

Russian motorcyclists' rally tour arrives in Iran



ISNA - A group of motorcyclist tourists, under the name of 'Caspian Sea - Friendship Sea,' arrived in Iran on Thursday via Bajgiran Border in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, to visit natural, historical and tourist attractions.

The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that this rally tour was started by the Astrakhan Governorate of Russia, and is being held in order to strengthen ties between the countries of the Caspian region on the route of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan.

Accompanied by Governor of the Astrakhan Region Igor Babushkin, the participants consist of 19 motorcyclists, with 15 motorcycles, who began their trip in Astrakhan, and, according to their planned schedule, reached Iran on April 6. Upon passing through the northern cities of Iran and visiting the historical and cultural attractions in Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran and Gilan provinces, the Russian motorcyclists will leave Iran today from the Astara border crossing in Gilan Province. The CEO of the club also announced the holding of three international rallies titled, 'Persepolis to Acropolis,' 'Nowruz Messengers from Iran to Turkmenistan and Tajikistan,' and 'Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea Countries,' which will be carried out in cooperation with destination countries. Mohammad-Hossein Sufi concluded that these rallies are not considered to be sports; rather, they are considered to be tourism, and thus are affected by the regulations of FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile).

Islamic Revolution Art Week to open nationwide

TASNIM - The Islamic Revolution Art Week will open on April 9 in all cities and provinces across the country.

Several programs have been organized for the week, which is to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of documentarian Morteza Avini.

In Tehran, Niavaran Cultural Center will host the programs.

An official in Golestan Province, Seyyed Hessam Bani-Fatemeh, said that the city has organized 33 cultural programs including calligraphy and painting exhibitions, cultural competitions and workshops.

We must prioritize Avini's values in order to expand Iranian-Islamic culture and belief, the official said.

Amir Nemati, an official in Zanjan Province, said that among the programs to commemorate the week is the unveiling of three illustrated books.

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Iranian artists making crafts in live workshops at Tehran Int'l Qur'an Exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

EXCLUSIVE

This year, the 30th Tehran International Qur'an Exhibition is hosting live traditional art workshops by 20 artists, said the director-general of the Handicrafts Marketing Department of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage,

Tourism and Handicrafts. "In this round of the exhibition, our goal is not merely putting handicrafts on display; rather, it aims to familiarize visitors with Iranian traditional arts and handicrafts," Seyyed Hossein Alavi said.

Speaking about the results of the change in this year's edition, he said,

during the first four days of the event, the number of visitors was twice that of the same period last year.

Most of Iran's traditional arts are rooted on religious bases, he said, adding that the exhibition is targeting people, not only to have an income through making crafts, but also to learn more

about the national, religious and traditional arts of the country. Spirituality and being religious are manifested through color, pattern and design; it even depends on the mood of the creator, he said. They are rooted in the depth and soul of the work and the artist.

Iran enjoys 299 registered and recognized fields of

handicrafts; the country is one of the most distinguished producers of handiworks in the world. Although other countries also have great handicrafts, Iranian art is by far greater in terms of design and variety, Alavi highlighted.

The exhibition opened on April 1st and will run through April 15.



A group of poets and experts in Persian literature meet with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on April 5, 2023. leader.ir

Benin bronzes made from metal mined in west Germany, study finds



Scientists discovered that some of the Benin bronzes were made with metal mined thousands of miles away in the German Rhineland.

The Edo people in the Kingdom of Benin, modern Nigeria, created their extraordinary sculptures with melted down brass manilla bracelets, the grim currency of the transatlantic slave trade between the 16th and 19th centuries, the Guardian reported.

While rarely found in archaeological excavations on land, they have been

retrieved in substantial numbers from the wrecks of vessels that had been transporting them.

In carrying out the largest study of these bracelets, a team of German researchers compared their metal with metallic ores and mines across Europe before tracing them to the Rhineland in western Germany.

Tobias Skowronek, who led the study, said: "This is the first time a scientific link has been made ... The Benin bronzes are the most famous ancient

works of art in west Africa. Where the enormous volumes of metal came from and how Benin got its brass has long been a mystery."

Sean Kingsley, an archaeologist and editor-in-chief of Wreckwatch magazine, which specialises in the sunken past, said: "[Skowronek has] discovered that the Benin bronzes were made from metal mined around Cologne. Nobody had a clue and it's quite an eye-opener. It's a big deal within the very high-profile Benin bronzes art and

history world."

Hundreds of Benin bronzes were seized by British forces in 1897 when the royal court of Benin was razed to the ground. Today, the sculptures are in museums and galleries in Britain and elsewhere. Nigeria has long called for their return. Germany is one of the few countries that is actively repatriating its bronzes. Other institutions that have done so include the Horniman Museum in London.

Manillas, derived from the Latin for hand or bracelet,

were a "currency" used by Britain, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, France and Denmark to trade with west Africa in gold and ivory, as well as enslaved people.

The scientific study focused on 67 examples collected from five shipwrecks off the UK, Spain, Ghana and the US. Dating between 1524 and 1843, these were ships of English, Portuguese and Dutch origin. They include a Royal African Company slaver that went down in the Channel.