

Art & Culture

Condolences

Iran Daily expresses its condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of daughter of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Fatima (PBUH).

Mounesan: 2,000 monuments up for restoration

A total of 2,000 historical/cultural monuments are in the process of being restored, announced the head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO).

According to IRNA, Ali-Asghar Mounesan further said,

"Good steps have been taken in this area and that the government has extended special support. We now have about one million historical sites in the country, which need to be preserved and restored permanently."

Turning to the tourism projects, Mounesan, who is also a vice president, stated, "The ICHHTO is not the implementer of these projects, but it is directing the restoration process."

He stated that over 1,980 tourism projects are under implementation in the country with private sector investment. This is to make the private and public sectors more involved in implementing cultural tourism programs, he noted.

The official added that the government seeks to restore historical monuments using state budget while creating jobs for the people.

On the number of foreign tourists visiting Iran, he said that from the beginning of April to mid-December 2018, the number of foreign tourists coming to Iran exceeded six million whereas 5.1 million foreign tourists were registered during the same period of 2017.

New York's Museum of Modern Art to undergo four-month renovation

The Museum of Modern Art in New York, home to works by Picasso, Roy Lichtenstein and other modern masters, will close for four months this year to expand and offer "more art in new and interdisciplinary ways," it said.

According to AFP, MoMA, which is one of the most prominent art museums in the United States, will reopen on October 21. It will have one-third more exhibition space after the \$400-million project that aims to highlight "creative affinities and frictions" by displaying a range of media together — from painting to architecture, performance, or film, the museum said in a statement.



AFP

At its heart will be a space dubbed The Studio that will feature live programming and performances "that react to, question, and challenge histories of modern art and the current cultural moment," MoMA said.

An expanded ground floor will have street-level galleries to bring art closer to people, it added.

MoMA said that upper-level galleries will showcase works in all media by artists "from more diverse geographies and backgrounds than ever before."

Among the exhibitions after the reopening will be a look into MoMA's holdings of modern Latin American art.

Another will focus on African American artist Betye Saar. The renovation with New York architects Diller Scofidio+Renfro will add more than 40,000 square feet (3,700 square meters) of gallery space.

MoMA's spring exhibitions, including 'Birth of the World' dedicated to Spanish artist Juan Miro, will end with its closure on June 15.

The expansion reflects major donations received by MoMA, including \$100 million from entertainment mogul David Geffen in 2016.

An initial renovation project, lasting more than a year, was completed in June 2017.

Weather



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3,000 Chinese attend Chinese New Year celebration in Yazd for first time

Exclusive

By Sadeq Dehqan

For the first time, Yazd celebrated the Chinese New Year with the participation of 3,000 Chinese tourists, said the director general of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization of Yazd Province.

Mostafa Fatemi-Firouzabadi told Iran Daily that the celebration sought to pay respects to cultures of different countries, adding that tourists in general and Chinese visitors in particular have recently taken keen interest in Yazd Province.

He said tourists from European as well as Southeast Asian countries visit Iran each year. China ranked first in the number of tourists visiting Iran followed by France, Germany and Italy, he pointed out.

"Since Chinese tourists are always present in Yazd Province, we do our best to be with them in their cultural and national occasions so they have a great time while in Iran."

There had been some ceremonies for Christians in Yazd in the last two years, he said, noting, Chinese presence in Yazd during their two-week celebration of their New Year (starting on February 4) inspired the officials to host Chinese New Year ceremony in Yazd for the first time.

"Holding the exhibition and respect-



IRAN DAILY

ing their traditions not only made Chinese tourists happy, but also surprised them when they saw their fellow countrymen invited to different hotels in Yazd.

"Similar to Persian New Year, Chinese people also tick down the seconds to the new year's moment which was 19:30 in Iran's local time.

"Among other traditions is the red decorative lanterns to create a festive atmosphere to bring joy and good luck

to the Chinese people."

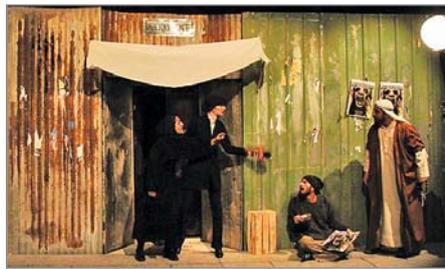
Yazd is making great efforts to attract more tourists, he said, adding the focus on tour guides with a knowledge of major international languages, travel agencies and hotels with highest number of residents are among the strategies to achieve this.

Mohammad-Hossein Eslami, who is responsible for attracting Chinese tourists to Yazd, said that provincial officials are placing advertisements and

presenting cultural programs to attract foreign tourists and introduce Iran's attractions better than ever.

"We also try to change negative publicity against Iran and instead introduce Iran's true image, culture and attractions," he said.

Eslami's Chinese wife said, "I met my husband in China and since we are both interested in tourism, we decided to set up a residential center for the Chinese in Yazd."



Iranian play 'Minority', directed by Pedram Samdai, is on stage at Tehran's Molavi's Hall.



MILAD MIRAZA-ALI/theater.ir

Iran, Japan to hold first religious talks

The first round of religious talks focusing on the status of family in Islam and Shinto will be held in Japan on February 9.

Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) Abouzar Ebrahimi Torkaman will take part in the discussions, IRNA wrote.

Iran's Cultural Center in Japan announced Wednesday that it will organize the religious talks jointly with Kogakuin University as part of the pro-

gram to mark the 40th anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution as well as the 90th anniversary of Iran-Japan diplomatic ties.

Iran's Ambassador to Japan Morteza Rahmani-Movahed as well as chancellors and professors of Japanese universities will participate in the event.

Torkaman will also meet Iranian expatriates in Japan and local officials on the sidelines of the event.

第一回 日本とイランの宗教対話会議
 ~イスラームと神道~
 اولین گفتگوی دینی ایران و ژاپن با عنوان جایگاه خانواده در اسلام و شینتو
 テーマ:イスラームと神道における家族観について
 2019年2月9日(13:30-18:00)
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