

Iran cinematic achievements

Iranian film, '1.5 Horse Power,' directed by Rasoul Kahani, made its international debut with a remarkable showing at the 25th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), garnering four prestigious nominations. Competing in the Asian New Talent category, the film received nods for Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Leading Actress, and Best Picture. This captivating cinematic creation marks Kahani's second feature film following his critically acclaimed work, 'Dizziness.'

Persian language plays significant role in Iran's public diplomacy



Arts & Culture Desk

The head of the Sa'di Foundation, Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, emphasized the growing significance of public diplomacy in foreign ministries worldwide, and highlighted the crucial role of language education and expansion in this form of diplomacy. Speaking at a gathering of heads of political representations of the

Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, Haddad-Adel stressed that countries with a broader dissemination of their language wield greater influence on the international stage, forging a meaningful correlation between power and influence that transcends geographical boundaries, according to ILNA. He pointed out the historical significance of the Persian language, noting

that in the past, Iran's vast reach allowed Persian to serve as a cultural and literary language for over 800 years, spanning from present-day India and Pakistan to the Ottoman territories, China, and the African Continent. Haddad-Adel highlighted the Sa'di Foundation's responsibility in teaching and promoting the Persian language worldwide.

He underlined the importance of diplomats being proficient in multiple languages and cited examples, such as Russia, which has been teaching Persian for over two centuries as a written tradition within its diplomatic system. He further mentioned that countries like Japan, China, Korea, and others prioritize sending diplomats fluent in Persian to Iran and maintain a

substantial number of Persian-speaking diplomats and employees in their embassies. The head of the Sa'di Foundation called for ambassadors in their respective countries to be aware of numerous Persian language centers and associations and lend them support. He also discussed the foundation's budget in comparison to other countries' allocations for the expansion of their national languages. Initially, the foundation was able to allocate approximately one million dollars in foreign currency for teaching Persian outside of Iran. However, in recent years, this amount has decreased to around 150,000 dollars. Despite financial challenges, the foundation continues to provide crucial infrastructure for Persian language education to non-Persian speakers, including books, software, websites, and the training of Persian language instructors.

Story of an orphanage turned into a museum

Iranica Desk

The Kerman Museum of Contemporary Art (San'ati Museum) has been recognized as the second best visual museum in Iran, after the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. The museum houses a spectacular collection of contemporary Iranian and international art. It displays works by artists such as Kamal-ol-Molk, Parviz Tanavoli, Sohrab Sepehri, Ali Akbar Yasemi, Wassily Kandinsky, Tom Phillips, Auguste Rodin, and Henry Moore. Apart from its artistic value, the museum is reminiscent of selflessness and philanthropic spirit of a benefactor named Ali-Akbar San'ati. Over 100 years ago, San'ati de-

cided to build an orphanage in Kerman to alleviate the plight of homeless children and orphans. San'ati did his utmost to construct the orphanage. He had to sell half of his house to fund the construction of the project. The orphanage was not restricted to providing children with food and a place to sleep. The orphanage was in fact a school, where literature, ethics, religious lessons and agriculture were taught. As a result, it gained such a high status that ordinary families were encouraged to send their children there to receive an education. Saeed was one of the kids who lived in the orphanage. He was born in Kerman in 1916 and lost his father at the age of four. His mother was forced to send

him to the orphanage when he was seven years old. His talent for painting was evident in childhood. Discovering Saeed's talent, Ali-Akbar San'ati sent him to the Kamal-ol-Molk School in Tehran where he learned painting with master painters Abolhassan Sediqi, Ali-Mohammad Heydarian, Hossein Khan Sheikh and Ali Rokhsar. He is remembered as one of the greatest contemporary Iranian artists who created more than 1,000 paintings and 400 sculptures. He is also known for depicting morality and affliction of people in his works. As a sign of gratitude for the director of the orphanage, Saeed changed his name to Ali-Akbar (after Ali-Akbar San'ati). Children like Saeed who had

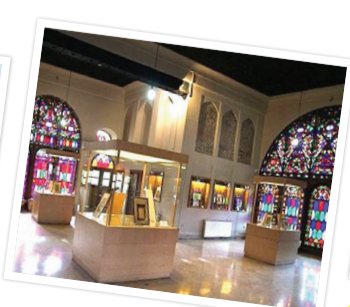
no custodian at the orphanage shared the family name of San'ati (the surname of the founder of the orphanage) to avoid registration problems at school. He later returned to the orphanage in Kerman to teach children. Children were kept and educated at the orphanage until the mid-1970s. At that time, Homayoun, the custodian of the orphanage and grandson of Ali-Akbar San'ati, decided to modernize it. Consequently, a new building was constructed close to the old structure and children were transferred there. Homayoun, who was interested in art, turned the old building into a museum, which is now known as the Kerman Museum of Contemporary Art (San'ati Museum).



• apochi.com



• apochi.com



• apochi.com



• apochi.com

Researcher: Iran should develop strategies to tackle sluggish population growth



Salah Ghasemi, a demographic researcher, says Iran's population growth rate could fall to zero in 2036. fararu.com

Social Desk

Iran is grappling with declining birth rate and population ageing which could pose big challenges to the society in the following years. Many demographers believe the age pyramid in Iran is tilting toward ageing. They say the phenomenon stems from a rise in life expectancy and sluggish population growth. The findings of Iran's National Population and Housing Census showed between 2011 and 2016, average life expectancy at birth for Iranian men and women improved by 1 and 1.5 years respectively. The findings indicated that Iranian men had an average life expectancy of 72.5 and women a life expectancy of 75.5 years. Besides, reports by Iran University of Medical Science showed that the country's population growth rate in 1986 stood at 3.9 percent while it lowered to 0.6 percent in 2021. Low birth rate has played a significant role in this regard.

Salah Ghasemi, a demographic researcher, said Iran's population growth rate is expected to fall to zero in 2036. He said this will adversely affect the country's economic infrastructure which includes trade, insurance funds and the production sector. He said the speed of population ageing in Iran is very high. "Population ageing occurs in all countries across the world. But this phenomenon in Iran has turned into a crisis for three reasons. "The first reason is that in other countries the process of turning from a young country to an ageing country took more than a century. But Iran has gone through this process in 30 years." Ghasemi said the high speed of population ageing has dealt blows to planning and management systems in the country. He added that the second reason is that countries that face with population ageing are developed ones, but Iran is grappling with the phenomenon while it is a developing country. "This means that we will be-

come an ageing country before turning into an industrial country without high economic growth which will increase the challenges posed by population ageing," the researcher warned. Ghasemi said the third reason is that Iran will be the only ageing country in the region in the next decades. He called for formulating economic and cultural strategies to reverse a decline in birth rate. "Economic strategies mean granting privileges and removing obstacles in the way of young couples. Cultural strategies amount to introducing comprehensive plans to convince the society to change its social and cultural approaches," the researcher said. Other experts have forecast that Iran will host around 20 million elderly individuals in less than 30 years, which will comprise a quarter of the country's population. The ageing of the population brings concerns about the speed of economic growth of the country, increasing health system costs, the quality performance of the healthcare system, the financial resilience of the pension system, and the wellbeing and quality of life of older people. To overcome such challenges, policy makers need to carry out evidence-informed policy interventions. Targeted measures are needed, such as setting healthy ageing as a priority for the government and developing a healthcare delivery model for the ageing population. It is necessary to strengthen the performance and funding of day-care centers and retirement homes for older people, provide long-term healthcare insurance plans tailored to the needs of older people, invest in palliative care, and increase awareness of health-promoting behaviors of self-care and healthy nutrition for older people. Population ageing refers to changes in the age composition of a population such that there is an increase in the proportion of older persons. An older person is defined by the United Nations as a person who is over 60 years of age.