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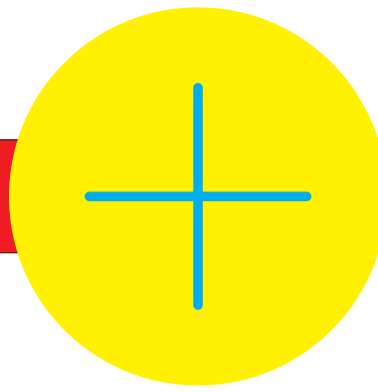
## IRCS delivers food packages to Afghan refugees



IMNA – The CEO of Sistan and Baluchestan Red Crescent Society announced the distribution of 4,800 food packages to Afghan refugees in the cities of Zahedan and Saravan.

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# Qasr Garden Museum: Living history of Tehran



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Qasr Garden Museum occupies two former prisons, one of which was for criminals and the other for political prisoners.

The architects have done a great job on the historic site, placing quirky and contemporary artworks in its cells and around the landscaped garden, lonelyplanet.com reported.

Qasr means 'castle'. During all of the 19th century there was a royal palace there, but it eventually ran to ruin.

In the early 20th century, a prison, designed by the Russian architect Nikolai Markov to meet international standards, was constructed and it is this building that forms the first part of the museum. Lawrence of Arabia was held in Qasr

Prison for a short time, which accounts for the cut-outs of his image in one cell. A second complex was where political prisoners were housed during the time of the last Pahlavi king. This was the first prison liberated during the Islamic Revolution.

The museum garden is a part of the over 200-year history of Tehran; it was located outside the city limits when it was built. With regard to the political changes that have taken place during this period, and the new requirements of the city, the monument was turned into a prison. Years of serving as a prison had left a sad and dreary image of the garden in the collective mind. The existing buildings, which used to

be frightening prisons, are now calming, relaxing and beautiful galleries, libraries, amphitheatre, cafés and restaurants, which not only attract local citizens but people from every part of the world.

Besides its historic value, the site is a wonderful sample of a Persian garden. Converting the dark prison into a green and bright garden museum was an attempt to revive this heritage.

After the public opening of the collection, it encountered a stunning reception by the people.

Audio features have been provided in Qasr Garden Museum, where visitors can hear the recorded voices of former prisoners.

## Iran's 'Loupetou' awarded at Indian festival



MEHR

MEHR – Iranian animation 'Loupetou' by Abbas Askari won the Best Animation Award at the Ahmedabad International Children's Film Festival in India.

The festival was held from December 24 to 29.

It participated in various domestic and international festivals including the Universal Kids Film Festival (UKFF) in Istanbul, Turkey, and KidzCINEMA festival in India.

The name of the animation is inspired by the word the Kermani people of Iran use to refer to handmade toys that mothers used to make for their children in the past.

"Ali's father treats his patients by teaching them how to make toys in the Loupetou workshop. An unknown culprit vandalized the creative toy workshop, which is particularly popular among Iranian children.

Ali tries to help his father, who is now in a pickle," a synopsis for the animation reads.

Askari has already directed award-winning animated movies, 'The Elephant King' and 'Princess of Rome'. The festival hosted a competition among the children's filmmakers, which can inspire them and give them a platform to showcase their work and skills as filmmakers.

## Minister: Malayer Mini World, good example for other countries

IRNA – The Mini World tourism complex, which is located in Iran's western city of Malayer in Hamedan Province, can undoubtedly be an exemplary model for other countries to attract tourists, said Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami.

He made the statement during his visit to the city on Thursday, adding that the idea of the mini world is not only attractive for tourists, but also could be a recreational, educational, and happy environment, the minister added.

The Mini World helps visitors get to know the inter-

national tourist spots, he said, proposing that such complexes will be launched in various Iranian cities.

In addition, during his visit to Malayer Furniture Market, Zarghami said that handicrafts entrepreneurs will be supported to participate in international events in order to introduce Iran's cultural potentials to the world.

Malayer was named as a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture by the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in 2019.

The city enjoys 340 historical works of which over 200 have been nationally registered.



The photo shows parts of a Khomarabad castle, an adobe construction in a southern district of Tehran Province, which has been inhabited until 1979.

POORROGH TAHERKHANI/MIZAN

