

In Case You Missed

Rivals Duplicating
Iranian Carpet Designs

A total of five million square meters of hand-woven carpets are annually produced in Iran. Director of Iran's National Carpet Center, Morteza Faraji said.

Iranian carpets are recognized as the world's finest. Meanwhile, India which is a major producer duplicates 65 percent of Iranian design patterns, IRNA reported.



"Our rivals use Iranian design patterns and since 30 years ago they are using new marketing methods to occupy a permanent place in the global carpet market," he said.

Faraji noted that National Carpet Center seeks to create an ID for Iranian designs to prevent copying by other countries and avoid quality decline in this field.

He named Tabriz, Isfahan, Shiraz, Hamedan, Kerman, Arak, and Mashhad as main cities active in this field. Germany, the US, the Persian Gulf littoral states, Japan, Russia, and Tunisia are the main markets for Iranian carpets.

"Although Qazvin province has over a thousand years of background in carpet weaving, it currently stands as the country's 20th producer of carpet," he explained.

Rose Picking Season
Begins in Kermanshah

Kermanshah Agricultural Jihad Organization's director for gardening affairs said the season of picking pink roses in the province has started and will continue till late June.

Speaking to Mehr News Agency, Amir Arsalan Ahmadi noted pink rose gardens of the province cover an area of 800 hectares.

"It is forecast that this year about 600 tons to 700 tons of pink flowers will be picked in the gardens of the province," he added.



He also referred to expansion of pink rose gardens in recent years and said two industrial rose water extraction workshops are currently active in the province.

Ahmadi pointed out that a portion of rose water and rose extracts of the province are exported every year.

"The main value of pink rose is related to its extracts which are exported at high prices," he added.

Ahmadi said that in view of the existing potentials and in a bid to expand pink rose gardens of the province, a 300-hectare pink rose garden will be built in the near future.

The main pink rose gardens of Kermanshah are located in Hersin, Kangavar, Kermanshah and Shaneh.

Global Standards Considered
For Renovating Edifice

Vakil Bathhouse is undergoing renovation in compliance with the latest global standards, the person in charge of renovation of ancient buildings in Fars province, Kamal Jahanshahi, told ISNA.

Regarding the damage done to the edifice when it was used as a restaurant, he noted, "There was no serious damage; only minor damage was observed in some parts of the building which were renovated before. The building only suffered damage due to carelessness during evacuation."

"Currently, the building is used for carpet and handicrafts exhibition," Jahanshahi pointed out.

National Orchestra

Iran's National Orchestra is characterized by the use of both Iranian and international musical instruments. It appears to be a newly-established body, but it did not emerge instantaneously and has had a colorful origin.

The Orchestra of Okhovat (Brotherhood) Institute was first established by Golanhossein Darvish, known as Darvish Khan, who mentioned the spiritual need to compose music.

According to Iranchamber website, Darvish had an inborn gift for music and preoccupied himself with innovative musical compositions for around eight years until his untimely demise.

The Orchestra of Higher Musical Institute was formed in 1924 by Maestro Alinaqi Vaziri. Guided by scientific foundations and the spirit of traditional Iranian music, the orchestra performed for several years.

The Orchestra of Iran's National Institute formed by Ruhollah Khaleqi in 1944 also made considerable achievements, the most significant of which was its denial of claims that classical music is the most impressive music worldwide.

Ruhollah Khaleqi later founded the National Music Institute, whose graduates gained great success in performing music across the country as well as at the international level.

> New Orchestras

Four orchestras were formed at Iran's Fine Arts Department in 1956, two of which lasted longer. Radmard Orchestra was conducted by Maes-



tro Mostafa Pour-Torab for a while, and after Maestro Saba passed away, Saba Orchestra was conducted by Maestro Hossein Dehlavi under the same name until 1968. It went on to perform for three more years after being renamed Rudaki Orchestra.

Golha Orchestra was initiated by the late Davoud Pirnia and in cooperation with maestros such as Saba, Tajvidi, Khaleqi, Mahjoubi and others in 1956. However, it started to flourish after 1961 when Maestro Khaleqi and Maestro Ma'roufi made many changes and left behind a worthwhile collection of musical performances in Radio Iran's archive once they rearranged and performed the musical works of the past and present music maestros.

Isfahan Arts as Intangible Heritage

Deputy head of Isfahan's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department for traditional arts and handicrafts said that efforts are underway to register the art of making handicrafts of Isfahan's Imam Square as intangible cultural heritage.

Speaking to ISNA, Ahmad Adib added, "Based on an agreement between Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concluded in March, the traditional arts practiced at Imam Square must be registered as intangible cultural heritage."

The notion of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) emerged in the 1990s, as a counterpart to the World Heritage that focuses mainly on tangible aspects of culture. By definition, ICH or living heritage are the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills-as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces that the communities, groups and in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. The intangible cultural heritage is transmitted from generation to generation and is constantly recreated by communities in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history.

Adib noted that specialized groups for pursuing the issue have been specified and the guidelines for registry of the works in UNESCO's list of intangible heritage have been compiled.

"After identification certificates for handicrafts of Imam Square, such



Farhad Fakhreddini conducts a National Orchestra performance in Tehran.

Farabi Orchestra, founded by the late Morteza Hannaneh in 1963, was a symphonic orchestra that played mainly western instruments. But he rearranged and performed the musical works of Iranian composers in cooperation with other musicians and devised new ways of incorporating a variety of sounds into Iranian music. The orchestra lasted for six years.

> Merger

Simultaneous with Farabi Orchestra, other orchestras such as Nakisa conducted by Mostafa Kasravi, Barbod conducted by Fereidoun Nasser and Habibollah Badi'i, and the Radio Orchestra conducted by Iraj Golsorkhi was also formed in 1968.

Once Iran's radio and television were incorporated into a single body in 1972, the Iranian Radio and Television Orchestra as well as all the orchestras of Radio Iran, including Golha, Nakisa, Barbod and Farabi, fell apart and a single orchestra was formed under the management of Fereidoun Nasser. It later performed under the guidance of Morteza Hannaneh for six months. It was then conducted by Farhad Fakhreddini during 1973-79 which, besides recording musical pieces of Iranian musicians, performed local concerts as well.

Eventually in 1998, some high-ranking authorities and officials in charge of the Music Center, affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, formed Iran's National Orchestra under the leadership of Farhad Fakhreddini.

The orchestra is still active and, despite its short lifespan, seems to have achieved dazzling success.



as inlaid works, engravings and enameling are prepared, they will be sent to the State Directorate for Registry of Cultural Heritage, which will in turn coordinate with UNESCO for registration of the arts as intangible heritage," he concluded.