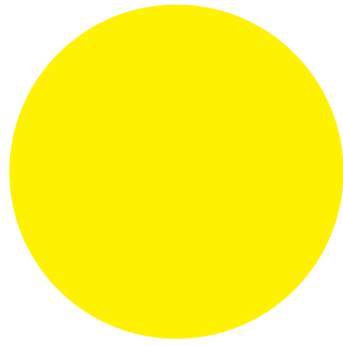


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Iran's peaceful nuclear program to be manifested to world: *Eslami*

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Yemen's Hypersonic Missile Strikes Central Israel

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The Yemeni Armed Forces launched an attack on the south of Tel Aviv on Sunday, targeting for the first time the occupying regime's military positions with a hypersonic ballistic missile.



Responders put out a fire caused by a missile attack by Yemen in the area of Lod, near Tel Aviv, in central Israel on September 15, 2024. ● MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP

US shifts on Iran after failed attempts for Gaza cease-fire



By Afifeh Abedi
Regional affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The recent shift in the news narrative of US officials and Western propaganda from the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the need for a cease-fire to the Ukraine war, military cooperation between Iran and Russia, and the threats posed by Russia and Iran, suggests a deliberate attempt to divert attention. This narrative is not new and has been part of the US's aggressive diplomacy and security-oriented approach towards Iran and Russia for the past two decades, including during election campaigns in Washington.

However, the intensification of propaganda against Iran and Russia, particularly Iran, can be attributed to the failure of the White House's efforts to achieve a cease-fire in Gaza, even a temporary one, or Washington's lack of genuine interest in a cease-fire. Despite initial statements by the US officials about the 90% progress of the US cease-fire plan for Gaza and continued pressure on Tel Aviv to reach an agreement for the release of Zionist prisoners, Americans have expressed significant pessimism about the chances of reaching an agreement to establish a cease-fire in Gaza.

It can be argued that the US's apparent despair about a cease-fire is a way to pressure Palestinian resistance to retreat from its conditions and to bolster Washington's support for Tel Aviv's unacceptable conditions for remaining in Gaza. In reality, Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, has once again managed to prevail over the White House.

With only four months left in the Biden administration, achieving a cease-fire could be a surprising achievement and a boost for Kamala Harris's election campaign, doubling her chances of winning against Donald Trump.

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Iran treasure trove of history UNESCO inscription a national asset: *Official*

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Iran launches largest agricultural drainage project in West Asia



Iran has launched a large agricultural drainage project in its northeastern province of Golestan as part of efforts to control floods and to help expand farming activities in the region.

ISNA said in a report that the drainage megaproject in Golestan is the largest of its kind ever carried out in the West Asia region.

It said the construction arm of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) will carry out the project in some 90,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Golestan, a province located along the Caspian Sea coast which is known for its fertile soil and its large-scale agricultural activities.

It said the project will be a major step aimed at controlling floods some five years after flash floods inflicted huge losses on agriculture in the province and led to deaths and injuries among the local population.

"This strategic project is carried out to prevent human and financial losses caused by floods and to improve the soil quality in the region," said Mohammad Rostami, the CEO of Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, which is the IRGC's construction arm and responsible for the project.

Rostami said drainage had already been carried out on 80,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Golestan in the past five years.

Heavy flooding caused by massive rainfall affected lands in 70 villages in Golestan and more than 200 villages in neighboring Mazandaran province in March 2019.



CBI allocates \$3b to boost crude output

In order to increase crude oil production by 250,000 barrels per day, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) allocated \$3 billion in facilities to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). Based on Article 46 of the Law on Removing Barriers to Competitive Production and Enhancing the Country's Financial System and following the appeal of the Ministry of Oil, the Economic Council ratified a plan to boost crude oil production by 250,000 barrels per day, ISNA reported on Sunday. Accordingly, Hamid Pourmohammadi, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) announced in a notification addressing the Oil Ministry that the CBI will help increase the crude production of the country by 250,000 bpd to hit 2.189 million barrels per day.

According to the PBO head,

the CBI is permitted to use various ways to finance the said plan.

The payment of the approved facility is made under the framework of an agreement between the CBI, the PBO and the NIOC.

The newly-appointed CEO of the NIOC said on September 7 that the country is determined to increase its oil production from oilfields in the south, especially those that straddle the Iran-Iraq border.

Hamid Bovard said that he had set up special taskforces in the NIOC to discuss and remove hurdles impeding Iran's plans to raise output in southern oil and gas fields.

Bovard said his focus as new NIOC chief will be to provide more funding and resources to the National Iranian South Oil Company as the largest oil producing firm in Iran to allow

it to increase its production in the coming months.

The official, who also serves as an Iranian deputy oil minister, made the remarks after a tour of southern Iranian oilfields. During the trip, he held meetings with senior managers of Arvandan Oil & Gas Company, a firm which is in charge of oil production from some major oil reserves near Iran's border with Iraq.

Bovard said in the meeting that oil production from reserves that are shared with Iraq must increase significantly until the end of the current calendar year in March.

That comes amid reports suggesting Iran is ramping up its oil output despite the continued pressure of US sanctions on the country's petroleum industry since 2019 when Washington toughened its bans on the Islamic Republic.

Rail transit via Shahid Rajaei Port up 210% in five months

A provincial official announced a 210% growth in the transit of goods via rail at the Shahid Rajaei Port in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

Director General of Ports and Maritime Organization of Hormuzgan Province Hossein Abbasnejad said that more than two million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the port, registering

a 5.22 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period, Mehr News Agency reported.

As the largest commercial port and international trade gateway of the country, it saw the loading and unloading of 2.143 million tons of goods between March 20 and August 22, 2024, he stated.

The official said developing the railway is one of

the important projects at Shahid Rajaei Port.

He also noted that 4,784 tons of basic goods and commodities were transported through the rail lines of Shahid Rajaei Port from March 20 to August 22, 2024.

Wheat products were among the main commodities that were transported from Shahid Rajaei Port to other provinces of the country via the rail network, Abbasnejad said.



Reinvigorating Iran's tourism industry

Iran, with 21 historical and ancient monuments registered on the UNESCO list, is a prime tourist destination.

The country is generally more desirable as a historical destination for Western tourists, but its image in the mainstream media as backward and associated with doom and gloom is a problem which is often reflected in the amazement of most tourists visiting Iran where their perception crumbles right away, wrote Press TV.

With a civilization and history of several thousand years, Iran has no dearth of modern attractions not only in capital Tehran, but also in metropolitan cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tabriz or in tourist areas on its Caspian shores in the north or southern Persian Gulf coasts, such as Kish Island.

Iranian culture with its unique subtleties is extremely rich in the production of art and rec-

reation. From Persian poetry to humor and music, Iran's literary legacy is marked by a host of celebrated luminaries, each with their distinctive style and lasting influence.

Visual arts also have a special place in Iranian culture. The Persian carpet is a brilliant and glorious manifestation of the Iranian people's superior artistic sense while intricate enameling, marquetry, wood carving plus dozens of other arts show their interest in beauty and elegance.

Meanwhile, the elements of Iranian culture transcend its geographical boundaries and its sometimes-bold traces can be found in neighboring countries as well.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 4000 BC.

A recent study by a team of archaeologists from Germany,

Denmark and Iran published in peer-viewed mega journal Scientific Reports has identified the Persian Plateau as the potential region for interbreeding between Neanderthals and Homo sapiens during the Late Pleistocene.

Iran is also home to followers of monotheistic religions,

including Jews, Zoroastrians and Muslims. It hosts nearly 9,000 religious places across the country, more than 3,000 of which are sacred sites such as mosques, religious schools, churches, synagogues, crematoriums, and shrines.

Religion has played a prominent role in the formation of

cities such as Mashhad, Qom, Rey, Shiraz, Qazvin, Natanz, Shahrood, Susa, Bastam, Lahijan, Amol, Ardabil and Gonbad-e Kavus. These cities have enormous potential allow the development of religious-cultural tourism and attract religious tourists and those interested in religion.

Iran is also a regional paradise for medical tourists due to high service standards and reasonable costs. It is among the top five countries in biotechnology. Currently, a quarter of Iran's hospitals offer health tourism services in various specialized fields. Meanwhile, there is an abundance of natural hot waters with therapeutic qualities across the country, which attract millions of tourists.

Iran is a vast country with four seasons and a diverse natural landscape. Some of Iran's unique natural attractions are known, while many others are not. The natural wonders of

the country range from magnificent beaches stretching for hundreds of miles to mysterious arid deserts, rolling mountains, meadows and forests.

Tourism, more than an industry, is a dynamic social and global phenomenon, the development of which involves a political process as well. While Iran has a very important place in the global tourism map, the share of the country in global tourism receipts is paltry.

With Western tourists being subject to coercive measures by the US government if they visit Iran, the Islamic Republic is making a push to attract visitors from Persian Gulf Arab states and other nearby countries.

Earlier this year, Iran lifted visa rule for tourists from 28 countries. It is also drawing more visitors from Russia and China to its ancient sites that date back to the Persian empire and the fabled Silk Road.



Yazd Province crafting a unique tourism identity

Iranica Desk

Branding in the tourism industry allows a tourist destination to gain recognition by creating differentiation and emphasizing its unique features, culture, and experiences. This process can lead to attracting more tourists, increasing local income and employment, developing the region's economy, and strengthening the local community. Branding is considered a modern marketing approach within tourism and is a key factor in ensuring tourism development as well as attracting international tourists. Many countries have sought to showcase their tourism potentials and increase their share in the international tourist market through this strategic branding.

Despite its exceptional tourism capacities and the presence of 11 UNESCO World Heritage sites, Yazd Province has not yet successfully established a cohesive tourism brand. The branding efforts both nationally and within the province reveal fundamental weaknesses that necessitate strategic planning to attract investors in the sector and implement developmental actions in tourism services and facilities, chtn.ir wrote. Consequently, Yazd Province stands at the beginning of its journey to create the necessary infrastructure within its tourist areas and to develop suitable packages that will attract foreign tourists and investors. With the implementation of effective brand management for the global tourist attractions of Yazd Province, we can anticipate a significant increase in attracting both domestic and foreign tourists and investors.

In general, successful branding for tourism in a region requires robust government support, which must provide the necessary facilities and regulations to the private sector. Transferring the experiences of tourists, through the private sector, to relevant working groups and committees can help reinforce positive aspects while addressing existing weaknesses at the destination. This approach allows tourists, based on their enjoyable experiences, to contribute to the creation of the tourism brand for that destination, eventually leading to its recognition on an international scale.

Historical fabric

Yazd stands as a premier example of historical and adobe cities globally, with its historical fabric spanning approximately 700 hectares, which has been nationally registered, granting it a distinguished status. The relative preservation of Yazd's historical fabric, along with its unique characteristics, solidifies this position further. Despite some stagnation in social mobility, many authentic, vibrant, and dynamic interactions persist between citizens and their historical surroundings.

The historical fabric of Yazd encompasses neighborhoods such as Fahadan, Khorramshah, Sar-e Jam, Mirqotb, and Yaqoubi, among others. Notably, Fahadan boasts the longest history and has been a focal point in urban planning and design. Efforts to preserve historical fabrics in Iran have positioned Yazd as a leader in this movement. Within this historical context, houses from the Ilkhanid period continue to stand and serve as residences. Key features of these homes include a central courtyard, a hall, three-door and five-door rooms, tall walls, and a thoughtful arrangement of various spaces around the courtyard, complemented by beautiful facades. The Mahmoudi House, the Lari House, the Arabzadeh House, and the Mortaz House are among the notable old houses of Yazd.

One of the most distinctive features that set Yazd apart from other cities is its *ab anbars* (cisterns). These structures, typically located in the centers of neighborhoods, consist of a water reservoir, a dome, and windcatchers. Known as the city of windcatchers, Yazd's windcatchers serve as the respiratory system of the city and are primarily found in residential and historical areas. The main components of windcatchers include the body, shelves, blades, and roof, with the body typically taking the form of a rectangular prism or pyramid, and featuring bases that are square, rectangular, or octagonal.

Yazd, which holds the enduring title of Dar al-Ebadeh, has nurtured a population committed to its rich culture and the beautiful Iranian-Islamic traditions. This social, cultural, and religious fabric has captivated both domestic and foreign tourists, making respect for this genuine culture a significant focus for visitors.

Meybod, recognized as the World City of Zilu-Weaving (a type of traditional floor covering), exemplifies a model city for pottery and ceramics, acts as a center for carpet weaving, and serves

as a hub for the *mutabi* (goat hair weaving). Yazd Province accounts for 27% of the country's textile production, with the zilu and high-quality textiles of Yazd ranking at the top nationally.

Dowlatabad Garden

Mohammad Taqi Khan, known as Khan Bozorg, was a prominent khan of the Zand dynasty in Yazd. After coming to power, he diverted the Dowlatabad Qanat from Mehriz to Yazd and subsequently constructed the Dowlatabad Garden alongside it. This complex also served as the residence of this influential ruler.

The garden features several buildings, including the entrance and windcatcher, the mirror hall, the main entrance, and the southern entrance. The greenery within this garden boasts pine trees, cypress, Mohammadi roses, and various fruit trees, particularly grapes and pomegranates. The most striking aspect of this garden is its 33.8-meter windcatcher, recognized as the tallest windcatcher in the world. Dowlatabad Garden is one of the key attractions of Yazd city and is acknowledged as part of Iran's world heritage, having been listed among the nine Persian gardens in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Pahlavanpour Garden

The historical Pahlavanpour Garden is celebrated as a stunning example of authentic Iranian gardens. It was registered on October 29, 2002, on Iran's National Heritage List. Additionally, this garden was recognized in 2011 on the UNESCO World Heritage list, underscoring its significance.

Qanats

A qanat, also known as a *kariz*, is a tunnel-like underground channel that is excavated to facilitate the flow of water. This ancient technology originated in the early first millennium BCE in the arid mountainous regions of Iran, enabling farmers to irrigate their crops during prolonged dry spells when surface water was scarce. The Zarach Qanat, which is estimated to be between 2,000 and 3,000 years old, is recognized as one of the longest qanats in Iran. It was registered as a national heritage site in July 2005. The source of the Zarach Qanat is located in the city of Zarach, which gives it its name. This qanat stretches for an impressive 80 kilometers and reaches a depth of 23 meters, showcasing the ingenuity of ancient Persian engineering. Similarly, the Hassanabad Qanat, dating back to the Islamic Middle Ages,

has also been registered as a national heritage site. The water rights of this qanat are allocated to the residents of Mehriz and Yazd. It originates in the Gharbalbiz Mountain and extends from Mehriz to Dehno, Hassanabad, and Maryamabad villages, further emphasizing the critical role that qanats play in supporting local agriculture and livelihoods.

Caravanserais

Additionally, several caravanserais in Yazd Province have been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites. These include the Anjireh Sangi, Kharanq and the Anjireh Ajori Caravanserais in Ardakan, the Zein-o-Din Caravanserai in Mehriz, the Shah Abbasi Caravanserai in Meybod, and the Rashti Caravanserai in Aqda.

This significant registration occurred during the 45th UNESCO Heritage Committee meeting, highlighting the importance of these structures that date from the Ilkhanid to the Qajar periods. These caravanserais not only served as resting places for caravans but also played a vital role in fostering trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road.

Natural attractions

In addition to these historical sites, Yazd Province boasts a plethora of geotouristic attractions and natural wonders, enriching its appeal to tourists. Among the notable wildlife are species such as the bustard and the Persian leopard. The province is also home to the limestone springs of Turan Posht, as well as the Nadushan and Shirkuh protected areas, which provide crucial habitats for diverse flora and fauna.

The Bagh-e Shadi Forest features lush greenery and serves as a recreational area for locals and tourists alike. Wildlife refuges, such as those in Ardakan and Boruiyeh, offer opportunities for nature lovers to observe native species in their natural habitats. Additionally, the ancient Cypress of Abarkuh, one of the oldest living trees in the world, stands as a testament to the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region.

Moreover, the province is known for its traditional crafts, including *mutabi*. This artisanal skill showcases the use of locally sourced materials to create durable and aesthetically pleasing textiles, reflecting the cultural identity of Yazd's inhabitants. The craftsmanship involved in *mutabi* weaving not only supports the local economy but also preserves age-old traditions that have been passed down through generations.



Zilu-weaving in Meybod
● [iranica.org](http://www.iranica.org)



Dowlatabad Garden
● [iranica.org](http://www.iranica.org)



Pahlavanpour Garden
● [iranica.org](http://www.iranica.org)



Kharanaq Caravanserai
● [iranica.org](http://www.iranica.org)



Windcatchers
● [memarifa.ir](http://www.memarifa.ir)



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

So far, 27 of Iran's historical and natural sites have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. So, in a way, they can be called global heritages because when a site is inscribed on the UNESCO list, global attention and support are directed towards the inscribed site.

Being included on the UNESCO World Heritage List has numerous positive consequences and benefits. Just to name a few benefits, it is usually the case that the sites would attract more attention and would be better protected, tourism from within and without the country would increase, and the whole economy of the country would grow as a result.

The two world wars, which resulted in the destruction and annihilation of many historical sites around the world, especially in Europe, led the Netherlands to propose to the United Nations after World War II that a law be passed to protect cultural and ancient heritages everywhere. The United Nations initially responded by adopting some protocols. As the scope of the war intensified in some parts of the world, the United Nations adopted another law, according to which any destruction of UNESCO World Heritage sites would be considered a war crime. This was a significant measure as destroying such sites had become a war tactic for culturally eviscerating certain regions.

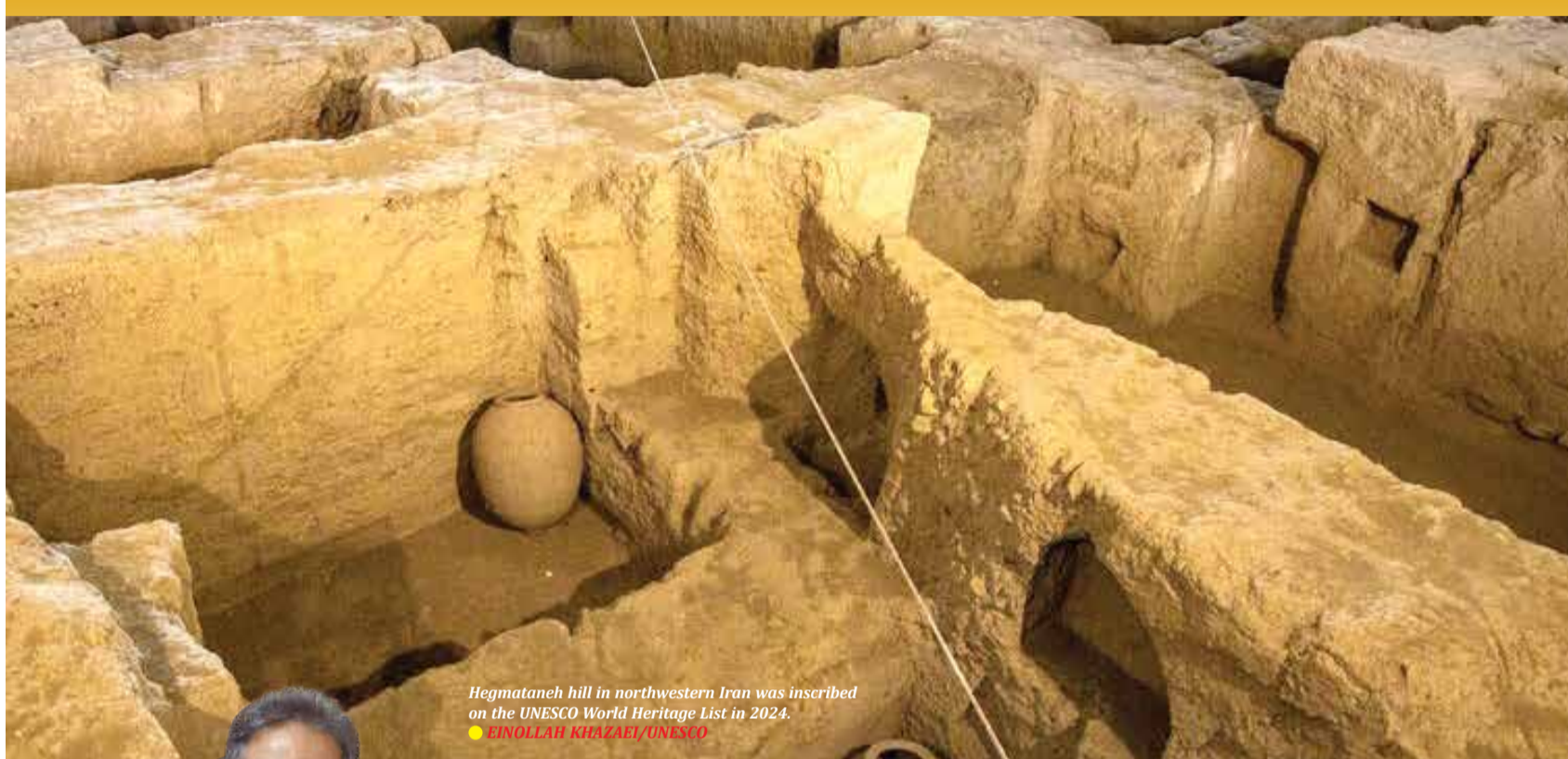
Increasing global awareness of the importance of global and natural heritages of nations, not only for those nations but for all humanity, led to the adoption of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The spirit of this convention reflects a global belief in the irreplaceable and unique values of the sites inscribed on this list. More importantly, it further reflects a commitment and pact by the ratified countries to use all their capabilities to identify, protect, and introduce the inscribed natural and historical sites. In return for this commitment, all ratified states agree to support each other in overcoming the challenges and limitations of preserving and protecting these sites, based on the belief that cultural and natural heritages know no borders and are humanity's future.

Iran successfully inscribed two of its historical sites during the second UNESCO session in 1979, and for the first time that year, Meidan Emam (also known as Naqsh-e Jahan Square), Persepolis, and Tchogha Zanbil were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Due to the Iraqi-imposed war of 1980-1988 and other issues, there was a 24-year hiatus until the inscription of another Iranian site. Then, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization picked up the slack, and the inscription of Iranian sites accelerated. In 2003, Takht-e Soleyman was inscribed by Iran on the World Heritage List, and since then, one historical site or area has been inscribed by Iran on the list every year.

To delve deeper into the significance of inscribing Iran's rich cultural and natural treasures on the UNESCO World Heritage List, Iran Daily conducted an interview with Abdolmahdi Hemmatpour, advisor to the head of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute.

Iran treasure trove of history

UNESCO inscription a national asset: Official



Hegmataneh hill in northwestern Iran was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2024.
● EINOLLAH KHAZAEI/UNESCO



Abdolmahdi Hemmatpour

IRAN DAILY: What significance does the inscription of tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritages hold? How does the inscription of Iran's cultural and natural heritage sites impact the country's global standing and reputation?

HEMMATPOUR: Inscribing sites on the World Heritage List enshrines the country's national wealth and prestige. The more inscriptions your country has on the list, the more cultural and historical value and prestige it accrues in the world. Inscribing sites on the UNESCO list is considered a national asset and has a significant impact on tourism development. The countries with the most inscribed sites are undoubtedly the top tourist destinations in the world. Iran is among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of tangible and natural heritage. The inscription of Iranian sites on the list conveys a beautiful image of its civilization and culture to the world. This is an area where Iran has the upper hand and can showcase its many heritages. When a site is inscribed, it belongs to the global community, and the global community considers itself responsible for preserving and protecting it. Afterward, people in that country naturally also make more efforts to preserve, protect, and introduce the site. Moreover, the site causes a sense of pride and national honor for the people of that country, especially the youth, and plays a significant role in strengthening national unity.

The global recognition of heritage sites is also an effective and efficient tool for the public diplomacy of a country in times of threats and sanctions. This is because cultural heritages have an added value that never ends and plays a role in establishing peace, strengthening relations, and curbing conflicts. Pursuing cultural diplomacy means all of the above. In the age of communication and expanding ties, inscribing sites reveals the real standing of a country and a nation.

How important is inscribing national sites to a government and its international status?

The main function of inscribing sites, which attracts the attention of many politicians, is to prove that their country has roots and has played a role in human history.

However, tourism and income generation are still the more important benefits of inscribing sites to the UNESCO list. Whenever a site is inscribed globally, it is automatically added to the list of domestic and international tourist destinations, which can bring significant financial benefits.

Educating the global community about a national site further boosts tourist arrivals to that site. International tourists feel almost obligated to visit a globally-recognized site nowadays. They search for an identity at such sites. So, inscribing a site, in a way, advertises it as a tourist destination. Meanwhile, the national authorities try to create the necessary infrastructure, such as improved access, transportation, and accommodations, to attract more tourists. Inscribing a site to the World Heritage List can make a destination or country a brand. Italy's architecture, for example, has become a brand due to its dedicated effort at inscribing the most globally-recognized sites.

Tchogha Zanbil in southwest Iran was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979.
● GEOFF STEVEN/UNESCO



Hyracanian Forests, stretched along the Caspian Sea, were jointly inscribed by Iran and Azerbaijan on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019.
● UNESCO



Meidan Emam in Isfahan, central Iran, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979.
● ANETA RIBARSKA/UNESCO

Iran is among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of tangible and natural heritage. The inscription of Iranian sites on the list conveys a beautiful image of its civilization and culture to the world. This is an area where Iran has the upper hand and can showcase its many heritages.

What is the difference between inscribing historical, cultural, and natural sites at the national and global levels, and what process should a national site go through to be inscribed on the global UNESCO list?

The difference between inscribing nationally and globally is that inscribing nationally means the site is important for the people and government of that country, while inscribing globally means the site is important for the global community. National inscription in Iran means the site has national and local importance and is included on the national list after being approved by the National Heritage Inscription Council. All global inscriptions of cultural and natural heritages are done under the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Iran adopted the aforementioned convention in 1974. In the 1972 convention, several criteria are mentioned for evaluating cultural heritages and natural heritages.

Sites that meet at least one of these criteria can be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

What economic and livelihood benefits does inscribing sites on the UNESCO list have?

Historical sites are the main destinations for tourists around the world. We know many countries that earn significant income from their cultural and historical sites, such as Egypt and Greece.

On the other hand, one of the problems many countries face is the lack of job opportunities. Some countries have used the fact that they are rich with cultural and historical sites effectively and created jobs for thousands of their people. Historical sites do not require government funding, but countries can create infrastructure and attract more tourists.

The local community can stand to gain the most from the global inscription of a site as it can cash in on the influx of tourists. Nationally, this leads to an economic boost. Small businesses can take off by selling local products, and with the distribution of income, the quality of life at

the destination improves.

What responsibilities does a country have after inscribing a site?

One of the most important responsibilities of that country is to protect the inscribed site. The country that inscribes a site on the list promises to be the guardian of the site on behalf of the world. Therefore, when Iran inscribes its sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, it's not just its Ministry of Cultural Heritage that is responsible for protecting the sites, but the Islamic Republic and the government are committed to protecting these sites.

If we fail to protect these sites, we will be held accountable. This level of commitment significantly increases the protection of these sites. When a site is inscribed globally, it's like showcasing it in a global shop window. Today, when we mention China, we may immediately think of its Great Wall, and when we mention India, we may immediately think of its Taj Mahal. The same is true for Iran in the minds of the people of the world.



Persepolis, outside Shiraz, southern Iran, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979.
● KO HON CHIU VINCENT/UNESCO

Asian Wushu Championships: Iranians notch up six final-day golds to finish runner-up

Sports Desk

Iran bagged 15 medals, including seven golds, to finish runner-up to China at the Asian Wushu Championships.

Zahra Kiani capped off her impressive campaign in Macao by grabbing a second gold in the women's talou on Sunday. Two days after making history by winning a first Asian indi-

vidual talou gold for Iran in the jianshu event, Kiani tallied 9.703 points to beat contestants from Macao and Japan to the top prize in the changquan form.

Kiani then teamed up with Helia Asadian for a bronze medal in the women's duelin talou event. This was a second bronze medal in Macao for Asadian following her third-place finish in the nan dao contest on Friday.

Sensational in sanda

Mahmoud Nasiri rounded off a glorious final day for the country in the sanda contests, walking away with the ultimate prize of men's +90kg contests.

Earlier on Sunday, Mohammadreza Rigi bagged the men's -85kg gold, while Ali Khorshidi finished atop the podium in the -80kg class.

Amirhossein Hemmati, meanwhile, settled for a silver medal after the defeat against a Chinese opponent in the -60kg showdown.

Reza Abdollahi and Mohammad Farhadi were the Iranian bronze medalists in the men's -65kg and -70kg contests respectively.

There was further final-day glory for Iran in the women's competitions as Yasaman Baqerzadeh claimed the -70kg gold, while five-time world champion Shahrbanoo Mansourian (-75kg) clinched the second Asian gold of her illustrious career.

Mansourian's younger sister Soheila finished her campaign with a silver medal in the -65kg class; the same outcome for Seddigeh Daryaei after her loss in the -60kg final showpiece.

Sogand Sinkaei took the bronze in the women's -52kg category. China won the team title in the 10th edition of the Asian Championships, thanks to a remarkable 18 golds, one silver and three bronzes, with Malaysia finishing behind Iran in the table with three gold and bronze medals apiece, as well as four silvers.



Iranian Shahrbanoo Mansourian (blue), pictured in last year's Asian Games, won her second gold medal at the Asian Wushu Championships in Macao.

● MARZIEH SOLEIMANI/IRNA



Alvarez 'best in the world' after beating Berlanga

BBC – Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez remains the unified super-middleweight world champion after earning a unanimous decision over Edgar Berlanga on Saturday.

The Mexican knocked down Berlanga in the third round in front of more than 20,000 fans at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

The four-weight world champion then remained dominant throughout to inflict the first defeat of Berlanga's career and mark Mexican Independence Day celebrations with his fifth

straight victory.

The fight was scored 118-109 by two judges and 117-110 by the third in favour of Alvarez, who retains his WBA, WBC and WBO titles.

The 34-year-old's record improved to 62-2-2 while 27-year-old Berlanga, born in New York and of Puerto Rican heritage, is now 22-1.

"I did good," said Alvarez. "Before they say I fought older fighters. Now what are they going to say? I fight younger fighters? They always talk. 'I'm the best fighter in the

world. It means a lot. It's an honour for me to represent my country on this day. I feel proud about it."

Alvarez was stripped of his IBF belt in July after opting to take on Berlanga rather than the IBF's mandatory challenger William Skull.

Alvarez put Berlanga under pressure early and the younger fighter tried to respond after being caught by a right to the head in the third round, but a devastating left hook sent him down.

Vastly experienced champion Alvarez continued to go after Berlanga with fierce body blows, before rocking him with a big right in the waning seconds of the ninth.

Berlanga remained defiant, taunting Alvarez as they came out for the 12th round, but he could not find the stoppage he had predicted.



Canelo Alvarez (R) lands a punch on Edgar Berlanga during a fight in Las Vegas, NV, US, on September 14, 2024.

● JOHN LOCHER/AP



2025 Volleyball World Championship: Iran lands Philippines, Egypt, Tunisia in pool phase

Sports Desk

Iran will take on host Philippines, Egypt, and Tunisia in Pool A of the 2025 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship – starting September 12 next year.

The draw for the 21st edition of the flagship international event took place in the Filipino city of Parañaque on Saturday, where 32 teams were split into eight pools.

The date and time of the pool fixtures are yet to be announced by the FIVB, the international governing body of the sport.

Knocked out in the last 16 by Brazil in the previous edition in 2022, Iran will have a new head coach in Italian Roberto Piazza – appointed to the job earlier in the month – for next year's World Championship.

The former coach of the

Dutch national team and now in charge of top-flight side Powervolley Milano in his home country, Piazza, 56, took over from Brazilian Mauricio Motta Paes, who was sacked midway through June's Volleyball Nations League after only seven games at the helm, with his number two Payman Akbari serving as the interim coach for the remainder of the VNL campaign.

Iran will be looking for a fresh start under the Italian, who is set to start his four-year job ahead of next June's Nations League, following a dire run of results over the past 16 months – during which the Asian team finished in the bottom three of the VNL preliminary-round table twice and failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics, while being outclassed by Japan on home soil in last

year's Asian Championship final.

In other pools of the World Championship, VNL champion Poland was drawn against the Netherlands, Qatar, and Romania in Pool D, while Pool E features France, Argentina, Finland, and South Korea completing the lineup in Pool C.

The United States, Cuba, Portugal, and Colombia are in Pool D, while Pool E features Slovenia, Germany, Bulgaria, and Chile.

Reigning world champion Italy was pitted against Ukraine, Belgium, and Algeria in Pool F, and Pool G will see Asian powerhouse Japan, Canada, Turkey, and Libya go head-to-head.

Three-time champion Brazil, Serbia, Czechia, and China are in Pool H.

The top two of each group will progress to the round of 16.



Slot bemoans Liverpool standards in Forest defeat

THE GUARDIAN – Arne Slot described Liverpool's first defeat of his tenure as a "big setback" after being shocked at home by Nottingham Forest.

Callum Hudson-Odoi came off the bench to secure Forest's first win at Anfield since 1969 and maintain their unbeaten start to the Premier League season. Liverpool had almost 70% of possession throughout the match but were unable to beat Matz Sels.

"It is a big setback," Slot said. "If you lose a home game that's always a setback and especially if you face a team, we never know, maybe they will go all the way to fight for Champions League places, but normally this team is not ending up in the top 10. If you lose a game against them that's a big disappointment, although they were organised and structured really well."

Liverpool had scored seven goals and not conceded in their opening three matches under Slot but were found wanting. "Ball possession was not good enough,"

Slot said. "We had a lot of ball possession, but only managed to create three, four, five quite good chances – that's by far not enough. It wasn't good enough today because too many individual performances in ball possession were not up to the standards that I'm used to from these players."

There is not much time for Liverpool to recover from the loss, as they begin their Champions League campaign in Milan on Tuesday. "I want to see the same attitude every single day after a big win, after a small win, after a draw, after a loss," Slot said. "We go out to work again tomorrow, analyse what we did well and what we didn't do well."



● GETTY IMAGES

Iran's peaceful nuclear program to be manifested to world: *Eslami*



Bushehr nuclear power plant

International Desk

Iran once again emphasized the peaceful nature of its nuclear program, with the country's nuclear chief saying the peaceful objectives of Iran's nuclear industry will be made clear to the world.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami made the remarks upon his arrival in

Vienna to attend the 68th annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. Eslami said that he plans to announce Iran's positions on the long-stalled nuclear issue as well as the capabilities and goals of Iran's peaceful nuclear program during his speech at the IAEA's session on Monday. Meanwhile, an exhibition is scheduled to be held on the occasion of the 50th

anniversary of the establishment of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran on the sidelines of the meeting. The AEOI was established on July 7, 1974 and is responsible for developing nuclear technology and all matters related to nuclear energy in the country. During the exhibition, Iran's nuclear industry experts will present the country's experiences, achievements

and capabilities in the field of nuclear power plant construction, research reactors, fuel cycle, radiation application technology, stable isotopes and training of specialized human resources.

Eslami will also hold talks with Rafael Grossi, the IAEA's director general, as well as officials from different countries.

Iran's nuclear endeavors date back to the 1960s under the Pahlavi dynasty, which embarked on nuclear development with handsome Western support.

The current nuclear doctrine of Iran, in effect since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, emphasizes the peaceful application of nuclear technology that conforms with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as the Islamic Republic is one of the signatories of the multilateral treaty.

Some Western countries have for years falsely accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons even though the IAEA has an active mission in Iran.

IAEA inspectors closely monitor Iranian nuclear activities and have never reported any development that would point to nuclear proliferation of alarming proportions.

Iranian nuclear agency has repeatedly maintained that its nuclear program is entirely for peaceful, energy purposes and it does not intend to enrich uranium up to weapons grade.

US shifts on ...

However, the resistance of the Zionist regime's prime minister against internal pressures and White House requests, and the critical internal conditions of the regime, have convinced Washington that escalating tensions in the Zionist regime's cabinet, which could lead to unrest and a power vacuum in occupied Palestine, would be more costly for the White House, especially during the US presidential election.

Therefore, the US continues to support Israel's conditions for a cease-fire through diplomatic shows. The US claims that negotiations for a cease-fire in Gaza are ongoing. The plan currently on the negotiating table for a cease-fire in Gaza is the Biden plan, which involves a six-week halt in fighting, followed by a phased release of prisoners and detainees, with Washington claiming that this will ultimately lead to a definitive cease-fire. However, Netanyahu insists on maintaining Zionist forces in the Philadelphia corridor on the Egypt-Gaza border.

The failure of the US to achieve a cease-fire in Gaza, even a temporary

one, could become an electoral challenge, making the issue of a cease-fire in Gaza, whether declared or undeclared, a pressing concern during the US election. The escalation of the war in Ukraine and the shift in focus to Iran, Russia, and their military cooperation, as well as claims of tripartite cooperation between Iran, Russia, and North Korea, could provide a convenient escape route for Washington during the election. Moreover, intensifying pressure on Iran would also satisfy Tel Aviv and make regional security conditions more complex, making it impossible for the US and Israel to accept a cease-fire in Gaza.

In other words, if the Biden administration can win the presidential election without achieving a cease-fire in Gaza and increasing pressure on Iran and the resistance axis, it will pave the way for a joint US-Israeli plan to fully occupy Gaza and establish a Zionist government.

On the other hand, the escalation of the Ukraine war is a double-edged sword that could also provide opportunities for Trump to attack the Democrats.

Therefore, the goal is to provoke Moscow into actions that highlight the threat posed by Russia to the West, as this would be more beneficial for the Democrats, given Trump's past statements in favor of Russia.

Recent provocative actions by the US in Ukraine can be seen in this light. The simultaneous visit of the US and British foreign ministers to Ukraine and promises of increased military support were also provocative, prompting Russian President Vladimir Putin to warn of the consequences.

In reality, it appears that the West is creating another war trap for Russia in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, which could also be used against Iran.

The recent behavioral pattern of the US in exerting more pressure on Tehran, claiming an arms deal between Iran and Russia, can also be analyzed in this context. Meanwhile, increased propaganda against Iran-Russia military cooperation also downplays the questions raised about the poor performance of the Biden administration, with Harris as vice president, in Ukraine.

It is predictable that, following the traditional US pattern of aggressive diplomacy, whether Trump or Harris wins, the US will soon launch a new round of efforts to put Iran as its security concerns. This behavioral pattern, which can also be described as coercive diploma-

cy, has always been one of the political strategies of the US and its European allies against Iran and Russia, pursued with new techniques at each stage. The sum of these techniques is to create a mental and objective impression of perpetually portraying "Iran as the culprit" and also "Russia as the culprit." Specifically, regarding Iran, examining the actions and reactions of the US since its withdrawal from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) makes this behavioral pattern more understandable. After the US's unjustified and baseless withdrawal from the JCPOA, while Iran emphasized its commitment to the agreement and experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed Iran's compliance at various stages, the White House focused on creating new cases, including Iran's ballistic missile program, in an attempt to portray issues outside the JCPOA as a violation of the spirit of the nuclear agreement. These efforts continued with the change of government in Washington and the transfer of power from Donald Trump to Joe Biden, with the US taking provocative actions against Iran to prompt Tehran to violate the JCPOA. The recent overt pressure by Washington and the European troika on the IAEA to create new doubts about Iran's compliance with the nuclear agreement is also being pursued in line with this political-security approach.

British protesters call for end to Israel's war in Gaza

Thousands of people took to the streets of London again to call for an end to the Israel's war in Gaza.

People were seen waving Palestinian flags and holding banners that read "Cease-fire Now" and "Free Palestine".

Multiple pro-Palestine demonstrations have taken place in the British capital since the Israel's genocidal war on Gaza began about a year ago, which has killed more than 41,000 Pales-

tinians so far.

Leader of Israel's opposition Labor Party Yair Golan said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition is dragging the regime to an "endless war".

In a statement on X, Golan called on the Israelis to stage daily protests against the coalition.

Golan said a Sunday's missile attack by Yemen's Armed Forces on Tel Aviv was a reminder of the right-wing coalition's ongoing failure.

Yemen's hypersonic missile strikes central Israel



AFP

The Yemeni Armed Forces launched an attack on the south of Tel Aviv on Sunday, targeting for the first time the occupying regime's military positions with a hypersonic ballistic missile.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the Yemeni army's spokesman, announced in a brief televised statement that the missile force in the military had carried out a qualitative operation striking a military target of the Israeli enemy in the Jaffa area, southern Tel Aviv, in occupied Palestine.

"The operation was carried out with a new hypersonic ballistic missile that managed to reach its target, and the enemy's defense systems failed to intercept and confront it," Saree said.

"It crossed a distance of 2040 km in 11 and a half minutes, and caused a state of fear and panic among the Zionists, as more than two million Zionists headed to shelters for the first time in the history of the Israeli enemy."

The spokesman said the operation was part of the fifth phase of the battle against the Israeli enemy, and successfully reached its target by overcoming all obstacles, including American and Israeli interception systems on land and sea.

"The Israeli enemy should expect more strikes and specific operations to come as we approach the first anniversary of the blessed October 7th Operation, including responding to its criminal aggression on the city of Hudaydah, and continuous supportive operations for the oppressed Palestinian people."

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the territory's Palestinian resistance movements carried out a surprise retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity.

The Yemeni Armed Forces have said that they won't stop their attacks until Israeli ground and aerial offensives in Gaza end.

Hamas commends Yemeni attack

A senior Hamas official praised the Sunday missile attack, saying that the attack showed the limits of Israel's ability to defend itself.

"It is a message to the entire region that Israel is not an immune entity," Osama Hamdan told AFP during an interview in Istanbul.

"Even Israeli capabilities have limits, and the possibility of developing resistance action against the Zionist entity is a serious and real possibility, not a fantasy."

However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Yemenis will pay a "heavy price."

AFP photographers saw firefighters putting out a bush fire near Lod and shards of broken glass at a train station in Modin, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial hub, after the attack.

In July, Yemen launched a drone strike that penetrated Israel's intricate air defenses and killed a civilian in Tel Aviv, at least 1,800 kilometers from Yemen.

In an initial statement on Sunday, Israel's military claimed that the latest missile "fell in an open area" in the vicinity of Tel Aviv.

A subsequent statement said an initial inquiry indicates the missile fired from Yemen probably fragmented in mid-air.

"Several interception attempts were made by the Arrow and Iron Dome Aerial Defense Systems, and their results are under review," a military statement said.

Sirens sounded, the military said, leading to what local media described as a scramble for shelter in the greater Tel Aviv area.

A paramedic service said several people were slightly injured while "on their way to shelters."

Since November, Yemen's Armed Forces have also been targeting Israeli-bound ships in the Red Sea in support of Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Moscow museum showcases rare Persian miniatures



Arts & Culture Desk

A unique exhibition of historical Iranian artworks, including rare Persian miniatures, opened at the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow, bringing together over 200 works from two museums. The exhibition, which runs for two and a half months, was inaugurated on Sunday in the presence of Iran's cultural Attaché in

Moscow Masoud Ahmadvand, Alexey Levykin, director of the State Historical Museum, Alexander Sedov, director of the State Museum of Oriental Art, and a gathering of Eastern art enthusiasts, IRNA reported. At the beginning of the ceremony, Ahmadvand said that this exhibition shows how arts and culture can unite people of different nationalities and countries, transcending borders and history. "We have gathered here today to pay tribute to all the artists and craftsmen who have helped bring people from different countries, especially Iran, closer together through their work," Ahmadvand said. Levykin, director of the State Historical Museum, praised Peter Shchukin, the Russian researcher and creator of the Shchukin Art Museum, as a precious gift, and acknowledged that the exhibition features the most unique and exclusive pieces from Shchukin's collection, which showcases the unity of

the Eurasian people, covering a vast territory from Europe to America. "This collection is not the result of war spoils, but rather the result of extensive trade and diplomatic relations between Russia and Eastern countries, which is a part of our history," Levykin said. Sedov, director of the State Museum of Oriental Art, added that Shchukin had an exceptional eye for selecting true masterpieces, which have become the basis for the exhibition. "Shchukin collection is a treasure trove of Eastern art, and we are proud to showcase it in our museum," Sedov said. The exhibition features a diverse range of artworks, including manuscripts, Persian miniatures, oriental furniture, porcelain, exquisite fabrics, carpets, jewelry, and metal and stone items from Iran, Turkey, India, China, and Japan. The collection is based on the Oriental collection of Peter Shchukin, a Russian researcher and creator of the Shchukin Art



Museum. Shchukin's collection, which was donated to the State Historical Museum in Moscow in 1905, comprises over 300,000 items and is renowned beyond the borders of the Russian Empire. The exhibition highlights the significance of Shchukin's collection, which showcases the cultural exchange and diplomatic relations between Russia and Eastern countries.

Iran, Kazakhstan sign cultural cooperation agreement



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Kazakhstan signed a cultural and artistic cooperation agreement, paving the way for increased collaboration between the two countries in the fields of arts, music, and education. The agreement was signed during

a ceremony at the Kazakh National University of Arts in Astana, attended by Ali Akbar Talebi Matin, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Kazakhstan, and the university's rector, IRNA reported. The agreement aims to promote cultural and artistic exchanges between the two countries, including joint research projects, student ex-

changes, and cultural events. Talebi Matin highlighted the strong cultural ties between Iran and Kazakhstan, citing numerous high-level visits between the two countries. "We are witnessing growth in all areas of cooperation, including science, education, research, culture, and arts," he said. The ceremony also featured a musical performance by the Iranian music group, Soluk, which showcased traditional Iranian music and instruments. The group's leader, Mehdi Zare, thanked the Kazakh people for their warm hospitality and expressed hope that the performance would introduce Iranian music to a Kazakh audience. The event also included an exhibition and workshop on Iranian watercolor painting, which sparked interest among students.

Iran's 'Loteria' wins Best Int'l Film at South Texas Festival

Iranian filmmaker Ali Atshani's 'Loteria' picked up the award for Best International Film at the 11th South Texas International Film Festival, which took place from September 11 to 14 in Edinburg. 'Loteria', shot in Mexico in late 2021, has so far won over 10 awards for best film and best director including Best Film Award at the 23rd Zions Indie Film Fest (ZIFF) in Utah, Best Feature Film Award at the 14th Driftless Film Festival held in the US, and Best Screenplay Award at the 14th New York International Filmmaker Festival, IRNA reported.



The screenplay, written by Atshani and Mahmoudreza Sani, is based on a true story.

The cast includes Amir Hossein Mousavi, Hamed Tavasoli, and Hooman Sepantamehr among others.

2,700-year-old metal workshops uncovered in central Iran

Arts & Culture Desk

Archaeologists discovered two 2,700-year-old metal workshops in the Sialk Archaeological Hills in Kashan, a city in central Iran, dating back to the sixth period

of the Sialk civilization. Javad Hosseinzadeh, director of the Sialk Archaeological Hills cultural heritage site, announced the discovery on Sunday, saying that the workshops were uncov-

ered during the third phase of archaeological excavations at the site. "The workshops date back to the Median era, and a similar workshop was also discovered last year during the second phase of the excavations," Hosseinzadeh

said. In addition to the metal workshops, archaeologists also found remains of a pottery kiln and intact pottery vessels during the third phase of excavations, which began on August 16 and lasted for a month. The excavations were carried out in collaboration with the University of Kashan, the National Museum of Iran, and the Ministry of Cultur-

al Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Hosseinzadeh noted that the first phase of excavations was conducted by Sadeq Malek Shahmirzadi from 2001 to 2005, and the second phase was led by Hassan Fazeli Nashli in 2008 and 2009. The third phase of excavations, led by Jebrael Nokandeh and Hosseinzadeh, began in 2022 and has now come to an end. "Sialk has preserved evidence of human life from the

Neolithic period to the Median era, spanning nearly 8,000 years," Hosseinzadeh said. The Sialk site, which includes two northern and southern hills and several cemeteries, was registered as a national historical site in 1931. Archaeologists have so far discovered artifacts from the 7th millennium BC to the beginning of the Achaemenid period, except for the Bronze Age. Archaeologists are still searching for evidence of Sialk's situation during the fifth and sixth periods, the final stages of settlement in the hills, and the reasons for its abandonment.

