

Iran's Cultural Legacy Belongs to Whole Humanity



SYDNEY (The Conversation) -- It's simply not possible to do justice to the value of Iran's cultural heritage -- it's a rich and noble history that has had a fundamental impact on the world through art, architecture, poetry, in science and technology, medicine, philosophy and engineering.

The Iranian people are intensely aware -- and rightly proud of -- their Persian heritage. The archaeological legacy left by the civilizations of ancient and medieval Iran extend from the Mediterranean Sea to India and ranges across four millennia from the Bronze age (3rd millennium BC) to the glorious age of classical Islam and the magnificent medieval cities of Isfahan and Shiraz that thrived in the 9th-12th centuries AD, and beyond.

The direct legacy of the ancient Iranians can be found across the Middle East, the Caucasus and Turkey, the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

In the 6th century BC, Iran was home to the first world empire. The Achaemenids ruled a multicultural superpower that stretched to Egypt and Asia Minor in the west and India and Pakistan in the east. They were the power by which all other ancient empires measured themselves. Their cultural homeland was in the Fars province of modern Iran. The word Persian is the name for the Iranian people based on the home region of the Achaemenids -- Pars.

Some of the richest and most beautiful of the archaeological and historical heritage in Iran remains there. This includes Parsargadae, the first Achaemenid dynastic capital where King Cyrus (c. 590-529BC) laid down the foundations of law and the first declaration of universal rights while ruling over a vast array of citizens and cultures.

Nearby is the magnificent site of Persepolis, the great palace of the Achaemenid kings and hub of government and administration. Architecturally stunning, it is decorated with relief sculptures that still today leave a visitor in awe.

Seleucid and Parthian Iran

When the Achaemenids fell to the armies of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC, what followed was great upheaval and also one of the most extraordinary moments in human history. The mixing of Persian and eastern Mediterranean cultures created the Hellenistic Age. The Macedonian King Seleucus (died 281BC) and his Persian wife Apamea ruled a hybrid kingdom that mixed Greek, Persian, Jewish, Bactrian, Armenian, Sogdian and Aramaean cultures and religions.

With new cities, religions and cultures, this melting pot encouraged the rise of a thriving connectivity that linked urban centers in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Syria (where many of the Hellenistic sites such as Apamea) have been devastated in recent years by war and looting. The great city of Seleucia-on-Tigris/Ctesiphon, just south of Baghdad on the Tigris river

in modern Iraq, became the western capital and centre for learning, culture and power for a thousand years.

Hellenistic rulers gave way to Parthian kings in the 2nd century BC and the region was ruled by the Arsacid dynasty whose homeland, around Nisa, was the northern region of the Iranian world. The Parthian Empire witnessed growing connectivity between east and west and increasing traffic along the silk routes. Their control of this trade led to conflict with the Romans who reached east to grasp some of the resulting spoils.

It was also a time of religious transition that not only witnessed the rise of Buddhism, but also a thriving Zoroastrian religion that intersected with Judaism and developing Christianity. In the biblical story of the birth of Christ, who were the three kings -- the Magi with their gifts for Jesus -- but Persian priests from Iran coming to the side of child messiah, astronomers following the comet.

The Sasanians

The last great ancient kingdom of the Iranians was the Sasanian empire based around a dynasty that rose out of the final years of the Arsacid rule in the 3rd century AD. The Sasanians ruled a massive geopolitical entity from 224-751AD. They were builders of cities and frontiers across the empire including the enormous Gorgan wall. This frontier wall stretched 195km from the Caspian Sea to the mountains in Turkmenistan and was built in the 5th century AD to protect the Iranian agricultural heartland from northern invaders like the Huns.

The wall is a fired-brick engineering marvel with a complex network of water canals running the whole length. It once stood across the plain with more than 30 forts manned by tens of thousands of soldiers.

The Sasanians were the final pre-Islamic dynasty of Iran. In the 7th century AD the armies of the Rashidun caliphs conquered the Sasanian empire, bringing with them Islam and absorbing much of the culture and ideas of the ancient Iranian world. This fusion led to a flowering of early medieval Islam and, of the 22 cultural heritage sites in Iran that are recognized by UNESCO, the 9th century Masjed-e Jāme in Isfahan is one of the most stunningly beautiful and stylistically influential mosques ever built.

This was a thriving period of scientific, artistic and literary output rich with poetry that told of the ancient Iranian past in medieval courts where bards sang of great deeds. These are stories that we now believe reached the far west of Europe in the early medieval period possibly through the crusades and can only emphasize the long reach of the cultures of ancient and medieval Iran.

Iranian cultural heritage has no one geographic or cultural home, its roots belong to all of us and speak of the vast influence that the Iranians have had on the creation of the world we live in today. Iran's past could never be wiped off the cultural map of the world for it is embedded in our very humanity.

Malaysia, Iran Publish Book on Zionist Collapse

TEHRAN -- Iran and Malaysia have jointly published a new book delving into the internal collapse of the Zionist regime.

"The End of Zionism and the Fall of Israel" was published with the collaboration of the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Malaysia.

The book is a collection of articles by global thinkers, compiled by Malaysian Islamic scholar Azmi Abdulhamid.

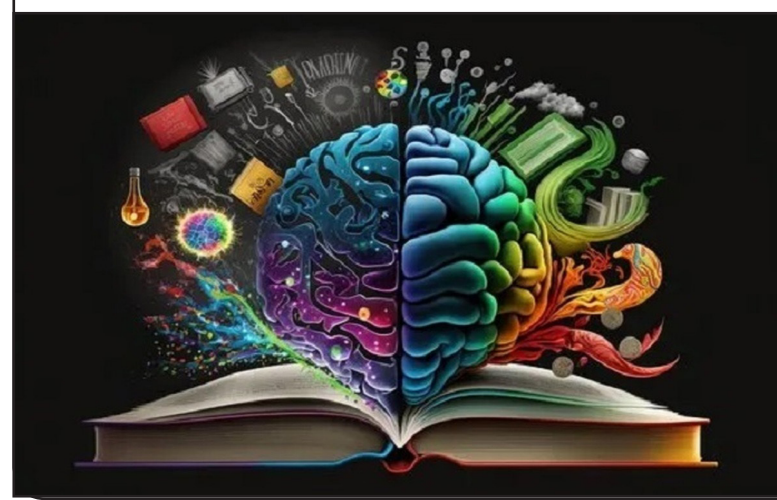
The publication was jointly done by the cultural attaché



and the Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM).

Earlier this month, Azmi Abdulhamid attended a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Tehran, where he presented two copies of the book to Abbas Salehi, minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Dr. Muhammad Mehdi Imanipour, head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

Students to Compete in Iranian Version of Brain Bee



TEHRAN -- The 11th national student competition titled "Brain Science" is due to be held in Iran with the support of the Cognitive Science and Technology Development Headquarters.

The competition is aimed at encouraging students to work in the field of brain science, finding young talents, and persuading the emerging generation to study in the field of neuroscience.

The Brain Science is a version of Brain Bee competition which is a globally held in the field of neuroscience and encourages students to explore the world of brain research

and investigation and takes steps towards improving brain health and cognition.

The competition provides a platform for the development of future elites in the field of neuroscience and is a safe and secure experience for students interested in this field.

The first phase of the competition will be held on February 28, 2025, and the second phase will be held in August 2025 among the winners of the first phase.

The competition is organized by the Iranian Neuroscience Association in cooperation with the Synapse Scientific Group.

Iranian Publishers Participate at Kuwait Book Fair

TEHRAN -- Iran is participating in the 47th Kuwait International Book Fair, which kicked off on November 20 in Kuwait's Hawalli Governorate under the theme "The World in a Book".

A number of publishers from Iran are presenting the latest works of prominent Iranian authors in Arabic and Persian at their pavilions.

On the first day of the fair, Muhammad Totonchi, Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, met with the participating Iranian publishers, who explained their problems and needs.

The fair offers people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving world of books—a world that continues to captivate and inspire year after year.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman al-Mutairi emphasized that the book fair is considered one of the most significant cultural events in Kuwait and stressed its significance in promoting Kuwait's vibrant cultural heritage, which he described as a "way of life and a framework for enlightened thinking".

Al-Mutairi highlighted the fair as a testament to Kuwait's commitment to fostering intellectual growth and cultural exchange.

"While the works of creators showcase their talents, today we fulfill our duty by recognizing their achievements, ensuring that these contributions continue to resonate in the hearts of future generations," al-Mutairi said.

He underlined that the event draws broader participation from foremost Arab and foreign publishing houses to surge knowledge and cultural richness, stressing

the importance of encouraging younger generations to read and expand their literal and intellectual horizons and internalize skills and tools based on logic and enlightened thinking.

"At this international fair, numerous publishing houses participate, and we have an ambitious strategy to support, sponsor, and develop cultural activities, as they represent a bright window for Kuwait's cultural and human interaction," he said.

The event, organized by Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, features 544 publishing houses from 31 countries and regions. Jordan is the fair's guest of honor.

Running until November 30, this year's book fair features approximately 90



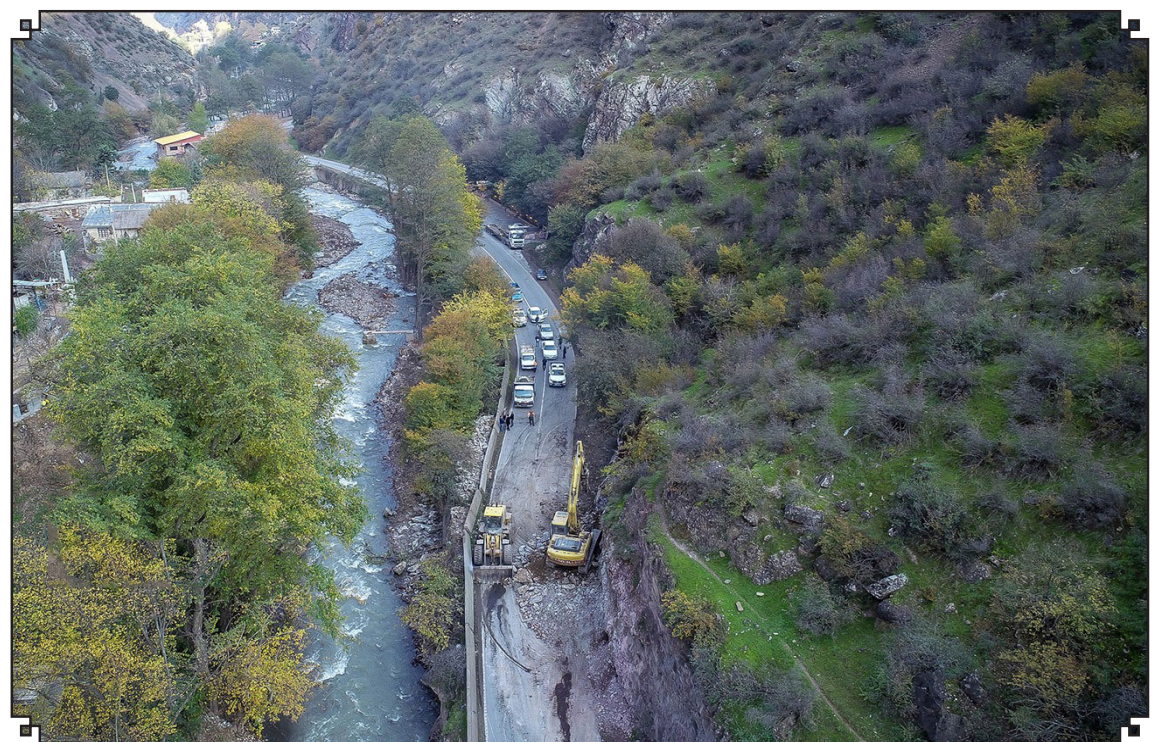
cultural activities, including seminars, panel discussions, and training workshops, Tehran Times reported.

The first edition of the Kuwait International Book Fair was launched in 1975. The exhibition is the largest cultural event organized by the National Council for Culture,

Arts, and Literature annually in terms of the number of participants.

The exhibition also includes a special hall for children, which includes the publishers specialized in children's books, practical workshops, and clubs to read and write stories.

Picture of the Day



The Kandovan Road connecting Tehran to Mazandaran province is one of the busiest in Iran.

Photo by Mizan Online