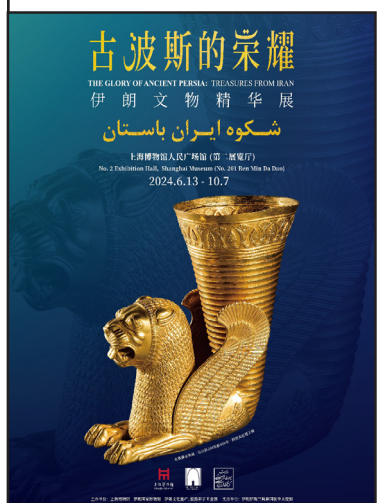


'Glory of Ancient Persia' Exhibition Opens in Shanghai



SHANGHAI (Global Times) -- In the soft glow of the lights, ancient artifacts from Iran are displayed in a deep blue exhibition hall, each piece whispering tales of the distant and illustrious Persian civilization.

The new exhibition, The Glory of Ancient Persia: Treasures from Iran, kicked off at Shanghai Museum on Thursday.

Gathering over 200 artifacts from both Iranian and Chinese institutions, the exhibition delves into the rich heritage of ancient Persia and its long-term connections with China, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the intertwined histories of these two ancient civilizations.

Historical records attest to the enduring bilateral relations between China and Iran, ancient interactions that date back over 2,000 years to the opening of the Silk Road, noted Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami in a forward he wrote for the exhibition.

"It is hoped that the exhibition will enable visitors to better understand Iranian and Chinese civilization, and contribute to the promotion of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations," Zarghami told the Global Times at a media preview for the exhibition on Wednesday.

Many exhibits showcased at the exhibition witnessed the long-standing ties between the two countries.

One is the "Brocade with the pattern of a pair of birds in a pearl-roundel" from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which was excavated from the Astana Tombs in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The design was a typical art style of ancient Iran's Sasanian Dynasty, which spanned from the 3rd to the 7th century.

Another is the "Glazed tile with a dragon" from the 13-14th centuries, the time of the Ilkhanate Dynasty in Iran. Chinese visitors can feel the beautiful time-hon-

ored connection between the two countries, the moment when they see the exquisite Chinese-style dragon design on this tile, which was found during an excavation in Iran's West Azabaijan Province.

"Through the two exhibits, we can imagine ancient Iranian artisans designing brocade patterns in Xinjiang, and ancient Chinese craftsmen participating in making tiles on the Iranian Plateau," the exhibition's curator Wang Yue told the Global Times.

Divided into three main parts, the exhibition presents a panorama of Iranian history, starting from the prehistoric period through the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian empires and on to the Islamic dynasties that followed.

Visitors are able to take a closer look at some of the most representative exhibits that reflect the highlights of ancient Iran's art, culture, aesthetics and crafts, such as its unique artistic presentations of animal and plant images.

The "Gold rhyton with a winged lion," for instance, is a must-see artifact collected by the Iran National Museum that dates from 500BC-450BC, during the Achaemenid Dynasty.

A rhyton is a vessel used for drinking or pouring during ceremonial rites. The rhyton on display combines a winged lion body with its almost conical vertical cup body. The lion has an open mouth, and its head, neck and chest are covered by its mane. The ends of its wings are elaborately decorated with three rows of feathers.

This rhyton shows the high artistic accomplishments of the ancient Iran in dynamically depicting animals, Wang commented.

Ancient Iran and China, situated at the opposite ends of the vast Eurasian continent, were both important driving forces for economic and cultural exchanges along the Silk Road, said Shanghai Museum's director Chu Xiaobo.

"Through the Silk Road network, ancient civilizations exchanged goods, shared ideas and blended cultures, which greatly promoted the development of human civilization," he noted.

The free exhibition was jointly organized by the Shanghai Museum, the Iran National Museum, and the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. It is scheduled to end on October 7.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tehran is looking for a Gardener cum Cook for the Embassy Residence. He/she will be required to perform the job of a Gardener as well as prepare dishes for various programmes. The Candidate must have proven experience in Gardening, knowledge of Bangladeshi cuisine, and should be able to cook dishes, particularly Bangladeshi dishes for programmes. The candidate should be able to communicate in Bangla, English and Farsi. Interested persons having required qualification may send an application along with C.V to the Embassy's email: bangladoot.tehran@gmail.com. Last date of submitting the application is 22 June 2024. Short-listed candidates will be contacted by the Embassy.

'Benchmark of Governance Festival' to Honor President Raisi

TEHRAN -- The "Benchmark of Governance Festival" will be held to honor President Ebrahim Raisi's relentless and selfless services to the Iranian people.

The initiative is spearheaded by the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) in collaboration with the cultural department of Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), and the International Quran News Agency (IQNA).

Students willing to contribute to the festival can share their insights by submitting text, images, videos, and infographics.

The festival will focus on two main themes: the traits of the "Martyr President" and the expectations for a future president.

The festival will particularly highlight Raisi's achievements in the following areas:

- Economic reforms: Evaluating actions taken to overhaul the financial and banking system, enhance trade and investment, bolster the private sector, and reduce oil dependency
- Industry and Technology Development: Reviewing progress in expanding downstream industries, promoting domestic production, and supporting knowledge-based enterprises
- Agriculture and Water Resources: Examining initiatives aimed at advancing agriculture, livestock, and water management
- Health Sector Expansion in Underprivileged Areas: Analyzing programs designed to improve healthcare in less developed regions
- Security and Independence: Assessing efforts to fortify defense and security infra-



- structures
- Anti-Corruption Measures: Investigating transparency in government operations and judicial system enhancements
- Clergy-People Relations: Exploring the connection between the clergy community and the public
- The upcoming president will be evaluated on several key criteria:
 - Management and Competence: Assessment of the president's managerial skills, execution of public programs, and policy implementation
 - Faith and Religious Dedication: Commitment to religious tenets and their influence on policy-making and public policy execution
 - Justice and Anti-Corruption: Enforcement

- of justice, protection of citizens' rights, and combating all forms of corruption
- Revolutionary and Jihadi Actions: Carrying out revolutionary and jihadi policies, achieving national objectives, and fostering desired societal and political transformations
- Confidence in Domestic Potential: Utilization of local resources for economic growth and sustainable development
- Youth Empowerment: Focusing on the younger generation, providing them with opportunities, and involving them in the country's political, executive, and developmental activities
- Popularity: Consideration of public opinion and needs, engaging with citizens in policy-making and policy execution

Iran to Host UNESCO Session on Intangible Heritage



TEHRAN -- Iran will host the next session of UNESCO's international centers for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2025.

The 12th annual coordination meeting of Category 2 Centers of Intangible Cultural Heritage was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on June 13. In the meeting, which was held at the same time as the meeting of the 10th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, chaired by the secretary of the convention, the presentation of the report on the successful safeguarding measures of the Tehran Intangible Heritage

Center in the face of climate change in the region and effective capacity building in this field was appreciated. Iran was selected as the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia. The decision to pick Iran to host the centers of the second category of protection of intangible heritage located in Europe, Asia Pacific, South Africa, Latin America and the Persian Gulf was approved by the secretariat of the 2003 convention.

Tunisia Cancels Visa Requirement for Iranian Tourists

TEHRAN -- The ministry of tourism of Tunisia has declared the cancellation of visa requirements for Iranian and Iraqi tourists.

According to a letter published by the ministry, the African country decided to cancel the 15-day visa requirements for Iranian tourists with ordinary passports.

The decision was made in response to measures adopted earlier by Iran and that it would be implemented from Saturday, June 15, 2024, the ministry said.

Deputy for Consular Parliamentary and Iranians Affairs of the Foreign Ministry in Tehran Alireza Bikkdeli had earlier said that citizens of 28 countries traveling to Iran for tourism did not require visas from February 4, 2024, and that they could travel to the Islamic Republic simply by purchasing a flight ticket.

Among those states, citizens of India can visit Iran without visa requirements at airports, but they must obtain visas for land travel.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Cuba, Tanzania, Mauritania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Seychelles, Japan, Indonesia,

Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, and India are the countries whose citizens do not need visas for travel to Iran.



Picture of the Day



Gavmishabad, taking its name from buffalo farming, is located on the edge of the Karun River, south of Ahvaz. Proximity to water is necessary for buffalo farming. Residents in Gavmishabad take their buffaloes to the Karun River for bathing every day. Photo by ISNA