

Isfahan's Museum of Contemporary Art, a Home for Visual Arts, Reopens With New Look



TEHRAN - The Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art, considered the home for visual arts in Iran, reopened during an impressive ceremony on Saturday in the presence of top dignitaries.

The majestic museum building, managed by the Cultural and Recreational Organization of Isfahan Municipality, dates back to the Safavid era (1501-1736).

The building underwent extensive renovation during the Qajar period (1794-1925). Masoud Mirza, the then-governor of Isfahan, used it as his residence and administrative office.

Due to his profound passion for hunting, Mirza stored his hunting trophies in this building, which led to its nickname, "Hall of Antlers," according to museum officials.

To honor artists and their contributions, Isfahan Municipality started restoration work on the building a few years ago.

During the reopening ceremony on Saturday, Saeed Mohammadi-Panah, the director of the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art, announced that the museum, which serves as the city's specialized center for visual arts, had reopened after four years of restoration and necessary renovations.

The museum will be open to artists, art lovers, and local and foreign tourists during the upcoming Persian New Year holidays, starting March 21.

A city in central Iran, Isfahan is known for its stunning Persian architecture and historic buildings dating back to the Safavid era, which are thronged by millions of local and for-

eign tourists every year.

The mayor of Isfahan inaugurated two exhibitions alongside the museum's reopening ceremony, inviting visitors to explore "30 Years of Museum Posters" and "30 Years of Museum Images."

Referring to the historical background of the building, Mohammadi-Panah told visitors that it dates back to the Safavid era and is one of Isfahan's valuable historical structures.

Situated near Chehel Sotoun Palace, it saw various changes in function over the years. Ultimately, in 1994, it was officially named the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art.

According to Mohammadi-Panah, the museum has served as a dynamic hub for the arts in Isfahan for 30 years, serving as a home for national and international artists, visual arts students, and researchers.

Its proximity to Isfahan University of Art, which nurtures the next generation of artists, has further enhanced its significance.

He added that the museum features four large galleries with distinctive architecture. Over the past three decades, it has hosted works by renowned artists from Iran and abroad, including masterpieces by noted Iranian artist Master Farshchian and German artist Günther Uecker.

The director of the Specialized Office for Visual Arts emphasized that art is deeply interwoven with the city's identity and added that the museum holds a rich collection of over 700 valuable visual artworks, which will soon be displayed in Gallery No. 4 for visitors.

Thousands of Pilgrims Served Iftar in Imam Reza (AS) Shrine



TEHRAN - On the eve of Imam Hassan Mujtaba's (AS) birth anniversary, 38,000 pilgrims were hosted for Iftar at the Imam Reza (AS) Shrine and across Mashhad, according to the shrine's senior director.

According to Astan News, Reza Khorakian said the grand Iftar gathering took place at the Imam Reza Shrine, where pilgrims and residents participated in the largest Razavi hospitality event.

He highlighted the contributions of the Pilgrims' Services Department, the Sacred Places Department, and the Hazrat Reza (AS) Guesthouse in ensuring proper arrangements. "In this grand feast, 10,000 pilgrims and residents were served in the Imam Hassan Mujtaba (AS) courtyard," he said.

Khorakian added that 4,000 people were also hosted for Iftar in the Hazrat Zahra (SA) portico and the shrine's guesthouse, where they received blessed meals.

Additionally, 20,000 more individuals were served Iftar at stations around the shrine, while 4,000 meals were

distributed to households in different parts of Mashhad.

He noted that invitations for the Iftar were delivered to homes in Mashhad, targeting specific groups such as those under the support of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, the Welfare Organization, and city sanitation workers.

Furthermore, on the night of Imam Hassan's birth anniversary, 40,000 light Iftar packs containing bread, cheese, and dates were distributed at tea houses, along with another 40,000 light Iftar packs containing bread, cheese, and dates among worshippers in prayer rows across the shrine's courtyards and porticos.

As part of Ramadan observances, a daily Quran recitation session is held in the Maqsoora Porch of Goharshad Mosque before Maghrib and Isha prayers. Picture of Day:

Each year in mid-March, craftsmen clean and burnish the golden dome of Imam Reza's (AS) holy shrine in Mashhad, northeastern Iran, in preparation to receive pilgrims in Nowruz celebrations.

FM Araghchi: Diplomacy, Media Work Together to Achieve National Interests

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has highlighted the role of media in diplomacy, saying that diplomacy, the battlefield, and the media move forward together to realize national interests.

Araghchi was speaking on Monday during the last weekly press briefing of Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmacil Baghaei in the current Iranian calendar year, which will come to an end on Thursday.

"I have said many times that diplomacy and media move in step with each other. Diplomacy, the battlefield, and the media advance together, and we have always sought to achieve national interests side by side," he said.

He also expressed his appreciation to journalists and wished the people of Iran and members of the media a happy and prosperous new year.

Reflecting on the year, Araghchi described it as eventful and full of



ups and downs. "You were present in every moment, reporting and documenting events," he said.

"We experienced both sorrow

and joy, but griefs were many," he said, referring to the martyrdom of president Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Ab-

dollahian. He also prayed that the Almighty God would grant Iranians and all Muslims a better destiny.

Iran's Women Art on Display on Sidelines of UNHR Session

TEHRAN - A specialized exhibition of Iranian women's art held on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva.

The specialized exhibition of Iranian women's art held March 17 to 24, coinciding with the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

This event showcases the artistic works of active Iranian women in various fields of art.

The exhibition is organized by the Institute for Protection of Women's Rights in collabo-



ration with the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, the Iranian Mission in Geneva, and other non-governmental organizations.

The main objective of this exhibition is to introduce the capabilities of Iranian women in the field of art and to strengthen cultural diplomacy at the international level. The organizers of this event are striving to create a suitable space for presenting and highlighting the works of Iranian female artists in international forums.

Scientists Begin Human Trials for Tooth-Regrowing Drug

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese researchers have initiated human trials for an experimental drug designed to regrow teeth, marking a potential breakthrough in dental medicine.

The trial, which began in September 2024, follows years of research into an antibody that could stimulate tooth growth in humans.

The drug aims to help individuals suffering from tooth loss, a condition with no existing permanent cure. "We want to do something to help those who are suffering from tooth loss or absence," said Katsu Takahashi, head of dentistry at Kitano Hospital's medical research institute in Osaka, in an interview with The Mainichi. "While there has been no treatment to date providing a permanent cure, we feel that people's expectations for tooth growth are high."

The research focuses on the Uterine Sensitization-Associated Gene-1 (USAG-1), an antibody known to inhibit tooth development in mammals. In 2021, scientists at Kyoto University, who are also involved in the current trials, identified a monoclonal antibody capable of disrupting USAG-1's interaction with bone morphogenetic proteins (BMP), which play a key role in tooth formation.

"We knew that suppressing USAG-1 benefits tooth growth. What we did not know was

whether it would be enough," said Kyoto University's Katsu Takahashi, a co-author of the study, in a previous press statement. "Ferrets are diphyodont animals with similar dental patterns to humans."

Now, researchers are testing the drug in a study lasting 11 months,

involving 30 male participants aged 30 to 64 who are each missing at least one tooth. The drug is being administered intravenously to assess its safety and effectiveness. No adverse effects were observed in previous animal trials.

If successful, Kitano Hospital plans to expand the treatment

to children aged 2 to 7 who are missing at least four teeth, with the ultimate goal of making the medication widely available by 2030. While the current focus is on patients with congenital tooth deficiencies, Takahashi hopes the treatment could eventually benefit anyone who has lost a tooth.

Picture of the Day



As the Persian calendar year 1403 draws to a close, Tehran's Grand Bazaar is witnessing a surge in activity, with shoppers flocking to purchase goods ahead of Nowruz, the Iranian New Year.