



Iranian film shines at Transylvania Int'l Film Festival

ISNA – Iranian feature film 'Like A Fish on the Moon,' directed by Dornaz Hajiha, won the Best Film Award at the 22nd edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival, held in Romania from June 9 to 18. According to the festival's website, for the first time during the event's history, the first prize of the festival goes to a film directed by a woman.

Golestan Province's Turkmen carpets reflect colorful culture and history



• arahancarpet.com



• ghalin.com

Iranica Desk

Turkmen carpets, woven in the northeastern province of Golestan, are a mirror reflecting the rich culture, history and civilization of the region passed down from one generation to the next for centuries. The oldest discovered Turkmen carpet dates back 1,800 years; however, this doesn't indicate whether a carpet-weaving industry in the region existed before that, or not, because some Turkmen carpet designs existed hundreds of years BCE. The theory that has been confirmed for a long time is that in the beginning, Turkmen considered their carpets merely as practical objects; however, over time, they became

aware of their artistic value. Turkmen carpet designs arise from the local women's creativity. Thousands of people are presently active in the fields of carpet weaving, marketing and sales across the province. Hajar Keramat, a carpet weaver, told IRNA that Turkmen girls learn the traditional art of carpet weaving from childhood. There is no Turkmen girl who is not familiar with the craft. Turkmen give newly-married couples a hand-woven rug as a gift. In addition, a genuine carpet must be included in the dowry of all girls. "After I got married I decided to develop the business of my father-in-law, who was a carpet salesman. We

opened a small shop and gradually developed this business." "Now, after a few years, we have a shop selling natural threads for carpet weaving. Moreover, we have established a carpet-weaving workshop, in which 80 Turkmen women are active." The artisan said thanks to their various size, unique features and long historical backgrounds, Turkmen rugs have many customers both across Iran and the world. Her husband, Khalil Aqatabai, said, "I was a music player when I was young, but due to my wife's great enthusiasm for developing the traditional profession of Turkmen, I changed my job after marriage and, with the help of each other, we have

managed to achieve great success over time." He noted that the exquisite carpets, as a main symbol of Turkmen, are still produced in the province without any major change in the design. The number of patterns of Turkmen carpets is close to 811. Turkmen mostly use broken geometric patterns, known as akhal, in their rugs decorated with rhombus frames, connected to each other with cross lines. The size of Turkmen carpets is between one to 12 square meters. They are woven in various colors, including lacquered red, navy blue, dark green, white and beige. Turkmen carpets were registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2011.



• IRNA

Mazandaran to set up first-ever environmental protection conservatory

Social Desk

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed to establish the first environmental protection conservatory in northern Iran, marking a significant step in the country's commitment to environmental education and preservation. The MoU was signed by the Director General of the Department of the Environment of Mazandaran, Kavian, and the Director General of Education of the province, Kamali. The news was reported IRIB News agency, citing the Department of the Environment's information base. Ziauddin Almasi, the head of the Environmental Education and Training Center of the Department of the Environment, outlined the conservatory's objectives. He emphasized that students would be recruited based on the needs of the organizations, with targeted training provided according to job requirements. Almasi highlighted that the graduates would have em-



• BORNA

ployment opportunities in various sectors, including tourism, relief, rescue, and the Red Crescent. He also noted the Department of the Environment's move towards incorporating new technologies, such as drones, into their operations and training programs.

"If the students are successful in the training courses, the recruitment process is also considered," Almasi said. Kavian, the Director General of the Department of the Environment of Mazandaran, underscored the educational focus of the environmental protection

efforts. He revealed that 15 students have already begun studying environmental protection at the Shahid Beheshti Academy Center in Sari since the last fall semester. "The training of skilled environmental workers is one of the goals of setting up an environmental conservatory," Kavian said. Kamali, the Director General of Education in Mazandaran, expressed optimism about the future of the environmental protection field. He suggested that with proper design, more students could be enrolled in the field of environmental protection in the coming years. "The executive agreement of the field of environmental protection is a step in the development of cooperation between technical fields and the environment," Kamali said. The establishment of the conservatory represents a significant milestone in Iran's environmental protection efforts, demonstrating a commitment to education and training in this critical field.

Rich metallic ore deposits in Iran

The extraordinarily rich metallic ore deposits in Iran have favoured the early development of specialised crafts, especially metallurgy, since Chalcolithic times. Poly-metallic ore deposits are found in abundance throughout the plateau. Among the best known are the copper and silver deposits of Anarak-Talmessi in the Dasht-e Kavir Desert, which were systematically exploited since Sassanid times and probably already much earlier. Pyrotechnology – the use of fire to alter the physical properties of a material – was used since the 5th millennium BCE to transform oxidic copper ores, such as malachite, into malleable metallic materials. The use of sulphidic ores, which are somewhat more difficult to process, as they require an additional procedure in the reduction of the ore, dates only slightly later. Arsenic copper is the most widely used metal in this time and was probably made from arsenical copper ore. A more uncommon procedure was the systematic extraction of silver from silver-lead ore by means of a refinement process known as cupellation, which first appeared on the Iranian Plateau in the 4th millennium BCE. Some of the best-known archaeological evidence for the processing of copper comes from a small workshop area in Layer 9 of Tappeh Ghabristan in the Qazvin Plain. It consists of a two-room house in the centre of the settlement, whose larger room was furnished with two hearths. A crucible with a pierced foot – a type now known as Type Ghabristan – was standing next to the larger hearth. On the other side, a workbench or plat-



• Open hearth-mould of a shaft-hole axe with core-holder in clay



• Crucible with a base

form made of mudbrick had been set up. Pieces of copper ore were found inside a large bowl within the same building, and several casting moulds for tools were scattered across the floor. The copper workshop of Ghabristan is a textbook example of the so-called "cottage industry", where all production steps, from the smelting of the ore to the final reworking of the finished artefact, are completed within one area. The industrial settlement of Arisman is a good example for the systematic processing of copper towards the end of the 4th millennium BCE. The smelting of the ore now took place outside the actual settlement, and the construction of draft furnaces that utilised the locally prevalent winds to process enormous amounts of ore led to the accumulation of large slag heaps in the vicinity. During this time, only the casting and finishing processes took place within residential buildings.