



Arts & Culture Desk

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Iran Ahmed Gurbanov, led a diplomatic and cultural delegation to discuss ways to expand cultural cooperation with Mahmoud Shalouie, president of the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries (ISCWL).

During the meeting, Shalouie extended a warm welcome to Gurbanov, stating, "For over a century, our society has been actively involved in preserving cultural dignitaries, publishing their works and, of course, in the construction and maintenance of historical and cultural monuments and edifices in Iran," IRNA wrote.

Shalouie added, "ISCWL is dedicated to honoring scientific, cultural, religious, literary, and other prominent figures, both nationally and internationally. To date, we have conducted joint programs with many friendly neighboring countries of Iran."

Shalouie expressed hope that, with the collaboration of cultural authorities and officials from Turkmenistan, joint cultural programs between the two countries, including a significant celebration of Makhtum-Qoli Faraghi, the renowned Iranian-Turkmen poet, would be held soon at the ISCWL. He emphasized, "Since last year, a Tajik cultural center has been set up at ISCWL, based on the proposal of the ambassador of Tajikistan. We hope, with the cooperation of the Embassy of Turkmenistan, a cultural and artistic center for Turkmenistan will also be established in our society, providing a foundation for cultural and artistic collaboration between Iran and Turkmenistan."

Gurbanov, acknowledging his prior familiarity with ISCWL and its activities, stated, "We warmly welcome joint cooperation between our two friendly neighboring countries, Iran and Turkmenistan. Both nations boast influential cultural and literary figures, and this can pave the way for cultural and artistic collaborations in various fields."

The envoy emphasized, "Turkmenistan is receptive to the proposals put forth by the society, such as honoring cultural figures, publishing the works of cultural luminaries, and fostering scientific and research activities between our two countries. We are prepared to explore and implement shared opportunities in upcoming activities."

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Persian Caravanserais receive UNESCO World Heritage Status

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Persian Caravanserais were inscribed as the 27th tangible cultural heritage of Iran on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, which took place at the Extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. According to IRNA, on Sunday, September 17, 2023, during the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the dossier of Persian Caravanserais (a total of 54 historical caravanserais) was carefully examined and approved as Iran's 27th tangible cultural heritage registered in the world body.

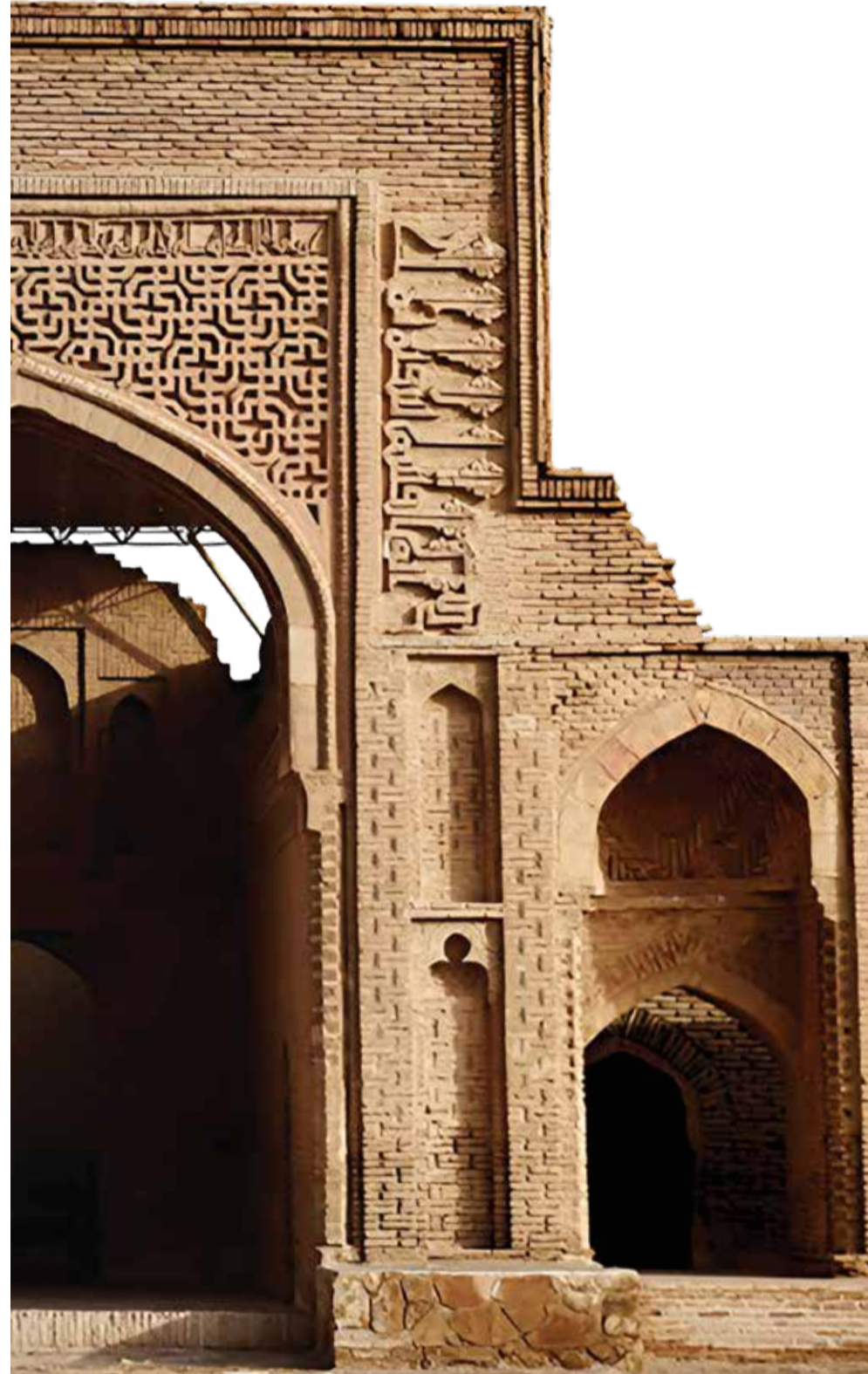
The dossier encompasses 54 historical caravanserais across 24 provinces of the country, carefully selected from hundreds of existing caravanserais. In the dossier's description of its features, it states, "Caravanserais are one of the most important forms of Iranian architecture, facilitating the development of routes and addressing the needs and requirements of travelers. These caravanserais have been selected by comparing 200 caravanserais, and none of them have duplicate designs. Therefore, it is evident that caravanserais are the result and product of the creativity and architectural genius of Iranian architects throughout history."

Furthermore, "Persian caravanserais were directly involved in social and cultural developments, leaving their mark on literature, poetry, painting, miniatures, music, and architecture. Comparatively, the distinction of Iranian caravanserais lies in their unique architectural form and layout when compared to other types of caravanserais found outside Iran. It appears that other types of caravanserais have been influenced by the Iranian prototypes."

Combining nominations from last year and this year, the UNESCO committee will continue evaluating sites until Wednesday. In addition, a site extension of Hyrcanian Forests, which was submitted by Azerbaijan, was also inscribed in the body's World Heritage List.

The Hyrcanian Forests stretch 850 kilometers from the Talish Mountains in Azerbaijan, through the Alborz Mountains to Golestan Province in Iran – forming a large green arc. Composed of deciduous mixed broad-leaved forests, parts of the region were inscribed by Iran in 2019.

The ridges of the Talish and Alborz mountain systems create a climactic barrier and watershed between the arid Irano-Turanian Plateau and the Caspian Sea. This, in turn, has created an abundance of precipitation, flowing down through several rivers and creeks into the Caspian Sea.



Six Iranian children shine at Czech arts competition



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Six members of the cultural and artistic centers of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) received diplomas of honor at the 50th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice (ICEFA Lidice) in the Czech Republic.

As reported by IRNA, the competition which was themed "Museum," featured categories such as painting, collage painting, photography, design, handcrafting, and dimensional works, among others.

Out of 14,527 entries, from 77 countries worldwide, six children and teenagers from IIDCYA cultural and artistic centers succeeded in attaining diplomas of honor in this edition of the competition.

Among the talented winners were 13-year-old Anahita Afshari and eight-year-old Atrin Afshari, from IIDCYA center No. 1 in Hamedan Province. Arsen Hamedian, a 4.5-year-old from the Ahvaz center in Khuzestan Province, and Parvaneh Siavoshi, a 15-year-old from IIDCYA center No. 1 in Nahavand, Hamedan Province, and all earned diplomas of honor in the "Painting" category of this artistic event.

Additionally, 12-year-old Elia Shamsian, from IIDCYA center in Qods (Tehran Province), received a diploma of honor in the "Painting (Collage)" category, while 16-year-old Rojin Panahandeh, from IIDCYA center in Mahabad (West Azarbaijan Province), won a diploma of honor in the "Photography" category. The IIDCYA participated in the 50th Lidice Fine Arts Competition and Exhibition in the Czech Republic by submitting 148 paintings and 46 photographs, showcasing the talent of Iranian children in the field of fine arts.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform in Tehran



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The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Manouchehr Sahbaei, is set to perform a special autumn performance at the Vahdat Hall on September 27 and 28.

Marking its first autumnal concert series, the Tehran Symphony Orchestra will take the stage for two consecutive nights, promising a delightful musical experience. The program for this event includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, 'Dance at the Court of Samangan King' composed by Hossein Nasehi, Hungarian Dances No. 1, 4, 5, and 10, as well as the first movement of Brahms' Symphony No. 4.