



Iranian artists attending Türkiye expo

An international art exhibition called 'Art Day' opened in Türkiye on April 15. The exhibition's opening ceremony coincided with the World Art Day, in Istanbul. Among the works on display are Iranian artist Behnaz Pourang's 'Iranian Lady' and Amir Ahadi's 'Polo Game'.

Shahr-e Rey, a great ancient land in southern Tehran

Gabri Hill, home to strange ancient ossuaries



Cheshmeh Ali
aradmobile.com



Tomb of Bibi Shahrbanu
tasnimnews.com



Gabri Hill
shadmag.com

Iranica Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Shahr-e Rey, also known as Rhages and Rhagae, was formerly one of the great cities of Iran. The remains of the ancient city lie on the eastern outskirts of the modern city of Shahr-e Rey, which is located just a few miles southeast of the capital city of Tehran. Shahr-e Rey was among the main centers of Zoroastrians in ancient times. Dating back to the Medes period, the city, known as a sacred land, lies on the route of the Silk Road. That is why it was one of the most prosperous cities of the world in various historical periods. The 7,000-year-old Cheshmeh-Ali (Spring of Ali), also known as Cheshmeh Surin, is an ancient site, which is one of the oldest in the country. Cheshmeh-Ali is now

a recreational center located near Toghrol Tower. The tomb of Bibi Shahrbanu, the wife of Imam Hussein (PBUH), is situated on a mountain with the same name, which lies in the northeastern part of the Shahr-e Rey. A big hill is in the southern part of this mountain, which used to be called Tabarak Mountain, or Gabri Hill. An octagonal tower, known as Gabri Castle, is seen on the southern slope of the ancient hill, which catches the eye of every passerby. A large ossuary resembling a huge temple is located a little further from the tower. Several other ossuaries, which are very old and unique, are on the hill as well. On the southern slope of Gabri Hill there is a village called "Nasooz and Haft Dastgah," that is as strange and unknown as its name. The residents of the village

have lived near several huge ancient structures for many years. If this village had a better destiny, perhaps today it would be a major tourist center and a dream destination for archaeologists, but, alas, a different fate had been awaiting it. The village has several historical sites dating back to various eras including Naqareh Khaneh Tower, which is the octagonal structure with a diameter of 11 meters. Two different layers are seen in the structure, showing that the tower has been restored at least once. Its location shows that the structure, originally a small fire temple, was turned into Naqareh Khaneh Tower (Bell Tower) during the rule of Buyid Dynasty (934 to 1062 CE). According to some sources, the tower was built by a person named Bozorg Omid for personal use.

Ali Ahmadi, the village manager, said the outer layer of Naqareh Khaneh Tower is made of bricks. He added that an ancient ossuary, dating back to the Sassanid era (224-651 CE), is located a little further away from the tower, which is different from those that were common in Iran in ancient times. In fact, it is a royal tomb, the extent of which reaches the Taqia-bad crossroad of Shahr-e Rey. He said an ossuary was a place in which dead bodies were placed so that birds could feed on their flesh, and then the bones were poured into a well in the middle of the ossuary. It seems that this ossuary belonged to a great person with a high position, for whom they also built a tomb. Ahmadi, who has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, said, "I think this structure is something like a ziggurat, only the top of which is visible. Unfortunately, in

recent decades, the foundations of some rural houses have been built on the walls of the tomb. Ahmadi said there is an ancient mine behind Gabri Hill, whose entrance looks like a cave. It is not yet clear what was extracted from the mine; however, some believe that it was a lime mine or a precious stone mine. The mine, with a brick arch, has a three-story corridor, and when you get out of it, you find yourself on the hilltop. He noted that a fireproof brick factory and a tea warehouse, both dating back to the Pahlavi era (1925-1979 CE), are among the other historical monuments of the Nasooz and Haft Dastgah Village. According to historical documents, Iran's first tea factory was built in the village. The statue of Kashif al-Dawlah, the first person who brought tea to Iran, is now in the warehouse.

The fireproof brick factory, from which the name of the village is derived, is famous among the people who live in the area. It was operating until some months ago. 'Nasooz' means fireproof in Persian. Moreover, seven houses were built in the area for workers who were active in the factory; that is why the name of the village is Nasooz and Haft Dastgah (Fireproof and Seven Structures). "The old kiln of the factory was registered on Iran's National Heritage List as the first brick kiln of the country," said Ahmadi. He referred to Inanj as the name of the village in ancient times, adding that it was the name of a famous commander of the Buyid Dynasty. "Archaeologists are permanently active in the village," he said, pointing out that all of its residents are native and no migrant lives in the village.

16 Iranian children awarded in Japan's painting contest



IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Paintings by 16 Iranian children were awarded at the 30th Annual World Children's Picture Contest in Japan. Organized by Ie-no-Hikari Association, a total of 9,313 paintings from 56 countries took part in the

contest and were evaluated, IRNA reported. Iran submitted 338 paintings to compete at the Japanese festival. Baran Ehterami (nine-year-old) received the Gold Prize of the Japanese event, while Maysa Vafa (seven-year-old) won the Silver Prize.

Yasna Zarei, Mersana Dashtizadeh, Delsa Heydari, Elena Omid, and Hasti Najafi were the Bronze Prize winners of the event. Kamran Khalkhali, Avina Aliasghari, Artina Zaer, Atrin Fardaei, Ava Moqaddasian, and Melissa Tahmasbi received an

honorable mention. The 30th anniversary prizes were given to Bari-ra Tasnim Laya from Bangladesh, Divna Jelyazkova Jelezcheva from Bulgaria, Hyun Ji Kim from South Korea, Zi Feng Chong from Malaysia, Valentin Serghei Turcanenco from Moldova, Matej Sajko from Slovakia, Thivein Nethdinu Mawalla Vithanage from Sri Lanka, Ninlada Anowannaphan from Thailand, Daria Guranko from Ukraine and Maho Yaguchi from Japan. The Ie-no-Hikari Association works hard to foster the cultures of rural villages by publishing books and a magazine, and implementing various cultural activities. As part of its diversified activities, the association has held the World Children's Picture Contest since 1993 to create friendships and mutual understanding between children worldwide.

Six Iranian films to be screened at Moscow festival



ISNA

Six Iranian films will be screened at the 45th edition of Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF), slated to be held April 20-27. Animation movies, 'Loo-petou,' directed by Abbas Askari; 'Bisotun,' by Ali Masoumi; and 'Broken,' by Farzaneh Omidvarnia, as well as a documentary film, 'Ali against Ali,' by Alireza Rafagaran, will attend the event, reported Mehr news agency.

Previously, it was announced that an Iranian documentary film, 'Mama Shokooh's House,' directed by Mehdi Bakhshi-Moqaddam, will participate in the Competition Section, and a short film, 'Where It Begins,' directed by Amirhossein Talebi and Mohsen Asdaghpour, will be screened at the Short Film Competition Section of the event. The Russian festival is one of

the oldest world film forums (second after the Venice Film Festival). The festival began in 1935; however, in subsequent years, the festival was not held regularly. Therefore, the festival has officially been counted down since 1959, when it was renewed and turned into a regular event. MIFF is accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF).