



'The Glory of the Ancient Persia' Show gets kudos, extended for six months in China: Minister

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has extended the display of its ancient artifacts in China for six months, according to the country's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ezzatollah Zarghami. The exhibition, titled "The Glory of Ancient Persia," was on display at the Palace Museum in Beijing since January and was held from January 12 to April 11. Zarghami said the extension was approved by the cabinet on Wednesday,

and the exhibition will now move to Shanghai, where it will open on June 12. "The Chinese government requested the extension so that the artifacts could also be displayed at the Shanghai Grand Exhibition," he added. The exhibition features 211 historical artifacts and five meticulously recreated objects spanning from the Iron Age to the Safavid period, offering a glimpse into over 3,000 years of Iranian culture and art. The

items on display include metalwork, ceramics, and precious stones, showcasing the rich history and craftsmanship of ancient Persia. Zarghami also highlighted the popularity of the exhibition in Beijing, noting that tickets were sold out during the first two weeks. He emphasized that the approval of the cabinet is required for the export of historical artifacts from Iran, underscoring the significance and value placed on the country's cultural heritage.



Turkey repatriates 55 historical artifacts to Iran

Turkey repatriated 55 historical artifacts identified as belonging to Iran, Anadolu Agency reported. The artifacts were taken to Erzurum province and sent to Iran with a ceremony at the Erzurum Archaeology Museum, as part of the work on the return of illegally smuggled artifacts to Turkey.

Director-General of Cultural Heritage and Museums, Birol Incecikoz, said Turkey has been carrying out comprehensive work on artefact smuggling. Incecikoz said Turkey has successfully brought back 7,824 artifacts to the homeland in the last seven years.

"We have become one of the rule-making countries in the world in terms of returning illegally smuggled artifacts to our country. As a country, we claim that every cultural artefact is the jewel of the country it belongs to. It must be



exhibited in the country where it belongs, it must belong to that land," he said. "As a result of these policies, today we have come together to hand over to the Republic of Iran the artifacts that we have proven to belong to the Iranian side."

Incecikoz indicated that the items include a Sasanian sword, 42 coins, a bronze jug and 11 artifacts from the Bronze Age and Islamic eras.

"The return of cultural assets to the lands where they belong will be our motto in all the work we

will do as a country from now on, especially in the fight against the smuggling of historical artefacts," he added.

The Consul-General of Iran in Erzurum, Mohammed Ebrahimi, thanked Turkey for returning the artefacts.

Lorestan museum tops ICOM rankings in Iran



Social Desk

The Natural History Museum of Lorestan province in Iran was awarded for its excellence by the Iranian National Committee of International Council of Museums (ICOM), earning top honors in the creativity and innovation category and a third-place ranking in the children and adolescents section at the 16th edition of the ICOM competition for the selection of the best museum in Iran.

The event, held at the Iranian Artists Forum, was attended by high-ranking officials from various cultural and environmental organizations. The museum's prominent presence and high scores in ICOM's evaluation criteria, including creativity, innovation, and child-friendliness, led to its outstanding performance.

According to Mohammadreza Ashrafzadeh, Director-General of Natural History, Biodiversity, and Genetic Reserves Museums at the Department of Environment, ICOM annually assesses museums based on 14 performance indicators. These include education, visitation,

collection, preservation, research, management development, survival efforts, children and adolescents, International Museum Day, cyberspace, creativity, innovation, accessibility for the disabled, technical standards, physical development, and promotion.

Ali Salarvand, Director-General of the Department of Environment of Lorestan province, expressed his gratitude for the collaboration that led to the establishment of the Natural History and Biodiversity Museum at the historic Falak-ol-Aflak Castle in Khorramabad.

He noted that during the Nowruz holidays in 2023, the museum attracted over 35,000 visitors, setting a record for biodiversity museums in the country.

Salarvand emphasized the museum's multiple objectives, including ecotourism attraction, education, and raising awareness about biodiversity and wildlife conservation, especially among children and adolescents, to foster a culture of active social participation and improved conservation practices.

Iranian painter Hadi Jamali dies at 74

Hadi Jamali, a celebrated Iranian painter, known for his expressive and abstract paintings, died at the age of 74 in a hospital.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, in May 1950, Jamali graduated with a degree in interior architecture from the University of Art and went on to get a master's degree in industrial design from the Art and Architecture Faculty of Islamic Azad University.

Simultaneously, he pursued his passion for painting and developed his unique artistic style.

Jamali's work is characterized by abstract expressionism, a style he believed conveyed a stronger impact and a certain degree of intensity. His abstract creations, often executed on thin aluminum sheets, incorporated techniques such as grooving, stitching, coloring, and decolorization, resulting in textures that evoked images of cracked skin or unhealed wounds, as noted by art researchers.

He showcased his work both nationally and internationally, participating in numerous group and solo exhibitions.

Among his many artistic achievements, Jamali had authored educational design books, served as a judge for visual arts competitions, and painted murals in Tehran.

He had also received various awards, presented artistic papers at university seminars and cultural centers, and published a book which was a culmination of his 26 years of teaching experience.

