



## Iran, China cinematic ties

The third China Film Week opened at the Abbas Kiarostami Hall of the Farabi Cinema Foundation on May 6. The film event will run through May 10. It will showcase the works of new-generation Chinese directors, with a total of five films scheduled for screening. The opening ceremony took place on Saturday evening, featuring the screening of 'The Captain,' a disaster-adventure film directed by Andrew Lau.



EXCLUSIVE

The epic poet played a significant role in protecting the Persian language and Iranian identity.

Arts & Culture Desk

As Iran prepares to commemorate the epic poet Ferdowsi on May 15, an official in Khorasan Razavi Province announced that the Ferdowsi Award will expand research activities on the Persian poet and his magnum opus 'Shahnameh' (Book of the Kings). According to Mohammad Hosseinzadeh, who spoke with an Iran Daily reporter, the award ceremony, which is currently held at a national level, will be held internationally as of next year. At present, the Ferdowsi Award is annually given to three types of people: (1) those conducting research

# Iran to expand research on Ferdowsi



on Ferdowsi; (2) those who, like Ferdowsi, made a long period of contribution to the country; and (3) those who have created an epic poem praising Iran. The epic poet played a significant role in protecting the Persian language and Iranian identity, Hosseinzadeh said, adding that his collection of epics, created

during 30 years, provided a great service to Iran and the Persian-speaking community. The programs are aimed at introducing the poet to the young generation and increasing their knowledge, he highlighted. A theatrical performance entitled, 'Ancient Playbook,' directed by Reza Sabeti, will be staged for 10 days, and a

group of people will move from Ferdowsi's tomb to Neyshabur to hold a poetry night there. The commemoration ceremony, which will run from May 14 for over a week, will include theatrical programs, sessions for reading the 'Shahnameh,' poetry readings, and zoorkhaneh (pow-erhouse) rituals.

The theme of this year's commemoration ceremony is: "Ferdowsi, the Guardian of the National Identity of Iranians". The programs this year are based on scientific research, with over 110 scientific articles submitted from Iran and abroad, which will be published in two volumes after the ceremony, Hosseinzadeh concluded.

## Fariman, a popular tourist destination in Khorasan Razavi Province

Iranica Desk

Fariman, a city in Khorasan Razavi Province, is located two hours from the provincial capital city of Mashhad, which is home to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims. This city is neighbor to Mashhad from the north and west, Torbat Heydarieh and Zaveh from the south and Torbat-e Jam from the east, ISNA wrote. Thanks to its appropriate climate and strategic geographical location, Fariman is regarded as one of the main tourist destinations of the province. The city, which is located on the main road linking Mashhad to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, produce various agricultural and horticultural crops including wheat, barely, sugar beets, tomatoes, potatoes and apples.

Moreover, Fariman's Shah-an Garmab Thermal Spring is among the unique potable springs of the country, having therapeutic properties. A huge number of Iranian and foreign tourists travel to the area to benefit from its therapeutic effects. The thermal spring is in a village with the same name, 63km from Fariman.

Historical attractions

A public bathhouse was built there in 1087 CE, upon the order of Soleiman, a Safavid king; fortunately, a large part of its building remains intact. Fariman Dam is an ancient historical structure, but the exact date of its construction is not known. However, some historical documents show that the dam dates back to the Ilkhanid era (1256-1353 CE). The dam, which is 27 meters high, has a 100-meter long crown. With its surround-



With an industrial township and several small and large factories and mines, Fariman is known as a city with significant economic potentials.

Natural attractions

Maragheh village, located 45 kilometers from Fariman, has a beautiful valley with a permanent river running through it. The surrounding areas, which are green and full of trees, can be a desirable destination for those interested in hiking and ecotourism. Bagh Abbas is another village which lies 17 kilometers from southern Fariman. The village has numerous natural attractions including mountains, springs, rivers and various types of fruit trees. An asphalt road has been built from Fariman to Bagh Abbas. Zarkak Resort is an amazing natural site, which is situated 17km from Fariman. The resort, which lies between two mountains, has a green nature and numerous springs, drawing a large number of tourists and nature lovers every year.

ing green areas, it is one of the most well-known natural sites of Fariman.

An ancient site, called Sangbast, is located in the region. It is home to the remains of several structures built by Arsalan Jazeb, the governor of Tus during the reign of Mahmoud Ghaznavi (998-1041 CE). One of the oldest brick minarets of the country and a number of monuments dating back to the early Islamic era were discovered on the site. In ancient times it was known as a place linking important historical cities including Merv, Neyshabur, Herat and Tus to each other.

Souvenirs

The most important souvenir of Fariman, sugar cubes, are produced in an old factory, to be distributed in various cities of the country. Thanks to its high quality, the sugar cubes are exported to numerous countries. Fert-bafi (a type of traditional cloth weaving), moaraq-kari (wood carving), carpet weaving and kilim weaving are among the main handicrafts of Fariman.

# Iran MP calls for preserving Shiraz's historical fabric



Shrine of Shah Cheragh  
sajafarzon.com



House of Sa'adi  
bultannews.com



historical textures of Shiraz which endanger people's lives. He said the municipality has to take measures to prevent potential damage. Pakfetrat said the House of Sa'adi has been registered on the country's National Heritage List; no permission will be issued for its demolition. He said the House of Sa'adi is a building of great antiquity, which is about 700 to 800 years old. He said historical evidence and documents have proved the attribution of the building to the famous poet. The MP touched upon the architectural features of the building. "The House of Sa'adi was built based on the model of Iranian-Islamic archi-

ture, in the form of a rectangular house with a pond, a courtyard in the center of the house and rooms in the quadrangle of the courtyard." Pakfetrat said this house has suffered wear and tear and needs to be renovated. He said the renovation operations are currently underway. The lawmaker said the house is open to the public. He added that it can turn into one of the most visited tourist centers after it is completely renovated. Pakfetrat said the Tomb of Sa'adi is one of the most visited sites in Shiraz, adding that his house could also become an attractive destination for tourists and those who love his poems.

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

A member of the Iranian Parliament has dismissed concerns about likely damage to historical sectors of Shiraz in the wake of a project to develop a shrine in the city. "The implementation of a project to expand the Shah Cheragh Shrine will not inflict any harm to precious historical monuments, including a house attributed to Sa'adi," Alireza Pakfetrat told Iran Daily in an

exclusive interview. Abu-Muhammad Muslih al-Din bin Abdallah Shirazi, known by his penname Sa'adi, is a renowned Persian poet who lived in the 13th century. Sa'adi's tomb is also located in his hometown Shiraz, in Fars Province. The Shah Cheragh shrine is among major religious attractions in Iran and the largest pilgrimage site in Shiraz. It is the burial ground of two brothers of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam. The holy shrine, with its beautiful architecture, tile work, and artistic mirror design, attracts domestic and

foreign tourists. Recently, the development project of the Shah Cheragh Shrine has brought to light speculations about potential damage to historical monuments in Shiraz. Pakfetrat said there are many monuments in the historical sectors of Shiraz, which are precious in terms of their architectural features. The lawmaker called for preserving these historical monuments. He noted that the House of Sa'adi has great potential for drawing in tourists. The MP, however, said there are some ramshackle and thatched buildings in the