



## 1,700-year-paintings uncovered in Fars Province

Arts & Culture Desk

Archaeologists discovered ancient paintings dating back over 1,700 years in the Fars Province of Iran, the province's tourism chief announced on Monday. Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi said the paintings were found on

the walls of a Sassanian-era tomb in the ancient city of Gour, also known as Firuzabad, IRNA reported.

The discovery was made during the first phase of archaeological excavations in the city, which also uncovered architectural remains and evi-

dence of two tombs.

Sabet-Eqlidi said the paintings, which experts believe date back to the early 3rd century AD, depict faces in profile and three-quarter view.

The paintings were created using mineral pigments on a gypsum base, Sabet-Eqlidi added

Firuzabad, also known as Ardeshir Khurra, is an ancient city located 125 kilometers southeast of Shiraz, the capital of Fars province. The city was founded in the early 3rd century AD by order of Ardeshir Babakan, the founder of the Sassanian Empire.

## French Youality festival honors Iranian cinema

Iranian films won a certificate of honor and two special screenings at the fourth Youality Film Festival in France.

The festival, which featured over 400 films, concluded with several Iranian films being recognized by the jury, IRNA reported.

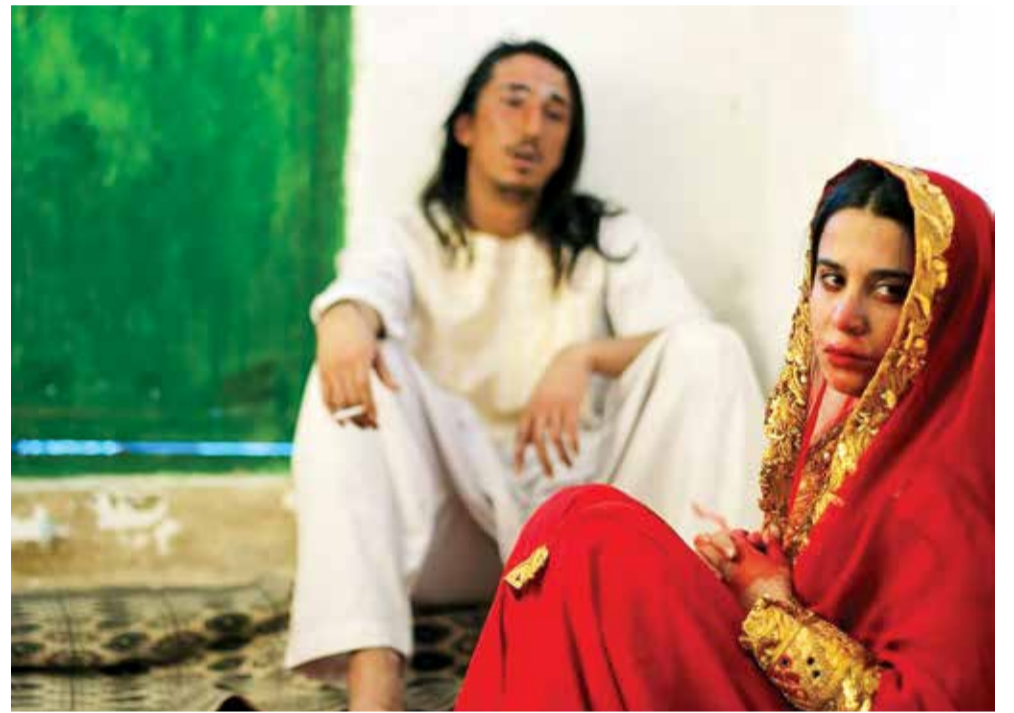
In the special screening section, two Iranian films, 'Nakojabad' directed by Fatima Abahamzeh and produced by Bijan Lahooti, and 'From Herat to Tehran' directed by Hamed Yousefi and written and produced by Fatima Abahamzeh, received jury and audience recognition.

In the official selection section, Iranian films 'The Voice of Dogs' directed by Mohammad Reza Nazi, 'The Last Child' directed by Serna Amini, 'On the Eve of the Cold Season' directed by

Alireza Shakari, and 'Venomous' directed by Gholamreza Mollaahmadi, were among the recognized films.

The Youality Film Festival, which focuses on "film-poetry" as one of its main awards, aims to support poetic cinema filmmakers around the world.

The winners of the festival, from France and Turkey, included short film 'Aspiration' by Stéphane Mandelkern, short film 'Anyway' by Nicolas Maurin, animated short film 'Shift' by Ellyn Clara Jarry, short film 'Madak' by Sedat Benek, 'Smile at Me' by Keyvan Azad, received a certificate of honor in the final section of the festival. Kamran Rasoulzadeh, the festival's secretary, announced plans to hold the fifth edition of the festival in 2025 in the city of Cannes.



## China Film Week kicks off in Iran

The China Film Week kicked off on September 23 at the Cinema Museum of Iran, marking a new chapter in the growing cultural and cinematic exchange between Iran and China.

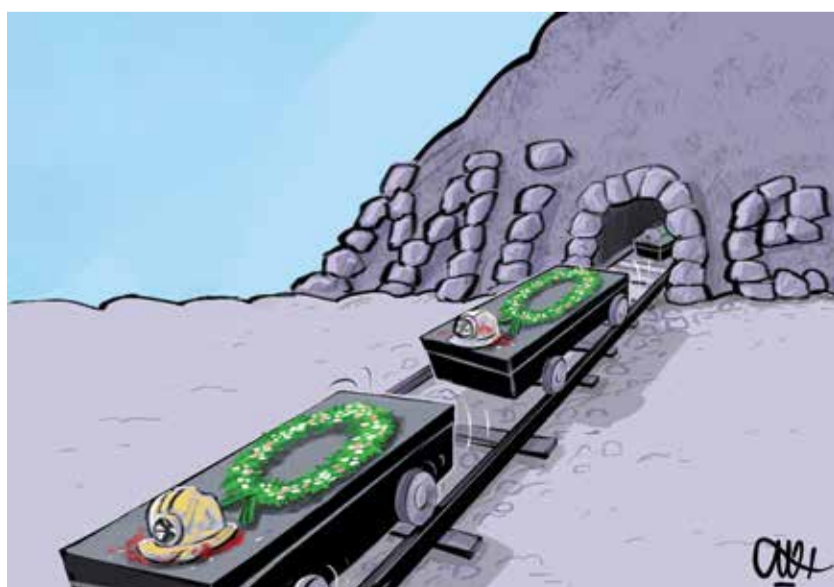
From September 24 to 27, five Chinese films will be screened at the museum's Ferdows Hall, IRN.

The lineup includes 'The Battle at Lake Changjin' directed by Chen Kaige, Tsui Hark and Dante Lam, 'A Beautiful Landscape' by Miu Wen, 'Cloudy Mountain' by Li Jun, 'Climbers' by Zhang Yimou, and 'Boonie Bears: Return to Earth' by Lin Huida.



The event is part of a broader effort to strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
 Cartoonist



## Death toll rises to 52 in Iran mine blast, probe underway

Social Desk

An Iranian lawmaker said Monday that a thorough investigation into the recent mine blast in Tabas, South Khorasan Province, will be conducted, with a final report to be submitted to the legislature for efficient decision-making.

The death toll from the devastating explosion at a mining company in Tabas has increased to 52, with 20 others injured, according to ISNA.

The incident was caused by a methane gas explosion on Saturday night in two blocks, B and C, of the mine run by Madanjoo Company.

Rescue teams are working to recover the bodies of 14 miners still trapped in block C of the coal mine, said Ali Khezrian, who is the spokesman for the Article 90 Commission of Parliament.

"We will conduct a comprehensive investigation into the incident," added Khezrian. "The probe will involve ministers of interior, industry, and labor; judicial officials, provincial authorities, mining experts, and managers."



A three-day period of public mourning has been declared in the eastern Iranian province as of Monday.

The rescue efforts are being hampered due to the accumulation of methane gas and the need for venting the gas out of the mine.

Preliminary investigations by a parliamentary team and experts suggest that the mine's traditional coal extraction methods increase the risk of further accidents. "The mine and similar ones should be modernized to include monitoring and methane drainage systems to prevent such disasters

from recurring," Khezrian explained. Iran is one of 15 countries with diverse mineral resources, accounting for 6% of the total domestic production rate, with 68 mineral materials extracted from its mines. However, the use of outdated methods at the Tabas mine and others like it poses a significant risk to miners, officials said.

"To prevent similar disasters, the mine and others like it must modernize to include mechanization, monitoring and methane drainage systems," Khezrian said.

## New era for...

Currently, it appears that Western countries are reassessing their approach to the Middle East in light of recent events, including the Al-Aqsa Storm and its far-reaching consequences. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran seems to be in a special position,

having maintained its composure in the face of the Zionist regime's provocative actions. This has given Iran an upper hand in diversifying its foreign policy, and the incumbent Iranian government can capitalize on this to create a vast capacity for dialogue with Western countries.

Western countries are now more aware than ever of the need for an exchange of views and dialogue with Iran. Tehran should make the most of this new and evolving landscape, as the region has entered a new era where diplomacy takes center stage.

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