

Iran's first woodcarving museum opened in Kermanshah



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran inaugurated its first woodcarving museum on Friday in a historic venue in western city of Kermanshah, to showcase the country's rich tradition of wood inlay and sculpture. The museum, housed in the historic Tekyeh Biglarbeigi monument, was officially opened in a ceremony attended by Kermanshah Governor Manouchehr Habibi, the province's cultural heritage director, the city's mayor, and several other officials, ILNA reported. Dariush Farmani, director of Kermanshah's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, told reporters on the sidelines of the event that the museum's establishment had been in the works since 2021 when the nec-

essary permits were obtained from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. However, due to a lack of suitable space for exhibition, the launch had been put on hold. "After extensive negotiations with cultural heritage authorities, we managed to secure a 200-square-meter space within Tekyeh Biglarbeigi for the museum," Farmani said. "Fortunately, today we have finally gotten it off the ground." As the country's first dedicated woodcarving museum, the facility showcases 200 intricately crafted wooden pieces, spanning both inlay work and sculpture. "Given the significance of Tekyeh Biglarbeigi as a historical landmark that attracts numerous tourists each year, we decided to set up the museum here," Farmani added, high-

lighting its appeal to Nowruz visitors. Meanwhile, Alireza Bavandpour, a Kermanshah-based woodcarving artist and representative of the World Wood Day Organization, emphasized the province's standing as a major hub for woodcarving and sculpture. "The museum will be open to visitors starting Saturday," Bavandpour confirmed. "Kermanshah holds a prominent position in the global woodcarving scene, and in line with this, we are set to host a cultural exchange event on June 10, bringing together 10 Chinese artists to commemorate World Handicrafts Day." He further noted that in recent years, Kermanshah has played host to several international events in the field of woodworking, solidifying its reputation as a center for the craft.

Iranian pediatric oncologist Ghalibafian honored as global leader in cancer care

Social Desk

Mitra Ghalibafian, a leading Iranian pediatric oncologist and head of radiation oncology at Mahak Hospital, was named one of the distinguished women leaders in the SIOP Almanac 2025, a global recognition for women in pediatric oncology. Ghalibafian, the founder of Iran's pediatric neuro-oncology program, has played a pivotal role in advancing cancer treatment for children, annually treating over 100 patients with brain tumors. Her selection by the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) highlights her contributions to improving cancer care and reducing treatment disparities worldwide. With a career spanning over two decades, Ghalibafian has been instrumental in establishing specialized radiotherapy for children in Iran. Her collaborations with medical centers in Canada and other countries have facilitated access to cutting-edge treatments for Iranian children battling cancer. After earning her medical degree from Iran University of Medical Sciences, Ghalibafian pursued further studies in Austria, gaining expertise in pathology and biomedical engineering. She later returned to Iran, dedicating herself to healthcare in underserved regions and actively participating in the World Health Organization's polio eradication program. In 2006, she founded Iran's first dedicated pediatric radiotherapy center, offering advanced treatment options to over 200 young patients annually. Her groundbreaking work in neuro-oncology has significantly improved outcomes for children with brain tumors, reinforcing her impact on pediatric cancer care in resource-limited settings.



Secret to Nowruz's endurance...

One of the most thought-provoking aspects of Nowruz is its remarkable staying power. Despite the geopolitical reshuffling that has carved Greater Iran into numerous independent nations, this ancient festival continues to hold sway, honored across borders with traditions that remain strikingly similar. Recognizing its cultural significance, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating March 21 as "International Nowruz Day" under Article 49, linking it to the broader framework of a culture of peace. Today, Nowruz has been cemented as an international occasion. To explore the history, customs, and enduring legacy of Nowruz, Iran Daily reporter conducted an exclusive interview with Ardeshir Khorshidian, a Zoroastrian priest and scholar of ancient Iran. Below is the full interview.

IRAN DAILY: What sets Nowruz apart from similar festivals?

ARDESHIR KHORSHIDIAN: Nowruz is a springtime celebration, but what makes it unique is the incredible precision with which its timing has been calculated since ancient times. Given that Iranians were pioneers in wisdom and astronomy, their expertise played a crucial role in ensuring Nowruz was observed at a precise moment. In fact, Nowruz is likely the only festival in the world that takes place at an exact second. Each year, Iranians across the globe gather around their Haft Seen table at the very instant Nowruz begins, praying for global peace, harmony, and the well-being of all humanity. The calculations behind this moment date back to antiquity, ensuring that at the precise second Nowruz arrives, the Earth's axis aligns with the Sun, and day and night are exactly twelve hours long everywhere on the planet. What's truly remarkable is that thousands of years ago, Iranians managed to nail down this astronomical calculation with such accuracy.

Is Nowruz a religious occasion? Is it exclusively tied to Zoroastrianism?

There is much debate about when exactly Nowruz originated, as it traces back to pre-historic times. However, one important fact stands out: the birthday of Zoroaster, the prophet of Zoroastrianism, falls on March 26. Despite the fact that major Iranian empires—including the Medes, Achaemenids, and Parthians—were all Zoroastrian, none of them went so far as to declare Zoroaster's birthday as the start of Nowruz. Had they done so, the festival would have been reduced to a purely



religious event, limited to Zoroastrians. But as we see today, Nowruz transcends religion—it belongs to everyone.

This highlights yet again the spirit of unity among Iranians. Nowruz does not hinge on one's religious background; it is a celebration that brings people together, regardless of their faith. Throughout history, whenever Iran's identity, culture, or borders have been at stake, Iranians from all walks of life have stood shoulder to shoulder—as seen during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), when people of all ethnicities and backgrounds stepped up to defend their homeland with everything they had.

Given that thousands of years have passed, why has Nowruz stood the test of time? What, in fact, is the secret behind its longevity?

As I mentioned earlier, one key reason Nowruz has endured is that it has never been tied to any particular religious affiliation. This allows people of all faiths and beliefs to feel a sense of ownership over the tradition. Today, we see that diverse nations—regardless of religion, race, language, or ideology—come together to celebrate Nowruz, making it, in a sense, a festival for the entire world. Another crucial factor is Iran's well-documented mythical, heroic, and historical periods, which date back to the era of the Medes. A defining characteristic of Iran's various historical phases has been the culture of mutual respect

among different religious groups, ethnicities, and linguistic communities. This spirit of reverence and coexistence extends to Nowruz as well. That's why the festival has remained deeply ingrained in our cultural fabric—because all Iranians, along with the 18 nations that were once part of pre-Islamic Iran, have been profoundly mindful of its significance.

Could you elaborate on Nowruz customs, particularly the Haft Seen table, which is one of its most iconic symbols?

A long-standing tradition leading up to Nowruz is spring cleaning, which typically kicks off about ten days before the new year. The first five days are dedicated to tidying up the home, but the latter five are meant for cleansing the heart, soul, and mind. Another key element of the celebrations is the Haft Seen table, which is carefully set with seven symbolic items, all beginning with the Persian letter "S." Some of these include *sumac*, *samanu* (a sweet wheat pudding), and *senjed* (dried oleaster fruit). *Senjed*, for instance, represents wisdom, diligence, and perseverance. *Sib* (apples) and *sabze* (greens) symbolize solidarity and renewal. Meanwhile, *serkeh* (vinegar) serves as a reminder that life is a blend of both bitter and sweet experiences, teaching us to take life's hardships in stride. Another item found on the Haft Seen table is *sekkeh* (coins), which symbolizes stability and self-discipline—reminding people to remain steadfast in their character, much like a coin retains its value over time.



Notice of cancellation the tender No. 32/1403/Z

Hereby **Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.** announces cancellation of Tender No. 32/1403/Z "140.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.50 ave) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran" until further notice. Meanwhile the second tender renewal will be informed in newspaper and Golgohar website as www.geg.ir subsequently. Transactions Commission of Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.