

Iran pavilion in Venice to reopen after closure over Raisi's passing



Arts & Culture Desk

The official Iranian pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale will reopen on May 28 after a four-day closure from May 23 to 26 to honor the memory of Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his companions, who were martyred in a copter crash on May 19. The closure was a mark of respect for the national mourning

period in Iran, ISNA reported. The pavilion's reopening marks the continuation of Iran's participation in the 60th edition of the Venice Biennale, showcasing its contributions to the international art scene. The Iranian pavilion presents works by artists such as Mostafa Goudarzi, Kazem Chalipa, Mor-teza Asadi, Abdolhamid Qadiri-rian, and Gholam Ali Taheri, all revolving around the oppression

of Gaza's children. The pavilion features a selected piece from the media section of the 16th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, titled 'Mirrors of Light' by Maryam Safaei and Mohammad Amin Owji. This interactive installation, based on Persian architectural geometry and ancient mirror craftsmanship, creates a celestial and paradisiacal atmosphere through light reflection.

Isfahan to welcome Chinese investors for hotel construction

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Isfahan is ready to provide any guarantees to support Chinese investors in the tourism sector, said the Director-General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Isfahan Province. With tax exemptions for hotel construction in the province, Isfahan is prepared to offer support to Chinese investors, Amir Karamzadeh added. During a meeting with the deputy head of the Communist Party

of the People's Republic of China in Gansu Province, Karamzadeh stated that Isfahan needs at least 200 new hotels to achieve sustainable tourism development goals. Karamzadeh emphasized the potential for sister-city agreements between Gansu and Isfahan, noting Isfahan's rich historical heritage with over 22,000 historical artifacts, 2,000 registered national heritage sites, and 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites. Isfahan is currently sister with

16 cities worldwide. The 25-year cooperation agreement between Iran and China opens up opportunities for tourism development and enhanced bilateral relations. Gansu official expressed China's willingness to collaborate with Iran and implement proposals from Isfahan's cultural authorities. The historical ties between the two countries date back approximately 4,000 years, with Gansu and Isfahan playing significant roles in cultural and economic exchanges.

Iranian 'Between the Cliffs' wins three awards at Russian festival

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The Iranian film 'Between the Cliffs,' written and directed by Mokhtar Abdollahi, won three awards at the International Film Festival for Children and Youth "Hero" in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. The film, produced by Mohammad Ahmadi, received the festival's Grand Prix, the Audience Choice Award for best film, and an honorary diploma for best child actor (Andia Yahyapour), ISNA wrote. The Russian festival took place from May 20 to May 24. 'Between the Cliffs,' Abdollahi's debut feature film, tells the story of siblings Ebrahim and Ilma, young shepherds who face challenges while tending their flock in their parents' absence. The cast includes Hamidreza Gheibi, Andia Yahyapour, Esmail Moradi, and Maryam Al Ahmad. It has so far participated in inter-



national film festivals so far including Dhaka International Film Festival (January 2023, Bangladesh), BUFF Film Festival (March 2023, Sweden), CMS International Children's Film Festival (April 2023, India) and Within the Family Film Festival (July 2023, Russia).

It won the special jury award and the Golden Butterfly for best child actor at the 34th International Film Festival for Children & Youth, as well as awards for best film and best actor at the 18th Within the Family International Festival of Family and Children's Films in Russia.

Iran's vocalist Qorbani to perform in Dubai

Iranian vocalist Alireza Qorbani will perform in Dubai Opera House on June 7.

The concert will take place under the artistic direction by Hsam Naseri. Qorbani will be accompanied by the Firdaus Orchestra, an Emirati ensemble founded by renowned composer A.R. Rahman, who has won both Oscar and Golden Globe awards, ISNA wrote.

The pieces which will be staged include 'Zero Degree Turn,' 'The Strange Times' and 'The Strange Times'. This performance follows Qorbani's recent performances in Tehran during Nowruz, as well as in Berlin, Gothenburg, and Milan. After a series of successful concerts, titled 'Sing with Me,' in Tehran and other cities across Iran, Qorbani, had an international tour to Canada, Australia, and Europe.



Birth of Persian Zebras in Semnan offers hope against extinction

Social Desk



The birth of Persian single-hoofed herbivore zebras in Semnan's Kavir National Park signals a potential breakthrough in the fight against the extinction of this species, according to the head of Semnan's Department of Environmental Protection Agency. Bahram-Ali Zaheri, speaking on Monday, announced that recent assessments show the park is now home to 36 Persian zebras. Of these, approximately 11 are premature, while the rest are mature, Borna news agency re-

ported. "Mid-spring marks the start of the zebra birthing season," Zaheri said. "This year, births began at an ideal time in Kavir National Park, giving us hope that we might break the extinction code for this valuable species." Zaheri explained that Persian zebras reach sexual maturity and become capable of reproduction at three years old. With 11 juveniles currently in the park, there is optimism that the population will stabilize at over 50 individuals as these zebras mature. He emphasized the importance

of genetic diversity in preventing genetic disorders and maintaining the health of the species. Last year, an adult male zebra was relocated from Turan National Park in Shahrud to Kavir National Park to introduce genetic variation. This initiative will be repeated this year. The Persian zebra, a notable single-hoofed herbivore, had been extinct in Kavir National Park for around 30 years. Efforts to reintroduce the species began with captive breeding, followed by release into the wild. The Persian zebra is a subspe-

cies of the Asian zebra, which once had a vast population across the Middle East, Central Asia, and China. However, its numbers have drastically declined, with the species now extinct in many of these regions. Persian zebras have a low reproduction rate. Typically, only one out of three foals survives. Male foals are particularly vulnerable as adult males do not accept and often kill them. This behavior, coupled with a long gestation period and the rarity of twin births, has contributed to the decline in their population.