



## Iran's Qorbani to stage concerts globally

After a series of successful concerts, titled 'Sing with Me,' in Tehran and other cities across Iran, Alireza Qorbani, the renowned Iranian vocalist, is set to embark on an international tour to Canada, Australia, and Europe in November of this year, Mehr News Agency reported.

# Minister: Iran has long-term plan to repatriate ancient artifacts



claimed to have legally acquired and documented these artifacts after taking them out of Iran. When asked whether ancient artifacts could be legally removed from the country, Zarghami replied, "Yes, they claim that these items were acquired through a contractual agreement, and they possess documents. However, we can pursue those cases which we can prove were smuggled, such as the Sasanian soldier's relief, which was a smuggling case that occurred in the 1980s, and we could repatriate it." The minister stressed that while some actions may have been deemed legal during the pre-revolution era, they do not recognize the legality of the transactions and commercial activities by individuals and dealers, and they are actively taking legal measures to reclaim these artifacts.

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ezzatollah Zarghami, revealed a long-term plan to repatriate

ancient artifacts to the country, emphasizing their commitment to the plan. According to ILNA, Zarghami addressed the issue of returning other ancient artifacts, such as the Sasanian

bas-relief, to Iran. "We have a long-term plan in this regard, and it is not a mere project; it's a process," stated the minister. Zarghami lamented that many valuable Iranian ar-

tifacts are currently located in other countries due to various historical reasons. He pointed out that during the pre-Islamic Republic era, particularly in the Pahlavi era, these countries

## 17th Tehran Auction grosses over \$4m

### Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran Auction, the renowned platform for Modern and Contemporary Iranian art, held its 17th auction at the Azadi Hotel in Tehran on July 21. This prestigious event featured an impressive collection of artworks that attracted art enthusiasts and collectors from around the world. The auction proved to be a remarkable success, achieving a total sale of 4,224,200, further establishing itself as a vital contributor to the country's thriving art market. The economic art event once again fulfilled its mission of bringing prosperity to Iran's art industry, showcasing the immense talent and creativity of Iranian artists to a global audience. According to IRNA, the three-day event, dedicated to "Modern and Contemporary Art," took place from July 28 to July 30 at the Parsian Azadi Hotel. On July 28 and 29, a captivating exhibition of artworks from renowned artists, including Aydin Aghdashloo, Houshang Pezeshknia, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Farideh Lashai, Sohrab Sepehri, Mohammad Ehsaei, Nasrollah Afjei, Hossein Zenderoudi, Sirak Melkonian, and many others, delighted the art enthusiasts in attendance.



A total of 110 pieces, comprising 97 paintings, 9 sculptures, and 4 photographs, were presented by a diverse group of 100 artists, including 79 male and 21 female creators. The selection represented a rich tapestry of styles, techniques, and artistic visions, reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of Iran's contemporary art scene. Notably, the top record-breaking sale of this auction belonged to Sohrab Sepehri's 'Untitled' piece, which sold for an astonishing 21 billion and 300 million Iranian rials (\$426,000), setting a new benchmark for Iranian art auctions. Another 'untitled' piece by Sepehri went under the hammer and was sold \$248,000. Among the notable sales was an artwork titled 'Untitled,' a pastel and mixed media on cardboard by Hossein Pezeshknia, making it the oldest piece to be auctioned during this edition. Additionally, two 'Untitled' works by the late Sohrab Sepehri fetched a combined total of 33 billion Iranian rials, while another 'Untitled' piece by Koorosh Shishegaran achieved an impressive 17 billion rials (\$340,000). Another masterpiece, a calligraphy painting titled 'Andam' by Hossein Zenderoudi, reached the impressive price of 13 billion rials (\$224,000). The auction was skillfully conducted by Hossein Pakdel, who kept the excitement alive with his auctioneering expertise. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as enthusiastic bidders competed for the most coveted works in this impressive art collection. The 16th auction in Tehran sold \$2.44 million with 120 works. The success of the 17th Tehran Auction not only solidifies its position as a premier platform for promoting Iranian art but also serves as a testament to the enduring appeal of Modern and Contemporary Iranian art on the global stage. With its unwavering commitment to fostering the country's artistic legacy, Tehran Auction continues to support and elevate Iranian artists, contributing to their recognition and success in the international art community.

## Gelkari, an old tradition revived in Ramsar



An overview of Javaherdeh village  
karnaval.ir

### Iranica Desk

The old traditions and customs of each region have roots in its culture and identity, the preservation of which would lead to the development and maintenance of social cohesion. A large number of traditional rituals and ceremonies have been prevalent in the northern province of Mazandaran, showing the cultural values and beliefs of its local people. Thus, extensive measures have been carried out in past years to prevent these traditional rituals from fading away. Javaherdeh village, a popular resort with a pleasant climate, is located 25 kilometers from the center of Ramsar. A number of historically valuable cemeter-

ies and monuments are in the village, one of which is Adineh Mosque, dating back 800 years. The mosque, which has been frequently subjected to natural disasters throughout history, and was once destroyed by fire, was rebuilt again in the past years. Like other old buildings of this village, this mosque was made of wood and mud with no columns. The building of the old mosque is beautiful and unique in such a way that many tourists travel to the region to visit this monument. Gelkari (mud-making) is a traditional and religious ritual, attended by thousands of people from Mazandaran and Gilan provinces, which was held in Javaherdeh vil-

lage in ancient times. According to historical documents, which are available in Mazandaran Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, the ritual dates back 5,000 years. On the day of the ceremony, local villagers and livestock breeders milked their animals and prepared a mud mixture of milk and soil. All people, including men and women, young and old, participated in the ceremony to spread the prepared mud on the wall of the mosque, to clean the mosque of any impurity. This rite was not held for many years, but efforts made by the villagers and related officials caused it to revive again. Director General of Mazandaran Province's Cultur-

al Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, Sadeq Barzegar, told IRNA that the ritual was held in Adineh Mosque this year, after a 45-year hiatus, thanks to attempts made by the members of the village's rural management department in cooperation with the locals. He added that revival of the old rituals and customs would have a positive impact on regional tourism. He noted that gelkari has roots in the religious beliefs of the people who have lived in Javaherdeh village throughout history, pointing out that re-creation of the ritual would help preserve the interior and exterior surface of the old rural houses and mosques. Due to this geographical

feature and its cool and pleasant weather, no wonder that Javaherdeh is a perfect destination in the summer. When visiting Javaherdeh, it is not only the village that is worth seeing but also the route. The dreamy scenery of clouds and mountains covered with trees will make you speechless. Just like fairy tales, you have to pass all these adventures and a tortuous road to get to the destination. The first thing you will notice once you enter the village road from Ramsar is its green forests and hills. By the time you reach Javaherdeh, these trees will gradually be replaced by green meadows full of flowers. Have you brought your camera with you? Happy shooting!