

Art & Culture



AMIN BERENJKAR-mehrnews.com

Int'l conference for promoting Persian literature kicks off in Shiraz

The southwestern Iranian city of Shiraz is hosting the 13th International Conference for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature.

The conference began on October 10 and will continue until October 12, Mehr News Agency reported.

The event kicked off at University of Shiraz on Wednesday morning, concurrent with the 22nd commemoration of the National Day of Hafez, a highly revered 14th-century Persian poet and mystic whose poems are widely considered as the essence of the Iranian culture.

The conference is being attended by a number of researchers, scholars and professors of Persian language and literature, as well as prominent guests from Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Iraqi Kurdistan region and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to the scientific director of the conference, Kavous Hasanli, over 1,100 professors and researchers had submitted papers to the conference, of which 297 were ultimately judged to be fit for CDs and 70 papers for printing in books.

The conference is organized by Association for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature, and covers special topics on 'Hafezology', which discusses the role of Hafez in the development of Iranian culture and Persian language and literature, and 'Farsology' which is dedicated to topics related to languages, dialects and literary heritage of Fars Province.

The latest cultural, scientific and literary research on Persian language and literature are being presented in the event.

Tehran to host Iran-Russia cultural conference

Art & Culture Desk

A conference titled 'Iran-Russia Scientific and Cultural Ties: Capacities and Prospects' will open in Tehran on October 14.

According to ISNA, the event, organized by University of Islamic Denomination, will host elites and experts from the two countries.

The conference is aimed at enhancing scientific and academic interactions between the University of Islamic Denomination and Russian academic centers.

The event will be attended by the host university's director, Mohammad-Hossein Mokhtari, Director of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, Russia's Ambassador to Iran Levon Jagarian and Iarysa Yefremova, the deputy head for international relations at the RUDN University in Moscow.

Earlier, Moscow was host to Iran's Cultural Week from September 3-9. The event featured a variety of programs such as Iranian music performance and film screening sessions and reviews.

Soldiers given voice in century-old footage in Jackson's new war film

For his new World War One documentary film, 'They Shall Not Grow Old', director Peter Jackson was adamant the soldiers should tell their own stories.

To do that, the acclaimed New Zealand director hired forensic lip-readers to go through old silent film footage of the war and uncover the conversations that took place in the trenches and on the battlefields 100 years ago, Reuters reported.

Those words were mixed with interviews with former soldiers from 600 hours of tape in the BBC archives to create a documentary that includes only the words of the soldiers themselves, in a full-color war as they would have seen it.

"There's been lots of documentaries made on the First World War... and I just decided for this one to strictly just use the voices of the guys that fought there," Jackson, director

of the 'Hobbit' and the 'Lord of the Rings' series told Reuters on Tuesday. "So no historians, no narration, no nothing."

Old film was meticulously restored. Computers were used, not only to add color to black and white footage, but to remove imperfections, fill splices and reconstruct missing frames from film that was shot with fewer frames per second than today.

Forensic lip-readers, who usu-

ally work with the police determining what people say on silent security camera footage, were able to decipher the words spoken long ago on film. Actors were hired to give the soldiers on screen a voice.

The film will have its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival next week.

"It's not the story of the war," said Jackson. "It's the story of the human experience of fighting in the war."

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Exclusive

Official: Iran among world's top three in crafts production

By Sadeq Dehqan & Farzad Vanaki

Iran is among the world's top three handicrafts producers, said the head of the handicraft association of the central Iranian province of Isfahan.

Close to 60 percent of Iran's total handicrafts are produced in Isfahan, making the province the country's top producer of such items, Abbas Shirdel told Iran Daily.

He said Iranian handicrafts has the greatest diversity worldwide, overtaking China and India which rank higher than Iran in terms of producing such items.

"Of the total 297 types of handicrafts produced in Iran, 199 pertain to Isfahan Province, which shows the high status of the art and creativity among the people of the province."

He said Isfahan is leading in production of all kinds of handicrafts, describing the province's artists as creative and innovative.

Shirdel said handicrafts play an important role in the presentation of a country's art and culture to the world, adding given its position in production of such items, in 2015, Isfahan Province was recognized by the World Crafts Council (WCC) as the World Crafts City



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and registered as a UNESCO creative city.

He noted that in the same year, the world crafts secretariat was established in the city.

Shirdel noted that by increasing production and exports of handicrafts Iran can generate revenue without selling oil and raw minerals to other countries.

Warning that the art of making certain handicrafts is fading into oblivion, he said in case this happens to any of the handicrafts currently produced in the country a large number of jobs will be lost leading a decrease in the number of the country's sources of income.

"At present, more than 40,000 people are involved in the field of producing

handicrafts in Isfahan Province. A major part of the livelihood of a large number of people in this province depends on this sector."

He noted that there are 18 handicrafts centers, also called houses, in Isfahan, which help preserve and promote the art related to the making of different kinds of crafts.

Shirdel listed some of the province's famous techniques for crafts production as Khatam — an ancient Persian technique of inlaying, torcetics — artistic metalworking, Kashani, making porcelain enamel, Kalamkari — a type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile, and wood carving.

He said the art of making porcelain enamel with a historical background of close to 5,000 years has been registered internationally.

Highlighting the importance of managing and organizing Iran's handicrafts exports more effectively, Shirdel noted that currently, Isfahan's overseas sales of crafts are done merely through individuals and passengers visiting the city.

He said Isfahan Province's handicraft are exported to most countries even China which is among the world's biggest producers and exporters of such items.

'Whole to Part' accepted for Turkish, Argentinean festivals

Iranian short film titled 'Whole to Part', directed by Vahid Hosseini-Nami, was accepted into two film festivals in Turkey and Argentina.

'Whole to Part' will take part in the competition section of the 14th Mar del Plata International Film Festival in Argentina, to be held during October, 11-12, 2018, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Iranian short film will also participate in the panorama section of Izmir International Short Film Festival in Turkey, to be held from October 30-November 4, 2018.

The 12-minute short film tells the story of a dictator's iron statue. After people



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topple the statue and melt it into smaller objects, it continues to live among people in the form of smaller objects.

'Whole to Part' recently won the Best Film Award at the Lucania Film Festival in Italy.

'Pet Man' to be screened at China Int'l Green Film Week



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Iranian short animated movie titled 'Pet Man', directed by Marzieh Abrar-Paydar, will be screened at the 10th China International Green Film Week in Beijing.

'Pet Man' tells the story of an animal dealer who falls asleep in his shop and has a nightmare about being trapped inside a cage. In his attempt to escape from the animals, he encounters various obstacles, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Iranian animated film will be screened at the 10th China International Green Film Week which will be held from October 10-14, 2018.

The festival's mission is "to carry the memories via films, to protect the future via cameras".

According to the festival's website,

China International Green Film Week is a "large-scale film culture event held by Chinese filmmakers to raise awareness of animal, nature and environment protection"

In its earlier screenings, 'Pet Man' won some international awards including one for the best animated film at NEZ International Film Festival in India, another for the best characterization in Kent's Canterbury Festival, the accolade for the best animation at the Largo International Film Festival in Switzerland, the award for best animated eco film at International Animation Film Festival Golden Kukul in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and the Best Animation Short Film award at the Second São Paulo Times Film Festival.

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