



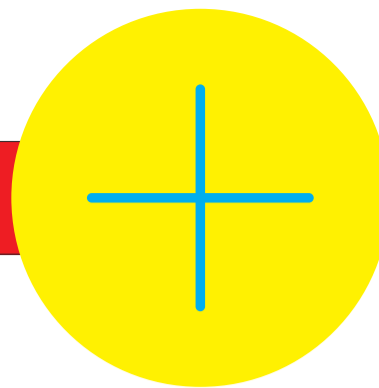
Pelé
1940-2022

Football legend Pelé, the man who defined the beautiful game, passed away on Thursday at the age of 82.

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Aqiq Qahveh Khaneh: A gathering place for benevolent people



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Abolfazl Jabbari (R), Mohammad Reza Sadeqi (C) and a customer of Aqiq Qahveh Khaneh

khaneh is decorated with photos of several Iranian national and religious heroes along with Persian mythological characters. A number of large samovars were lined up in the kitchen and some typical Iranian tea glasses were waiting to be filled. A few men were sitting around rectangular tables arranged side by side. Some were eating breakfast and the others were smoking hookah. A curtain decorated with a scene from the Shahnameh, a long epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi, was hanging on the wall. An old man, known in Persian as naqqal, wearing a traditional dress, was narrating a story to the audience. The culture of socializing in qahveh khaneh (coffee house) in Iran has been around since the 16th century. The notion of getting

together in public and conversing over coffee or tea can be traced back to a few centuries. A qahveh khaneh was home to naqqali, meaning storytelling, and paintings that complemented one another. The seeds of tea leaves were brought to Iran from India by an Iranian merchant called Kashef al-Saltaneh. Iranians changed their drinking habits from coffee to tea. However, the name qahveh khaneh remained unchanged even though coffee was no longer served there. Aqiq Qahveh Khaneh is known as a gathering place for truly charitable and benevolent people. For Abolfazl Jabbari, the owner of the qahveh khaneh and the founder of the Omm-ol-Banin Charity Group, it all started with the purchase of a wheel-

chair. One day he saw an old disabled peddler with a broken wheelchair, sitting on the sidewalk near the Fourth Square of Tehran-pars. Jabbari decided to buy a new wheelchair for him with the cash saved in the charity box of qahveh khaneh, but the amount in the box was not enough. Consequently, he decided to collect money from his generous customers for the purpose. Very soon, the required money was collected and a wheelchair was purchased for the old man. Mohammad Reza Sadeqi, a member of Tehranpars District Council, who is a customer of the qahveh khaneh said: "When we went to the peddler's house to give him the wheelchair, we were very saddened to see his miserable life. Two other poor families, having disabled children, were liv-

ing in the three-story building as well. We decided to do something for them and improve their living conditions." Sadeqi added that from the next day, "We started collecting donations from our kind-hearted customers, friends and relatives and some generous shopkeepers." He said, little by little, the money required for the reconstruction of the dilapidated house was collected and we managed to implement the project successfully. "Then I talked to some of my friends who were involved in the sale of home appliances. Soon, gas stoves, washing machines, refrigerators, TVs, carpets, blankets and even chandeliers were provided for the three families living in the building," he said. Helping the disabled old man started a path that

made many poor households of the neighborhood happy. It has led to the establishment of a charity group named Omm-ol-Banin. About 150 customers of Aqiq Qahveh Khaneh are involved in the activities undertaken by the charity group. Sadeqi said: "We have managed to rebuild the houses of some underprivileged households and provide them with foodstuffs and clothing during the past 12 months." Moreover, the members of the charity group collected a sum of money and released seven prisoners sentenced for non-intentional crimes to make their families happy. Contrary to popular belief, many of the young people who come to the qahveh khaneh are good-hearted and don't give up when it comes to doing good.

Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

It was around 10 a.m. when I arrived at Aqiq Qahveh Khaneh in the Tehranpars neighborhood in northeastern Tehran. The name 'Aqiq' is written on the façade of the building decorated with Iranian tile work. The interior of the qahveh

Iran to host int'l conference Public Libraries and Small Businesses



Iran Public Libraries Foundation will hold an international conference titled "Public Libraries and Small Businesses" in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad on October 17 and 18. Among the principles of the conference are: Strategies, goals and what is the role of public libraries in interacting with small businesses; public library "resources", "services" and "programs" for small businesses; public libraries, small business facilitators: criteria and criteria; designing public library services for small businesses; The purpose of the conference is to provide a platform for paying

attention to the role and place of public libraries in the prosperity of the economic sector by supporting entrepreneurial actions and small businesses. In this regard, the solutions, ideas, experiences, weaknesses, challenges and prospects are identified for using the potential of public libraries in order to actively participate in the business environment of the country. Small businesses, arising from the creative ideas of entrepreneurs, is an interdisciplinary topic that success in its development and sustainability requires the use of the knowledge and experiences of small business owners in areas such

as business management, economics, industrial engineering, entrepreneurship, science policy, technology and innovation, marketing and science. It is information and science. The interdisciplinary approach of the current conference is a turning point in holding conferences in the field of public libraries to link related fields in the maximum benefit of scientific policy, or in other words, targeting the outputs of scientific research to solve social issues and needs. The deadline for receiving the full articles is July 1. On September 31, the arbitration results will be announced.



Passengers arriving from the war-torn region of Tigray are greeted by relatives at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa on December 28, 2022.

AFP