

Iran Attends Meeting of SCO Education Ministers in Moscow



MOSCOW (Dispatches) – **The Islamic Republic of Iran has participated in the eighth meeting of the education ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, nearly a year after the country officially joined the Eurasian economic, political, security and defense bloc.**

The meeting took place in the Russian capital on Thursday. This is the first time that Iran has participated in such a meeting after it became an official member of the SCO in July 2023.

Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali attended the meeting on behalf of the Islamic Republic. Omid Rezaifar, deputy minister of science for international

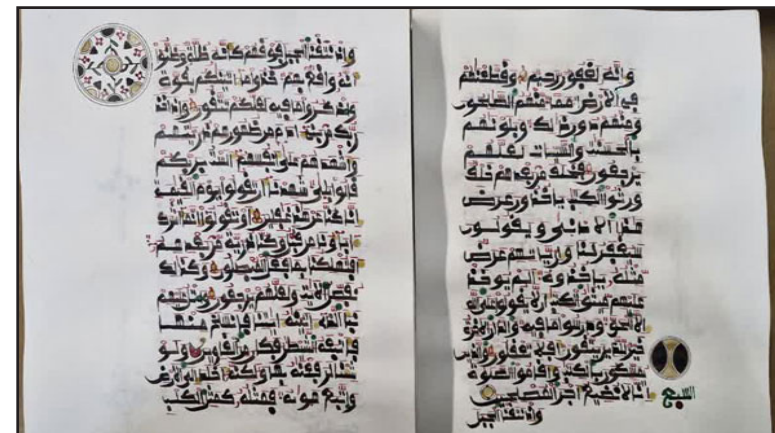
affairs, addressed the Moscow meeting as well through video conference. Jalali said that Iran, now as a full member of the SCO, intends to have constructive interaction and comprehensive cooperation in different specialized sectors of the organization. Education is one of the most important fields of cooperation, since it is regarded as a foundation for development, the Iranian official said, adding that his country has experiences in higher education as well as research despite facing sanctions and outside pressures. Rezaifar also announced Iran's readiness to expand cooperation in science and technology sector.

U.S., Nigerian Pilgrims Donate Valuables to Imam Reza Shrine

TEHRAN -- An American Muslim has made a significant contribution to the Imam Reza (AS) shrine museum by donating an extensive collection of approximately 10,000 stamps and a trove of invaluable ancient coins from India.

Zafar A'zam's donation includes rare stamps from over a hundred countries across Europe, Asia, and Africa, each commemorating pivotal moments in the respective histories of these regions, said Muhammad Hussein Yazdinejad, one of the museum's directors.

Among the collection's treasures is the earliest stamp, issued in 1870 as part of the Jackson postal series. The stamps serve as miniature chronicles of notable events such as the 1901 Pan-American Exhibition, the tricentennial of the clergy's arrival in the United States in 1920, the bicentennial of George Washington's birth, and significant episodes from World War II. In addition to stamps, the donation encompasses a variety of historical artifacts, including



postal cards, envelopes, letters, banknotes, and a selection of gold, copper, and nickel coins. The estimated value of these collected pieces is around \$5,000, according to Yazdinejad. Meanwhile, a Nigerian pilgrim has recently donated an exquisite Qur'anic copy written in Maghrebi script to Imam Reza shrine central library. According to Hussein Khabazian, a manuscript expert in the Organization of Libraries, Museums and Documents of Imam

Reza shrine, Maghrebi script is associated with the west of Islamic world, hence it is known as Maghrebi (western). He said the copy is a contemporary manuscript in Arabic that has not been translated yet. Other characteristics of the copy include lack of decorative features at the beginning of verses, red diacritics, etc. Khabazian said the copy was the second one in Maghrebi script in the organization – the first one dating back to the 10th century AH.



Leopard Spotted in Khalkhal Mountains

TEHRAN -- A leopard has been spotted in a protected area in Iran's Ardebil province. The no hunting zone in northwestern Iran is named Darband Mashkul in the southern part of Ar-

dabil province in the city of Givi. The area has been protected due to the presence of various animal species. The film of the leopard was apparently shot by an environmental guard.

Environmental protection authorities say the leopard is among endangered species whose protection is now more important than ever. Iranian wildlife protection authorities believe that

500 to 800 Persian leopards are scattered in Iran including in the provinces of Mazandaran, Gilan, Golestan, Razavi Khorasan, North Khorasan, Semnan, Yazd, Sistan-Baluchestan and Fars.

Obituary: Artistic Legacy of Three Iranian Actors

TEHRAN -- Let's take a moment to remember three remarkable actors in the world of Iranian cinema and television. Although they are no longer with us, their performances continue to entertain and inspire viewers around the world.

Abbas Amiri-Moqaddam
Born in 1950, Amiri-Moqaddam first appeared in the series 'Forest Uprising' and later in the movie 'Fire in Winter' (1984). Known for his memorable roles, including the priest of the Temple of Amun in 'Prophet Joseph' (2008), Amiri-Moqaddam proved his versatility with performances in series and films such as 'Imam Ali' (1997-1998) and 'The Rise of Mokhtar' (2010-2011). He passed away in a traffic accident in 2011.

a prominent figure in both film and television. Pesyani appeared in acclaimed films such as 'Ceasefire' (2005 and 2014) and series like 'The First Night of Peace' (2006). He received nominations for the Best Supporting Actor Golden Statue and Crystal Simorgh awards for the Best Leading Actor from the Fajr International Film Festival. Pesyani passed away in October 2023 due to cancer.

Shahram Abdoli
Born in 1977, Abdoli began his acting career on stage as a teenager. Known for playing villainous roles, Abdoli starred in numerous TV series such as 'The Red Line' (2001), 'Worlds Apart' (2010), and 'The Mystery of the Shah' (2015). He also appeared in several movies, including 'Girl in a Cage' (2002) and 'Invitation' (2008). Sadly, he passed away in February 2023.

German Film Festival to Screen Iran's 'Shepherd'

TEHRAN – The Iranian film 'Shepherd' directed by Mehrshad Ranjbar will be screened at the Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival in Germany later in April. This German the Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival is held in Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF each year. Sehsüchte is dedicated to a new generation of filmmakers in a transitional film culture. The festival is known as the biggest festival related to students films around Europe and provides the context for young film creators to screen their artworks. The 53th «sehsuchte» International Student Film Festival will be hold in Potsdam Museum Forum for Art and History from April 25 to 28. The film tells the story of "about 2 hours before the rehearsal when the

group finds out that the actor playing the role of the shepherd cannot make it to the performance, and Maysham tries to take his place on the stage."



Picture of the Day



Along the banks of Zayandeh Rud under the iconic Si-o-Se Pol Bridge in Isfahan on Friday, April 19, 2024. Photo by IRNA