadvantaged areas and schools with low-income populations," Baker stated. Charities argue that the two-child cap, which limits Universal or Child Tax Credit to the first two children in a family, is a significant policy driver of child poverty, affecting nearly two million children. The government is expected to save £2.5 billion from this benefit cap this financial year. However, a recent study found that the 'two-child limit' did not incentivize parents to have fewer children.

Iran presents extensive services to refugees: UN official

Social Desk

The head of the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Iran has praised the country's extensive services to refugees, calling them unparalleled worldwide. On Saturday, Lalini Veerassamy, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iran, met with Behrang Qorbani, the director-general of Foreign Nationals and Immigrants Affairs in Fars Province, IRNA wrote. "I and my colleagues have worked in many countries and observed the range of services provided to refugees. However, the attention and services offered by the Iranian government to refugees

are truly exceptional. Nowhere else have we seen such extensive support, considering the existing limitations," Veerassamy said. Qorbani emphasized the need for international organizations to fulfill their duties and promises during their visits to the provinces, based on defined needs and priorities until results are achieved. "Refugees in Iran benefit from the same healthcare, education, and other services that Iranian citizens receive. There is no distinction in service delivery," Qorbani stated. He highlighted that significant expenses are incurred by healthcare and educational centers to provide adequate services to refugees. While some aid comes from the UN, it does not meet the full



needs of the refugee community in the province. He called for a special focus and increased budget allocations for refugee education and health services. Qorbani also urged international organizations in Iran to support

the voluntary and sustainable repatriation of foreign nationals. "While providing appropriate services to refugees during their stay in Iran, we must also work on empowering them for their eventual return to their home countries," he said.

Russian firms invited to invest in Iran's tourism

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali invited Russian firms to invest in developing Iran's tourism infrastructure as part of efforts to boost cooperation between the two countries in the tourism sector. Jalali was speaking at a specialized meeting on Iran-Russia relations, which was attended by

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Baqeri and Russian federal and provincial officials, IRNA wrote. Tourism is one of the potential fields of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, Jalali said. In order to boost bilateral cooperation in that sector, Russian firms are invited to make invest-

ments and help develop tourism infrastructure and build hotels in Iran, the envoy said. As another way to boost tourism cooperation, the two countries can establish direct flights between their cities, he said, adding that Iran's southern islands can receive Russian tourists during the cold season

when the islands have moderate weather. The specialized meeting on Iran-Russia relations was held on the sidelines of the Russia-Islamic World Kazan Forum 2024, an annual event aimed at strengthening Russia's ties with Islamic countries. This year's forum was held on May 15-18.