

Restoration work at Persepolis resumes after Nowruz holidays



Arts & Culture Desk

Restoration activities at Persepolis have resumed following the Nowruz holidays, with key projects focused on the southern inscription of Darius' wall, the northern Apadana Palace, and the tomb of Artaxerxes III. According to Shahram Rahbar, head of the conservation and restoration team at Persepolis World Heritage Site, the workshops had been semi-active from March 15 to April 4 due to the influx of visitors during the holiday season. However, restoration efforts are now back on track, IRNA reported. Rahbar said, "During the Nowruz holidays, experts focused on preparing for the influx of visitors, while several restoration workshops were temporarily paused. From April 5, work has resumed

on the southern inscription of Darius, the B2 column base in the northern Apadana Palace, and the tomb of Artaxerxes III." The southern inscription of the Darius wall, in particular, has presented significant challenges. "The preservation and restoration of this inscription have been complex, with several proposals reviewed by the technical council," Rahbar explained. He noted that the complexity arose from various factors, including the condition of the southern wall and the inscription itself, making this restoration project unique. Differences in opinion among the conservation, archaeology, and engineering teams led to the formation of a joint task force to coordinate efforts. Rahbar assured that collaboration among the teams is now fruitful,

with emergency preservation work currently underway on the upper section of the southern inscription. The restoration is expected to be completed by the end of spring. The southern inscription of Darius at Persepolis, carved in three languages—Old Persian, Babylonian, and Elamite—on a single stone column, remains one of the most significant historical artifacts from the Achaemenid period. "This inscription, along with the Bisotun inscription in Kermanshah, is undoubtedly one of the most important relics of Darius the Great," Rahbar concluded. The inscription not only celebrates Darius' divine power but also includes a unique prayer that calls for protection from enemies, drought, and falsehoods, highlighting its exceptional historical value.

Iranian film wins two awards at California festival

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Iranian film 'My Little Moon,' by Ali Atshani, earned two major awards at the 22nd Riverside International Film Festival in California. The feature was named Best Film at the festival's closing ceremony, held April 6 at the historic Fox Theater in Riverside, ILNA wrote. Actress Natalia Polo also took home the Best Actress award for her performance in the film. The Riverside festival, held annually in April, is considered a

notable event in the US independent film circuit. Produced by American Brightlight Film Productions in 2025, 'My Little Moon' tells the story of two teenage girls — one from the US and the other from Iran — who form a deep friendship online. The film explores themes of connection beyond borders and cultures. The drama has already received recognition at several festivals, including Kansas City and Santa Fe. The cast includes Natalia Polo, Nicole Amato, Brent Kubelik,



Matthew Fehrmann, and Elnaz Bagheri.

Sassanid-era pottery jar discovered in Fars Province

A Sassanid-era pottery jar was uncovered during road construction in Marvdasht, Fars province, according to Mohammad Sabet-Eghlidi, the head of the provincial tourism department. The jar, believed to be from the Sassanid period, was found while excavating the road connecting Marvdasht to Arsanjan. Sabet-Eghlidi confirmed the find and emphasized its historical significance, IRNA reported. The jar, used for grain storage during the Sassanid era, was found empty, with no valuable coins or metals inside. For further analysis, the artifact has been transferred to the Persepolis World Heritage site.



Red Cross lauds Iran's humanitarian efforts, regional role



Social Desk

Iran plays a key role in humanitarian efforts across the Middle East, according to the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tehran, Vincent Cassard. Speaking in an exclusive interview with IRNA, Cassard highlighted Iran's strong cultural and humanitarian presence in a region marked by conflict. Cassard, with over 20 years of experience in the ICRC, emphasized that the Iranian people demonstrate a deep commitment to supporting one another. This is evident in their active participation in humanitarian and health programs, particularly during Nowruz, the Persian New Year. He commended the Iranian Red Crescent Society for its significant contributions in disaster response, such as after earthquakes, and its role in assisting vulnerable groups, including Afghan refugees. The ICRC has been present in Iran since the final

years of the Iran-Iraq War, overseeing prisoner exchanges between the two countries. Today, its focus remains on promoting international humanitarian law, while Iran's longstanding support for these principles remains vital. Cassard also noted ongoing cooperation with Iranian authorities to further strengthen respect for humanitarian law. Reflecting on the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, Cassard praised the Iranian government's endorsement of these international norms. Despite this, he warned of an alarming global trend: escalating conflicts and diminishing respect for international humanitarian law. He pointed to ongoing violence in Gaza, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as examples of this worrying shift. Cassard stressed the ICRC's ongoing efforts to advocate for the protection of civilians in conflict zones. He noted that political dynamics often complicate the enforcement of humanitarian laws, making it crucial to push for greater respect for these norms, particularly in politically charged military environments. Looking ahead, Cassard reiterated the ICRC's commitment to collaborating with the Iranian Red Crescent, focusing on vulnerable populations and supporting displaced families. The ICRC will continue to engage with Iranian officials to promote better adherence to humanitarian laws, particularly in light of the growing humanitarian crises worldwide.

Employers face hefty fines for hiring unauthorized foreign workers



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare announced new penalties for employers hiring foreign workers without valid work permits. As of March 21, employers will face daily fines of approximately \$16.3 per illegal hire, ISNA reported. The updated fines were communicated through an official memo sent to provincial labor offices. According to the min-

istry's directive, employers caught using unauthorized foreign labor will incur a penalty of \$16.3 for each day of illegal employment. This new penalty reflects a fivefold increase in relation to the daily minimum wage. Employers who repeat the offense will face double the fine. The law, outlined in Article 120 of Iran's Labor Code, stipulates that foreign nationals may only work in the country if they hold the necessary visa and work permit. Employers

who fail to comply risk severe consequences, including hefty fines and potential imprisonment. Officials have expressed concerns about the broader security, cultural, and economic implications of employing unauthorized foreign workers. The Ministry of Labor continues to prioritize the regulation of legal foreign workers and is focused on ensuring they are properly documented and traceable. Authorities have also emphasized that local businesses must adhere to regulations and avoid hiring unauthorized workers. Tehran's governor has warned that any establishment found employing illegal foreign workers will face penalties, including possible closure. While foreign labor is permitted in industries with labor shortages, such as construction and agriculture, some businesses continue to flout the law, ignoring the potential legal consequences.