

Iranian composer awarded

Renowned Iranian composer Pejman Bolourchi was honored with an esteemed accolade at the prestigious Akademia Music Awards in the United States for his exceptional composition, 'Nature Dance.' This remarkable achievement adds to the accolades received earlier this year when 'Nature Dance' was also bestowed with an esteemed recognition at the Global Music Awards in January 2022.

Lut Desert is full of natural and historical wonders



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Iranica Desk

Lut Desert, located in south-eastern Iran, is surrounded by a variety of wonders. This vast and dry land has a Balochi name meaning barren or arid. It lies between the three Iranian provinces of Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan and South Khorasan. A large number of people who have visited Lut Desert are fascinated by its magnificence, and many of them have written a lot about it. The vast land is known as

one of the hottest places on the planet; however, this could not prevent desert lovers from going there. Some of the phenomena which have been formed in the Lut Desert, located in the eastern part of the Zagros Mountains, are unique, both in terms of aesthetics and natural features. Yardang, known in Persian as kalut, is among the most important phenomena. They are high sand dunes created by wind erosion, the height of some of which is more than 155 meters.

Besides, the longest yardang in the world, with a length of more than 40km, is also in the Lut Desert. According to the head of the Lut Desert World Heritage Site, Mehran Maqsoudi, about millions of years ago this desert was a lake. If you look at the structure of yardangs, you would see the lake sediments; however, it is not known how long they have been there. Experts believe the lake was sometimes full of water and sometimes dry. It seems that the tamarisk

trees growing in the desert are placed inside a sand-made pot. Some of these trees are 12m high. In addition, the tallest sand dunes in the world, with a height of 475m, are located in the desert. Rig-e Yalan, one of the vastest sand seas of the world, with a collection of various vertical, horizontal and star-shaped sand dunes, is situated in the eastern part of the Lut Desert. Gandom Beryan (meaning roasted wheat) is the name of another part of Lut Desert,

extending in an area of 300 sq.km, which is covered with volcanic lava. The deeper you go into this area, the more you will be surprised. There are two or three beautiful volcanic peaks in the desert, one of which is named after Dr. Parviz Kardavani (Father of Desertology in Iran). Moreover, a number of historic and prehistoric sites, cemeteries dating back to the Copper Age, ancient castles and old qanats are in the area, showing that the desert is thousands of years old.

Shahdad, the most popular part of Lut Desert, was excavated for the first time by the Faculty of Geography of Tehran University, from 1968-1976. A number of valuable artifacts including pottery items, bronze objects and precious and semi-precious lapis lazuli stones were discovered in the area. Kardavani described the Shahdad Desert as one of the most beautiful and magnificent deserts in the world and considered the kalut region as the hottest spot on the globe. He also acknowl-

edges that nowhere else in the world can any kaluts be found as beautiful as those which are in Shahdad. Despite expectations, Shahdad is full of palm groves with tall walls surrounded by flowing rivers which create an amazing landscape. Lut Desert has numerous entrances, thus one can enter this magnificent area from all three neighboring provinces. However, most of the unique natural phenomena of the desert are within the geographical boundaries of Kerman Province.

Tehran International Book Fair fetches nearly \$9.5m



Arts & Culture Desk

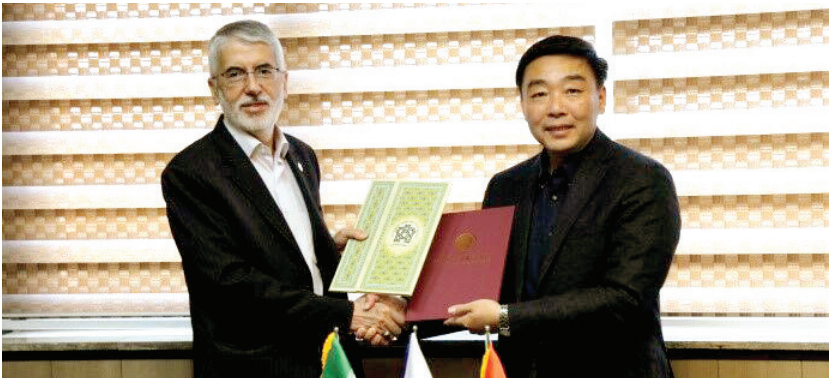
Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), in its 34th edition, achieved remarkable sales of \$9,468,713 throughout its ten-day duration, as stated by the book fair's vice president, Ali Ramezani. Ramezani, also the director of Iran's Books and Literature House, emphasized that this amount encompasses both online and in-person transactions, IRNA wrote.

Notably, book enthusiasts purchased books worth \$5.9 million in the physical sections, while the online sections accounted for \$3.5 million in book sales. The event witnessed the sale of 1,369,606 books in the online realm and 2,297,529 books in the in-person domain. Reflecting on the success of the fair, Ramezani suggested that conducting anthropological and sociological research would shed light

on the event's reception and sales figures. Furthermore, Ramezani highlighted the potential to leverage the findings from each edition of the book fair to benefit policymakers, planners, university professors, and individuals seeking valuable insights. Alongside the significant book sales and related news, disseminating the research outcomes could enhance the visibility and

appreciation of the fair's activities and services. While the virtual sale of books emerged as one of the advantageous features of this year's book fair, it is evident that the majority of individuals, particularly in the Children and Adults sections, still prefer the tactile experience of purchasing physical books. The 34th edition of the event was held from May 10 to 20 with Tajikistan as its guest of honor.

Iranian, Chinese universities ink MoU for cooperation



In a significant move towards fostering collaboration in education and research, Allameh Tabataba'i University of Iran and Beijing International Studies University (BISU) of China have formally entered into a memorandum of understanding. The signing ceremony took place on Sunday, marking the beginning of a promising partnership between the two esteemed institutions. The meeting between the two university representatives, Abdullah Mo'tamedi, the president of Allameh Tabataba'i University, and Chang Yu, accompanied by a delegation as the secretary of the CPC BISU Committee, aimed to solidify the foundation for joint educational and research

endeavors. Their discussions revolved around enhancing cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. During the productive meeting, Mo'tamedi highlighted the existing collaboration between Allameh Tabataba'i University and the Chinese Embassy. He revealed that a dedicated section of the university's central library and document center has been allocated for Chinese literature, providing professors and students with access to a wide range of resources. In response, Chang introduced the distinguished Beijing International Studies University and shed light on its extensive capabilities. He emphasized the university's

prominence in foreign languages, tourism, economy, trade, communication, and commerce, making it one of the premier institutions in China in these fields. Notably, BISU offers courses in an impressive array of 29 languages. Recognizing the importance of Farsi, Chang stressed the need for reciprocal faculty and student exchanges between the two nations. This memorandum of understanding between Allameh Tabataba'i University and Beijing International Studies University signifies a pivotal step in strengthening educational and research ties, fostering cultural exchange, and facilitating academic growth between Iran and China.