

Reza Davoudnejad Passes Away Aged 44



TEHRAN -- Young Iranian actor Reza Davoudnejad has passed away at the age of 44.

He departed this life on Monday due to septicemia (blood poisoning by bacteria) in Shiraz, Fars.

Born on May 19, 1980 in Tehran, Reza was the son of the veteran Iranian filmmaker Alireza Davoudnejad.

Reza entered the world of child acting with a role in his father's movie 'Defenseless' in 1986.

His role in the movie 'Sweet Passions' (1998) is generally considered as his breakthrough and saw him nominated for

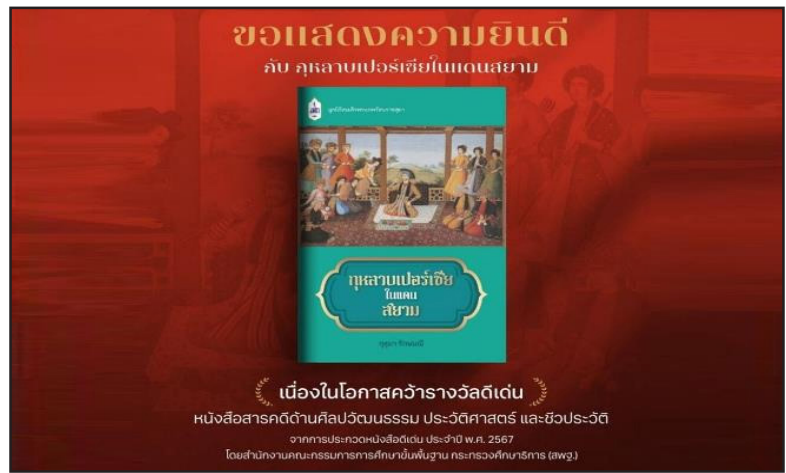
Best Actor in a Leading Role Crystal Simorgh at the International Fajr Film Festival.

Following his Fajr Festival nomination, he was invited to the Japan Fukuoka Film Festival for the same movie.

He appeared in a number of movies, including 'The Sting and the Bee', 'Women are Amazing', 'Big Trouble', 'Longest Night of the Year', 'Beyro', 'Ferrari', 'Left-Handed' and 'The Magic Lamp'.

He also starred in several series, including 'The Children Are Watching', 'Bread and Basil', 'Flat Tire', and 'Of Fate and Destiny 4'.

Thailand Names ‘Persian Rose in Land of Siam’ as Book of Year



BANGKOK (Dispatches) – The book was among the top books of 2023 in the documentary category, showcasing the meticulous research conducted by the author on historical sources to establish its credibility as a reliable source in this field.

Structured into four main sections, the book explores the influence of Iranian culture, literature, and art in the ancient Siamese society or old Thailand. It serves as a valid source addressing each topic, delving into the roots and presenting historical sources to substantiate its claims and effects.

The book covers diverse topics such as the impact of Iranian culture on clothing, food, and cuisine, as well as Iranian literature's integration into Siamese culture.

With a total of 300 pages, the book is available for purchase in Thai electronic stores and libraries, reflecting its popularity and widespread availability.

The book, compiled by Kusuma Raksamani based on historical sources, was first published in 2000 and, due to its outstanding popularity, it was reprinted for the second time this year by the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre with new graphic illustrations, IRNA reported.

The center, affiliated with Princess Mahachakri, the daughter of King Rama IX and sister of the current king, actively engages in various cultural activities, particularly supporting the publication of valuable books.

Given the significant research and valuable content of "The Persian Rose in the Land of Siam", the institute has taken a keen interest in the book and supported its reprinting.

AI's Application in Communicating Qur'anic Concepts

TEHRAN -- An official says artificial intelligence can be used to better communicate Qur'anic concepts.

"The use of artificial intelligence in illustrating the verses of the Holy Qur'an opens up new possibilities as we can present images based on the themes, sequence, and Surahs, to better communicate the concepts of the Qur'an in an appealing way," Mostafa Hussein told IQNA as he visited a booth at the 31st Tehran International Qur'an Exhibition.

The booth, affiliated with the Supreme Qur'anic Council of Tehran Municipality has offered a host of AI-generated images based on Qur'anic verses.

"For years, as we watched Qur'anic films and series by our country's renowned directors, who brought to life a selection of verses from the Holy Qur'an, we often wished that one day, all the verses could be similarly portrayed, but it seemed like an unreachable dream," he said.

What the booth has offered is the realization of this dream, he said, noting that they've begun to use artificial intelligence technology to bring the verses of the Holy Qur'an to life in a "scholarly and artistic" manner.

This initiative promises to deliver Qur'anic concepts in a multimedia format that is both engaging and enlightening, he added.

"However, this is a delicate and meticulous task. Even though we now have the technology, it requires expert handling. Not everything that artificial intelligence offers can be directly utilized and displayed," noted the cleric.

While some verses have profound meanings that can't be easily visualized like the stories of the Qur'an, the work done so far shows that we can use this tool to gain a deeper understanding of even the most complex Qur'anic concepts, he said, hoping that the technology can be used to depict as many verses of the Holy Qur'an as possible.

The 31st edition of the Tehran International Holy Qur'an Exhibition officially opened on March 20. It has been attended by representatives from 25 countries.

The Tehran International Qur'an Exhibition is annually organized by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the holy month of Ramadan. The exhibition is aimed at promoting Qur'anic concepts and developing Qur'anic activities.

It showcases the latest Qur'anic achievements in the country as well as a variety of products dedicated to the promotion of the Holy Book.

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April 2.

The exhibition is noted for its family-friendly environment, catering to visitors of all ages. In addition, Iftar tables have been arranged, offering a communal setting for attendees to break their fast.

The fair showcases a variety of Qur'anic institutions and governmental bodies, along with international participants from 26 countries. It also emphasizes the issues of Gaza and Palestine and the Qur'an's role in fostering resistance.

The fair's objective is to acquaint individuals with Qur'anic concepts via artistic, cultural, and theatrical mediums, with a particular focus on children and teenagers. It also includes sections dedicated to artificial intelligence, Nahj al-Balaghah, Qur'anic research and consultation, Qur'an translation, and easy Qur'an memorization.

3,000-Year-Old Village in England Contains Beads From Iran

LONDON (BNN) -- A half-eaten bowl of porridge complete with a wooden spoon, communal rubbish bins, and a decorative necklace made with amber and glass beads are just a few of the extraordinarily well-preserved remnants of a late Bronze Age hamlet unearthed in eastern England.

The discovery, dubbed Britain's Pompeii, offers a 'time capsule' glimpse into village life nearly 3,000 years ago. Excavated between 2015 and 2016, the findings are now detailed in two reports published by University of Cambridge archaeologists, shedding light on the cozy domesticity of ancient settlement life.

The Must Farm settlement, dating back to about 850 B.C., was remarkably preserved due to a catastrophic fire that engulfed the stilt-built wooden round-houses less than a year after their construction.

The disaster caused the buildings and much of their contents to collapse into the mud of a slow-moving river below, where charring from the fire and water-logging led to their exceptional preservation.

According to Mark Knight, the excavation director, "It's so comprehensive and so coherent," highlighting the rare preservation disaster that captured everyday life as it was nearly three millennia ago.

Among the findings were stacks of spears, a decorative necklace with beads originating as far away as Denmark and Iran, clothes made of fine flax linen, and a female adult skull, possibly kept as a memento.

The inhabitants' diet was rich and varied, including boar, pike, bream, wheat, and barley. One pottery bowl still contained its last meal - a wheat grain porridge mixed with animal fats,



with a wooden spatula resting inside.

The settlement's design, with buildings possibly housing up to 60 people along with animals, and individual homesteads for each family unit, paints a picture of a sophisticated and independent community life.

dent community life.

The Must Farm excavation has produced the largest collection of everyday Bronze Age artifacts ever discovered in the United Kingdom, including nearly 200 wooden artifacts, over 150 fiber and textile items, 128 pottery vessels, and more than 90 pieces of metalwork. Some items will soon be displayed at the nearby Peterborough Museum.

Although the exact cause of the fire remains unknown, the preservation has provided a unique window into the past, allowing future generations to 'see and smell' the lives of those who lived three thousand years ago, according to Knight.

Picture of the Day



Shushtar's historical hydraulic system is Iran's 10th cultural heritage site registered on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

Photo by IRNA