

'Tamay' painting expo underway in Tehran

A group exhibition titled 'Tamay' (Full Moon), featuring a collection of paintings by children aged seven to fifteen from Golakhvor village in East Azarbaijan, is underway at Sharif Gallery in Tehran, until June 2. The exhibition is the result of a two-day workshop held in response to the earthquake in the villages of East Azarbaijan and West Azarbaijan provinces. The profits from this exhibition will go directly to the children who participated in the workshop.

Tehran, Beijing ink agreement to establish China Library at Allameh Tabataba'i University

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and China signed an agreement to establish the China Library at Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran.

The memorandum of cooperation was jointly signed by Allameh Tabataba'i University, the Chinese Embassy in Iran, and the State Council Information Office of China, IRNA reported.

During the signing ceremony, Abdollah Mo'tamedi, the president of Allameh Tabataba'i University, emphasized the Islamic Republic's commitment to strengthening relations with Eastern countries, particularly China.

He regarded the establishment of the China Library as an invaluable opportunity to enhance scientific collaboration between the two nations.

Mo'tamedi expressed a keen interest in forging closer academic connections with Chinese universities, highlighting the



significance of sharing knowledge between Allameh Tabataba'i University and its Chinese counterparts. This would be achieved through faculty exchanges, joint research endeavors, and educational activities.

Notably, Allameh Tabataba'i University already

boasts a Chinese Language Department, and its undergraduate students demonstrate a strong enthusiasm, aptitude, and motivation to learn the Chinese language. Mo'tamedi further revealed his aspiration to launch

master's and doctoral programs in Chinese language studies within Iran, with the assistance of Chinese language professors. Furthermore, he expressed a willingness to contribute to the promotion and establishment of Persian language libraries in Chi-

na, fostering reciprocal interactions with Chinese universities.

The Chinese Ambassador to Iran Chang Hua emphasized the profound bonds between nations, asserting that the true proximity of countries lies in the closeness of their people's hearts.

Acknowledging the enduring China-Iran relations spanning over five decades, the ambassador underscored their unwavering support and cooperation in the face of international changes.

Highlighting the recent advancements in China-Iran relations, especially in cultural and social spheres, the envoy emphasized the substantial progress made and the noticeable interactions between the two nations. This initiative to establish the China Library serves as another milestone in strengthening bilateral ties and deepening cultural exchange between Iran and China.



• IRNA

Iran gov't backs firms, elites engaged in population growth

Social Desk

An Iranian presidential deputy expressed support on Sunday for companies and intellectuals actively engaged in the country's population growth.

Ruohollah Dehqani, who serves as the vice president for science, technology and knowledge-based economy, made the remarks after opening "Plus Five," a center focused on population growth, health, and family.

Dehqani said that achieving the goals outlined in the strategy of population growth requires meeting various criteria, with innovation being a particularly vital factor, ISNA reported.

"Innovation becomes indispensable when conventional methods fail to resolve societal challenges," he said, adding that "innovation centers," therefore, serve as platforms for coming up with solutions and tackling problems that cannot be effectively addressed through customary means.

"These centers provide an avenue for... finding innovative solutions in addressing the pressing issue of the population growth."

Dehqani stressed the importance of strategic planning for the future, given Iran's fortunate abundance of young individuals.

"The multifaceted nature of this complex issue (population growth) needs diverse approaches to be adopted."

He highlighted the significance of incorporating the population issue into macro-level dimensions and governance considerations and called for substantial attention and innovative strategies to effectively address the challenges associated with population growth.

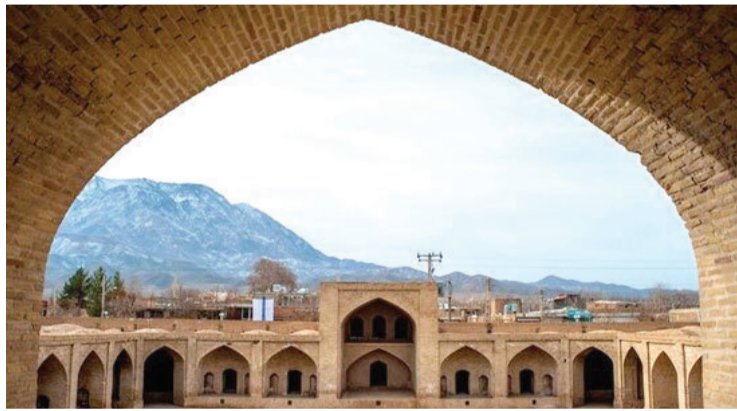
While acknowledging that the establishment of Plus Five alone may not yield immediate and rapid changes, the presidential aide expressed confidence that, with proper functioning, the center would help bring about substantial progress.

He noted that Plus Five reflects the concept of Iranian families with a minimum of three children.

With a focus on providing knowledge-based and creative services and products to families, the center aims to create an enabling environment and motivations for raising children. It offers counseling services in the areas of family health, hygiene, and nutrition. Currently, 20 innovative teams have been set up to operate within the center.

One of the primary objectives behind establishing the center is to foster a synergistic platform that leverages the potential of the technological and innovation ecosystem to help boom the Iranian population.

Efforts needed to pave the way for global registration of Semnan's caravanserais



Shah Abbasi Caravanserai
• MEHRNEWS



Over 27 caravanserais in Semnan Province have been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, proving the historical significance of the province.
• wikimedia.org

Iranica Desk

The result of Iran's application for the global registration of its caravanserais will be announced at the 45th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, to be held in Riyadh in September.

The global registration of the country's cultural heritage is of great significance because it plays a crucial role in reflecting the identity, culture, and history of Iran. The old caravanserais, scattered in various parts of the country, are a symbol of Iran's rich culture and civilization.

When choosing their destinations, foreign visitors attach great significance to sites registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Therefore, the inclusion of

the name of a province on the list enhances its chances of attracting foreign visitors.

Released figures show that Semnan Province hosts the largest number of old caravanserais in the country. However, acquisition of land, located within the boundaries of the caravanserais, from private owners is a prerequisite for global registration of monuments.

Hani Rastegaran, an official at Semnan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, told IRNA that determining the boundaries of the caravanserai and undertaking measures for renovating and preserving them are among the main steps which should be taken in this regard.

The buildings constructed in the vicinity of the caravanserai are seen as major obstacles in the way of the global registration of the ancient sites.

Shah Abbasi Caravanserai, located at the center of the capital city of Semnan, is one of 999 caravanserais built during the rule of Shah Abbas Safavid.

The 400-year-old monument, which has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, was used as a prison for about 40 years, until 2021. A large number of state officials visited the caravanserai during the past two years.

Head of Semnan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, Amir Karamzadeh, said certain steps should be taken to prepare con-

ditions for the inscription of the caravanserai on UNESCO's List.

He noted that the deed of the monument is in the name of the Cultural Heritage Organization, adding that about \$2.4 million in budget are required for both renovation of the caravanserai and taking possession of the land around it.

Over 27 caravanserais in Semnan Province have been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, proving the historical significance of the province.

It can be said that the caravanserais are similar to modern rest areas on the side of the roads, which are equipped with gas stations, prayer rooms, restaurants and other facilities.

A caravan was a large group of people traveling

together in one long line. People who carried their cargo with four-legged animals used to rest in places called caravanserais between villages and cities.

The remains of caravanserais built in various parts of Iran, especially those dating back to the Safavid era (1501-1736 CE), show that people were traveling around the country in the past.

In some of their scientific sources, researchers and historians have mentioned different social, commercial, cultural, educational, religious and educational functions for caravanserais. The vast land of Iran and the existence of the Silk Road as a commercial highway between Iran, China and India increased the necessity of building caravanserais.