

Kazakh University Signs Cultural MoU With Iran



TEHRAN – The National University of Arts in Kazakhstan has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran to strengthen cultural and artistic ties between the two countries.

It was signed during a function titled the “Culture, Art, and Civilization of Iran” at the College of Fine Arts in Tehran, which was attended by president of the National University of Arts in Kazakhstan Raushan Nortaza and Iran’s cultural attache to Kazakhstan Ali Akbar Talebi Matin.

The initiative was hailed as a significant step in strengthening relations between Tehran and Astana.

After signing the MoU, Nortaza praised Iran’s rich civilization, culture, literature, and language during his speech. He expressed optimism that the memorandum would lead to deeper cultural and artistic ties with Iran.

Meanwhile, Talebi Matin emphasized the strong cultural cooperation between the Iranian cultural office and the National University of Arts in Kazakhstan.

Iranian Students Shine at WorldSkills Lyon 2024

TEHRAN – Iranian students have won one silver medal and eight medallions at the WorldSkills Lyon 2024.

According to Iran’s Technical and Vocational Training Organization (Iran TVTO), Hassan Mohammadi and Hamidreza Hamidi received the silver medal in the field of cyber security.

Alireza Pouchali, Aryan Taheri, Armin Taheri, Amir Muhammad Abouei, Muhammad Husseini, Amir Abbas Ghasemi, Mehrdad Shirvani and Reza Gholami won medallions in different fields.

Some 1,400 competitors from



more than 70 countries and regions around the world gathered in Lyon

to compete in different skills.

The WorldSkills Competition, the world’s largest skills competition, is held every two years. It is a true opportunity for young professionals from all over the world to participate in an international competition, measure, and showcase their skills.

The competitors must not be older than 22 in the year of the Competition. There are 62 skill competitions, including 59 Official skills and 3 Exhibition skills.

The 47th WorldSkills Competition was held from September 10 to 15 in Lyon.

Iran to Establish New Cognitive Science Centers

TEHRAN – Iran will establish several new research centers to promote studying on cognitive sciences and technology, an official said.

“At present, over 20 research centers in the field of cognitive sciences are operational,” said Muhammad Mahdavi, the secretary of the Cognitive Sciences and Technologies Development Headquarters of the Iranian Vice-Presidency for Science,

Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy.

“One of our future plans is to establish 15 new cognitive centers which will be set up in academic centers across the country,” he said.

Mahdavi said research centers in the fields of cognitive science and technology are established with the aim of training experienced and expert personnel.

He said the development and

expansion of research activities requires the joint cooperation of researchers and professors.

The Iranian Headquarters for the Development of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, affiliated with the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy says it is stepping up its interactions with international partners, active centers, and cognitive sciences and technologies

institutions to find out more about the capacities of providing services and cognitive technologies, increase the potential, share experiences of research centers, and take advantage of scientific experiences and findings.

The headquarters is trying to create the necessary grounds for adopting strategic policies and implementing solutions based on the plans.

Body of Martyr Identified After 38 Years



fied about 38 years after his martyrdom during Iraq’s war of aggression against Iran.

According to the public relations department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Alborz province, Aziz Salimnejad’s body was identified through DNA testing.

Salimnejad achieved martyrdom in Operation Karbala-5 in early 1987.

TEHRAN – The body of a member of the Basij volunteer force has been identi-

‘Twins’ to Return to Silver Screen in 80 Episodes



TEHRAN -- Iran’s beloved children’s show the ‘Twins’ is set to return with a new 80-episode season.

The new season, titled ‘Twins in the Five-Star City’, stars Muhammad Moslemi, Hamid Goli and Ali Foroutan.

Filming is underway for the show on a grand set created to resemble a magical city floating amidst the clouds.

This elaborate set is the largest

ever used for a children’s program in Iran to be aired on one of the IRIB’s (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting) channels.

Directed by Jamshid Bayat Tork, the series aims to entertain young viewers about important societal issues such as citizenship, rights, and responsibilities.

The show focuses on topics like parenting and child-rearing and seeks to inspire and inform the next generation of Iranians.

Fight Goes on Against Stone-Eaters at Persepolis



SHIRAZ (AFP) -- Conservationists at Persepolis, Iran’s most iconic ancient site, are waging a delicate battle against an unlikely adversary: tiny but persistent lichens eroding the millennia-old monuments.

The fight, which began years ago, is aimed at stopping the threat to the integrity of the site’s structures and its intricate carvings from lichens, organisms that grow on surfaces like stone and can slowly break them down over time.

Built in the 6th century BC by Darius I, Persepolis has withstood destruction, looting, earthquakes, fires and harsh weather. It remains a source of pride for Iranians and a major tourist destination.

“It’s an open-air museum reflecting 25 centuries of Middle Eastern life,” said Alireza Asgari Chaverdi, director of the site located about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the southern city of Shiraz.

“It is the foundation of Iran’s history, culture and socio-cultural life.”

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, Persepolis features colossal sculptures and intricate stone reliefs of ancient Persian kings, nobles and deities.

But these have suffered over the years from lichen, a combination of an algae and a fungus.

“This is the most serious problem, especially for carvings on stones,” said Shahram Rahbar, a conservationist at the site.

“If we do nothing, these organisms could reduce these relics to dust within 50 to 100 years,” he said as he treated lichen growth on one slab.

Red lichen marks are now etched into many of the ancient relics at Persepolis.

The spread of lichens, which dissolve minerals and penetrate stone surfaces by more than 1.5 centimeters (.6 inches), is driven by industrialization, acid rain and the harsh desert climate, said lichenologist Muhammad Sohrabi.

“We cover the lichens with a material and, after a week, repeat the process until they weaken enough to be removed with suction devices,” said Rahbar.

Iran is home to more than 3,000 species of lichens, with 500 to 700 varieties growing on historical monuments, Sohrabi said, noting that some at Persepolis were over 1,700 years old.

“Many of Persepolis’s intricate motifs have already been lost due to lichen activity,” he said.

Beyond Persepolis, other sites in Iran, like the Bisotun inscription in Kermanshah province, have also been affected.

Bisotun, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, features a massive carved inscription recounting the conquests of King Darius I and has suffered significant degradation due to lichen growth.

At Persepolis, Rahbar and his team work relentlessly to combat the infes-

Picture of the Day

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The 2nd Festival of Iranian Tribes and Nomads is held in three sections of exhibition, local music and specialized conferences in Farsan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

Photo by IRNA