



## Iran, China ink cooperation agreement in archaeology, heritage preservation

Mostafa Dehpahlavan (l), head of Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT), and Chu Xiaobo, director of the Shanghai Museum, sign an agreement to promote archaeological studies and heritage preservation between Iran and China, in Shanghai, China.

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT) and the Shanghai Museum in China signed a cooperation agreement to promote archaeological studies and heritage preservation between the two countries. According to ILNA, the agreement was signed during a visit by Mostafa Dehpahlavan, the head of RICHT, to China, where he and

his delegation toured various sections of the Shanghai Museum, ISNA reported. The agreement aims to develop bilateral scientific and cultural relations in the field of cultural heritage between Iran and China. The agreement covers several areas of cooperation, including "archaeology and interdisciplinary studies", "archaeological survey, conservation, and restoration of historical sites",

"historical research, including archival and library studies", "epigraphic studies", and "research on the history of arts and traditional arts with a focus on comparative studies". The agreement was signed by Mostafa Dehpahlavan, head of RICHT, and Chu Xiaobo, director of the Shanghai Museum. During the signing ceremony, Xiaobo welcomed the Iranian delegation and referred to the successful exhibition of the Na-

tional Museum of Iran at the Shanghai Museum, which was well-received by the Chinese people. Xiaobo emphasized that the Shanghai Museum and the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts have extensive relations, and this agreement is important for enhancing archaeological studies and heritage preservation between the two countries.

He also highlighted the shared heritage of China and Iran, citing the discovery of artifacts from the Siraf port. The director of the Shanghai Museum also mentioned the museum's expertise in archaeological excavations in other regions, such as Sri Lanka, and noted that the agreement with RICHT will lead to more extensive scientific research and cultural exchange along the Silk Road, as well as the preservation of its cultural

heritage. Dehpahlavan expressed hope that the agreement will lead to the launch of a joint archaeological study of the Siraf port, a significant cultural center related to Iranian and Chinese cultures from the Sassanian to the Islamic periods. He also emphasized that the agreement will be a continuous and ongoing operational program between the two institutions.

## Iran's animation 'The Sound of Cloud' picked for Jordan's human rights festival



The short animation "The Sound of Cloud," was selected for the main section of the Karama International Human Rights Film Festival in Jordan. The film, directed by Mohammad Lotfali and written and produced by Hadi Firouzmandi, will be showcased during the festival, which runs from December 5 to December 12, 2024, in Amman, the capital of Jordan, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Karama International Human Rights Film Festival is one of the most significant cinematic events in the Middle East, focusing on human rights issues. Established in 2010, the festival aims to raise public awareness about human rights matters through art and cinema. This year's festival is themed "Justice for the People of the Global South" and emphasizes the legacy of colonialism, racial inequality, and environmental injustices. The main focus of this year's festival is on ongoing struggles for justice, particularly for the people of Palestine and communities in the Global South. "The Sound of Cloud," has already received several international accolades, including the Best Animation Award at the 27th Marano Ragazzi Spot Festival and an Honorary Diploma at the fifth kinofestival "Light of the world" in Russia. This short animation tells a story set between two devastating bomb explosions affecting the innocent children of Gaza.

## Armenian translator celebrates Persian literature's role in 'showcasing Iranian heritage'

### Arts & Culture Desk

An Armenian Iranologist emphasized the importance of Persian literature in showcasing Iranian culture and heritage to the world. Georg Asatryan, who is also a translator, made these remarks during the unveiling ceremony for the Armenian translations of two notable works by Iranian authors on Saturday. The books, 'Shadow of the Monster' by Abbas Jahangirian and 'A Song for Wednesdays' by Farhad Hassanzadeh, were introduced at the Khnko Aper National Children's Library in Yerevan, IRNA reported. Asatryan stated, "Iran is not just introducing itself through its ancient civilization but also through its rich literary achievements." He acknowledged Jahangirian and Hassanzadeh as key figures in contemporary Persian prose, highlighting their contributions to the literary world.

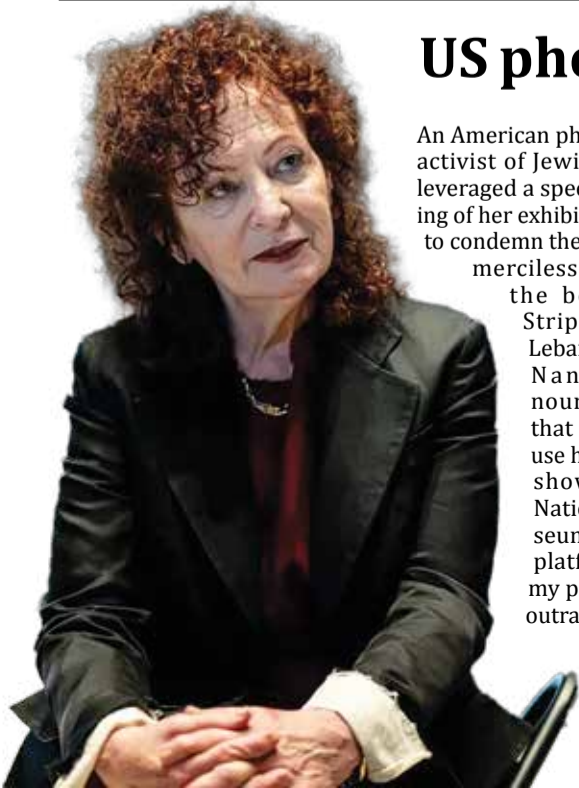
The event saw the attendance of Iran's Ambassador to Armenia, Mehdi Sobhani, along with the authors, translators, and literature enthusiasts, including teachers and students from Persian language schools in Armenia. Rozan Tonoyan, the director of the Khnko Aper National Children's Library, noted the long-standing cultural ties between Armenia and Iran. She described the translation of Iranian literary works as a significant step in strengthening these ties. "The existence of the Iran section in our library, active since 2006, is a clear testament to our cultural relationship," she added. Sobhani spoke about the connection between reading and peace, asserting that societies that value literature tend to be more peaceful. He described children's literature as a vital factor in fostering future peace, stating that the authors of these works are "architects of that peace." He praised Jahangirian and



Hassanzadeh's writings as valuable examples. Jahangirian also addressed the challenges of translating Persian literature, viewing the task as a significant responsibility. He expressed gratitude to Armenian translators for their efforts in introducing Persian literature to Armenian readers.

Asatryan concluded the ceremony by expressing his joy in collaborating with Iranian authors and introducing their works to the Armenian community. He said, "This translation is a valuable opportunity to connect Armenian children with the rich culture and human messages found in Iranian literature."

## US photographer opens Berlin exhibition with anti-Israel speech



An American photographer and activist of Jewish descent has leveraged a speech at the opening of her exhibition in Germany to condemn the Israeli regime's merciless aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon. Nan Goldin announced on Friday that she intended to use her retrospective show at the Neue Nationalgalerie museum in Berlin "as a platform to amplify my position of moral outrage" at "genocide in Gaza and Lebanon."

The 71-year-old photographer said, "My grandparents escaped pogroms in Russia. I was brought up knowing about the Nazi Holocaust. What I see in Gaza reminds me of the pogroms that my grandparents escaped." Goldin pointed to the Israeli regime's displacement and destruction in Gaza, and told a cheering audience that criticism of the occupying entity "should not be conflated with anti-Semitism." The American activist also censured Germany over ignoring Islamophobia in the country, saying, "Germany is home of the largest Palestinian diaspora in Europe. Yet, protests are met

with police dogs and deportation and stigmatization." Goldin walked off the stage to loud chants of "free, free Palestine," which drowned out a subsequent speech by the director of the gallery, Klaus Biesenbach, Press TV reported. Hermann Parzinger, the president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, to which the Neue Nationalgalerie belongs, rebuked Goldin's talk and the protesters' disruption of Biesenbach's speech. Goldin, who is of Jewish origin, was born in Washington D.C. and is a leading artist and activist whose life and work were documented in the award-winning 2022 film "All the Beauty

and the Bloodshed." Over 44,000 Palestinians, mostly children and women, have been killed and more than 104,000 others wounded in the Gaza war that Israel began on October 7, 2023, following a retaliatory operation by the Palestinian territory's resistance movements. The brutal military onslaught enjoys unreserved military and political support on the part of the Israeli regime's Western allies, including the United States and France. The administration of US President Joe Biden has used its veto power four times to block a ceasefire in Gaza since the beginning of Israel's genocidal war. The US provides Israel with at

least \$3.8 billion in military aid annually, and the Biden administration has authorized \$14 billion in additional assistance to its ally since the war began. The death toll from the Israeli onslaught on Lebanon since October 2023 has surpassed 3,500. More than 15,000 others have also been injured. Most of them have lost their lives in the past month amid the intensified airstrikes and a ground offensive. Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah has been putting up firm resistance in the face of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and vowed to continue its struggle until the regime's onslaught stops.