



## Expert deciphers nails around ancient Pahluj skeletons

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — An anthropologist said that the nails around the ancient Pahluj skeletons imply an unknown style of burial carried out for females during the early Islamic era.

"We face an unknown style of burial, in which nails have been located upside down on the earth, maybe in order to hold a sheet of wood above the bodies in the graves," Farzad Foruzanfar told the Persian service of CHN on Saturday.

"The bodies have not been buried in coffins because no remains of wood have been found under the skeletons. However we have found a brown powder of wood on some of the nails' points," he added.

The graves were discovered during the rescue excavation, which has begun at the site near the village of Mirar-Kola in northern Iran in late August.

Pahluj (mistakenly spelled Tahluj in previous reports), which is home to several sites dating back from Iron Age to early Islamic era, will be completely submerged under water and mud when the Alborz Dam becomes operational. Pahluj is located in the Savadkuh region of Mazandaran Province.

"The nails have been used in the females' burial and they have not been found in the males' graves. This indicates that females were buried in a unique manner during that period of the times," Foruzanfar explained.

"The nails were located parallel at specific points at the same distances," he added.

Mehdi Abedini, the director of the archaeological team working at the 3000-year-old site had previously said that the bodies were buried with nails beside their knees and beside their left shoulders, and bunch of nails over and under their heads and feet.

"The existence of bunch of the nails over and under the bodies' heads and feet is very strange indeed and we have no explanation for them yet," Foruzanfar said.

The archaeologists have also discovered silver spoons, bracelets, and beads made of lapis lazuli at the graves.

Due to the discoveries, experts believe that women enjoyed a special status during the early Islamic period in the region.

## The last will and testament of Imam Ali (AS)

Imam Ali's (AS) last will to his sons Imam Hassan (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS) following a fatal blow on his head during morning prayers by Ibn Muljim (A Kharijite):

My advice to you is to be conscious of Allah and steadfast in your religion. Do not yearn for the world, and do not be seduced by it. Do not resent anything you have missed in it. Proclaim the truth; work for the next world. Oppose the oppressor and support the oppressed.

I advise you, and all my children, my relatives, and whosoever receives this message, to be conscious of Allah, to remove your differences, and to strengthen your ties. I heard your grandfather, peace be upon him, say: "Reconciliation of your differences is more worthy than all prayers and all fasting."

Fear Allah in matters concerning orphans. Attend to their nutrition and do not forget their interests in the middle of yours.

Fear Allah in your relations with your neighbors. Your Prophet often recommended them to you, so much so that we thought he would give them a share in inheritance.

Remain attached to the Quran. Nobody should surpass you in being intent on it, or more sincere in implementing it.

Fear Allah in relation to your prayers. It is the pillar of your religion.



The graphic artwork depicts holy name of Imam Ali (AS) and the exclamation, "Oh God now I'm free from these people and their persecution and annoyance," he cried after was injured by the poisoned sword of Ibn Muljim.

## Aiish to stage "Rhinoceros" at City Theater Complex

**Tehran Times Art Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Prominent stage director Farhad Aiish is to stage Ionesco's play "Rhinoceros" at the Tehran's City Theater Complex in November.

Aiish, who will also be playing in the drama with his actress wife Maedeh Tahmasebi, told the Persian service of ISNA that he is selecting the cast and that the prominent actor Mehdi Hashemi will probably be cooperating in this project.

He also noted that they would begin rehearsing next week, adding that he has negotiated with composer Saeid Zehni and stage designer Mohsen Shah-Ebrahimi to collaborate in the project.

Aiish, who is currently revising

the text of the play continued, "The play belongs to the 1950's with its special prolonged style of dialogue, while today a play requires a simple plot and a shorter story. Therefore, I made some minor revisions to the original text."

"Rhinoceros" (French original title *Rhinocéros*) is a play by Eugène Ionesco, written in 1959. The play belongs to the school of drama known as the "Theatre of the Absurd". Over the course of three acts, the inhabitants of a small, provincial French town turn into rhinoceroses; ultimately the only human who does not succumb to this mass metamorphosis is the central character, Béranger.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Actor Khanmohammadi dies at 64

**TEHRAN** — Iranian veteran actor Farhad Khanmohammadi died of a heart attack on Friday. He was 64.

Born in 1944 in Hamedan, he began his career in Tehran when he was 24. He acted in more than 50 movies and TV series including "Mummy III", "Savalan", "Miracle of Smile" and "The Sarbedaran".

### Tatar festival to highlight Iranian young filmmakers

**TEHRAN** — Golden Minbar International Muslim Film Festival will dedicate a section to Young Iranian cinema (Short films).

Dariush Qaribzadeh's "Boomerang", Zohreh Zamani Khalafli's "A Letter to Andre", Jamshid Raufi's "The Green Belief", Abbas Saleh Madresii's "Blue, Red", Mohsen Ramezanzadeh's "Sparkles" are among the thirteen films of the section.

The festival will be held in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, from October 16 to 22.

### Iran's deaf center to set up pantomime school

**TEHRAN** — First Iranian Pantomime School for the Deaf will inaugurate its work on September 30 in Tehran.

Organized by the Iranian National Center for the Deaf (INCD), the opening ceremony will be held during Deaf Awareness Week, which is held annually the last full week of September.

### Iranian Literature Center to review Austrian poetry

**TEHRAN** — Poetry of Austria will be reviewed at the Iranian Literature Center in Tehran on Sunday evening.

Iranian translator and German literature expert Reza Najafi will review the intricacies of Austrian poems.

## Ramadan rites, Qods Day registered on National Heritage List

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — The ritual ceremonies of the holy month of Ramadan as well as the Qods International Day were registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

The two documents were registered during a ceremony held in the presence of President Mahmud Ahmadinejad and the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) director Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaii on Saturday at the venue of the Organization of the Islamic Countries Hall.

International Qods Day is an annual event opposing Israel's occupation of Baitul-Muqaddas. Anti-Zionist demonstrations are held on the last Friday of Ramadan in Muslim and Arab countries around the world, and

Fear Allah in relation to His House; do not abandon it as long as you live. If you should do that you would abandon your dignity.

Persist in jihad in the cause of Allah, with your money, your souls, and your tongue.

Maintain communication and exchange of opinion among yourselves. Beware of disunity and enmity. Do not desist from promoting good deeds and cautioning against bad ones. Should you do that, the worst among you would be your leaders, and you will call upon Allah without response.

O Children of Abdul Muttalib! Do not shed the blood of Muslims under the banner: The Imam has been assassinated! Only the assassin should be condemned to death.

If I die of this stroke of his, kill him with one similar stroke. Do not mutilate him! I have heard the Prophet, peace be upon him, say: "Mutilate not even a rabid dog."

In the 40th year of Hijra, in the early hours of the morning of 19th Ramadan, Imam Ali (AS) was struck with a poisoned sword by the Kharijite Ibn Muljim (may the curse of Allah be upon him) while leading prayers in the Kufa Mosque. He was martyred on the 21st day of Ramadan 40 AH and buried in Najaf-ul-Ashraf. He was born in the House of Allah, the Ka'ba, and martyred in the House of Allah, the most brave and gentle Muslim after the Holy Prophet (S) himself, began his glorious life with devotion to Allah and His Messenger, and ended it in the service of Islam.

## Puppet troupe to stage Shahnameh stories for schoolchildren

**Tehran Times Art Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Iranian stage director Hamed Zahmatkesh and actor Majid Burchur will stage Ferdowsi's Shahnameh stories puppet show in Tehran schools in early November.

The play will be performed on a portable stage for three groups of audiences: children, adolescents and young adults.

The play is based on the version of Shah Tahmasb Safavi Shahnameh, which is decorated with marvelous paintings, and Iranian veteran artist Aidin Aghdashlu will assist with research, Zahmatkesh told MNA.

"In this project, we aim to introduce Shahnameh and its characters, Persian calligraphy and paintings, and illustration to the younger generation," Zahmatkesh told MNA.

Research will be conducted in Iranian elementary and high schools on students' knowledge of Shahnameh during the performance, he added.

Being one of the most authentic versions of Shahnameh, the Shah Tahmasb version features the decorative arts of the early Safavid culture, and reveals the evolution of Safavi painting in the crucial years between the early 1520s and the mid-1530s.

## Cannes winner 'The Class' to vye for Oscar

**PARIS (AFP)** — "The Class," a film shot in a rough Paris school that won the top prize at Cannes this year, has been chosen as France's entry for the 2009 foreign film Oscar, the selection committee said Friday.

France's National Cinematography Center is to submit the movie to the Oscars Academy, which will reveal its shortlist of films selected to run in January, ahead of the awards ceremony the following month.

Based on a best-selling novel by a French teacher, Francois Begaudeau, and starring a cast of teenage non-professional actors, "The Class" takes a hard look at a year in a multicultural school in the French capital.

Directed by Laurent Cantet, it was the first homegrown French movie in two decades to claim the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, the world's biggest cinema showcase.

Cantet told AFP he was "delighted" by the French panel's choice.

"I think the film's message is universal enough to reach a foreign audience," he said.

"Who would have thought that a film shot in such an experimental way, with such an open script, without professional actors, would go this far."

## Last of Steinway piano-making family dies

**NEW YORK (AFP)** — Henry Ziegler Steinway, the last member of the family to have had a role in running the legendary piano-making business, has died, reports said Friday. He was 93.

His daughter, Susan Steinway, told The New York Times that he had passed away Thursday at his home in New York.

Henry Ziegler Steinway was the great-grandson of Heinrich Engelhard Steinway who emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1850 and founded the firm Steinway & Sons in 1853.

The company went on to make the family a fortune as it introduced innovative techniques to the instrument which were swiftly adopted by piano-makers worldwide.

By the beginning of the 20th century the New York-based

especially in Iran, where the occasion was first suggested by Ayatollah Khomeini.

The ritual ceremonies of Ramadan also include the ceremonies of sahari (the meal eaten before dawn), iftar (sunset time when fasters break their fast), the rituals performed during the nights of the 19th, 21st, and 23rd of Ramadan, which are known as the 'grand nights', on one of which the entire Quran was sent down to the Prophet Muhammad (S), as well as Id al-Fitr (the celebration marking the end of the month of Ramadan).

Noruz (Iranian New Year) and the ritual ceremonies of the month of Shaban were the two documents that were previously registered on the National Heritage List.

company had produced some 6,500 pianos, mostly grand pianos, which were 80 percent handmade, and were highly praised by such composers as Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt.

But the company suffered when the Great Depression hit in 1929, and again after World War II because of its German origins. And it hit further obstacles with competition from Japanese giants such as Yamaha.

Henry Ziegler Steinway joined the family business in 1937 after studying at Harvard. He became chairman of the company in 1955, but was forced to sell the company to the television channel CBS in 1972 for 23 million dollars.

He remained as a consultant though, even after retiring and after the company later changed hands again in 1985, and 1995.