

Armenian-Iranian cultural culinary festival kicks off

The third edition of the NAV-ASARD Festival, a celebration of the longstanding friendship between Iran and Armenia, kicked off in the Armenian

town of Sisian on August 10. The festival, themed "Culture, Tourism, Culinary, and Handicrafts," brings together cultural and artistic figures from both

countries, Mehr News Agency reported.

"This festival plays a significant role in strengthening the cultural and tourism bonds between our two nations," said Mekhak Apresyan, Head of the Armenian Tourism Federation. "We are grateful for the unwavering support of the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan and the Iran Consulate General in Kapan."

The festival features a wide range of events, including a culinary competition between Iranian and Armenian chefs, showcasing the rich and diverse cuisines of both countries. Over 20 chefs from each country will participate in the contest. The festival also includes cultural performances, with artistic groups from Tehran, Is-

fahan, Hamedan, Tabriz, and Khuzestan showcasing the diverse cultural and artistic traditions of Iran. There will also be exhibitions of Iranian handicrafts and traditional music performances.

"This festival is a valuable opportunity for mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures and traditions," said Iran's Cultural Attaché Mohammad Asadi-Movahed. "We are pleased to partner with the Armenian Tourism Federation and grateful for the support of the Iran Consulate General in Kapan and the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan in making this event a success." The annual festival is expected to attract widespread interest from the Armenian public and media.



Iran makes significant progress in reducing medicine shortages

Social Desk

According to the head of the Food and Drug Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there has been a significant reduction in medicine shortages compared to previous years. Heider Mohammadi attributed the improvement to easier access to foreign currency and smoother supply chain operations this year, ILNA reported. He emphasized that ensuring a steady supply of medicines, and medical equipment on sufficient and stable access to foreign currency and liquidity. When asked about the

availability of psychiatric medications, Mohammadi assured that there are no shortages in this area, as most of these drugs are produced domestically. He acknowledged that some patients with psychiatric conditions, prefer imported brands, and accommodations are made for such cases. He expressed hope that the instructions from the Central Bank will be implemented by the banks, as the lack of credit and liquidity remains the most significant challenge facing pharmaceutical companies. On the topic of the quality of domestically

produced medicines, Mohammadi refuted the notion that they fall short of the required standards. He highlighted that 99% of the Iranian pharmaceutical market comprises locally produced drugs, which are used by the population. Mohammadi emphasized that these medicines are manufactured according to global standards and are compared to branded drugs for efficacy. He added that special considerations are made for patients with specific conditions who may require imported medications due to compatibility issues.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Joint art exhibition 'Patterns of Friendship' to open in Moscow



An exhibition featuring the works of Russian and Iranian artists, titled 'Patterns of Friendship,' is set to open in Moscow on August 16, marking the first festival of its kind dedicated to cultural exchange between the two countries.

Organized by the Iranian Embassy and the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka, with support from the Russian Ministry of Culture, the event will showcase the artistic talents of young and established masters from both nations, IRNA reported. According to Masoud Ahmadvand, Head of the Cultural Representative Office at the Iranian Embassy, the festival is a tribute to the late Russian artist Sergey Andriyaka, with over 600 artists registering and submitting their works for the competition. Artists from Iran dedicated their pieces to Russia, while their Russian counterparts pre-

sented their interpretations of Iran. The exhibition will display 200 works by emerging talents and 40 pieces by renowned masters. It aims to provide a platform for young artists to enter the art market, with subsequent events planned to focus on other cultural and artistic domains. The opening ceremony will feature an award presentation for the best artwork from each country. The winners will receive cash prizes, while finalists will be awarded trips to Russia and Iran, along with other professional gifts. The 'Patterns of Friendship' exhibition will be hosted by the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka in Moscow for one month before traveling to other cities in Russia and Iran, including St. Petersburg, Kazan, Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz.

Iranian calligraphy film 'Noqte' to premiere on Russian TV

The first documentary film showcasing the art of Iranian calligraphy, titled 'Noqte,' is set to make its global debut on TV BRICS, an international media network reaching audiences in BRICS+ countries. The film, directed by Emir Valinejad, will premiere in Russia on August 12, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Moscow time, with repeat broadcasts scheduled for August 17, IRNA reported.

'Noqte,' which translates to "dot" in English, explores the history and beauty of Iranian calligraphy, a sacred art form rooted in the tradition of transcribing Qur'anic texts. The film highlights how this art form has transcended its religious origins to find expression in various artistic fields, including architecture, painting, and miniature art.

"Iranian calligraphy is a special world," said Valinejad, emphasizing the unique nature of this artistic tradition. "We are honored to have the opportunity to showcase 'Noqte' on TV BRICS and introduce viewers to this beautiful art form. We hope that the film will spark an interest in audiences to learn more about Iranian culture and its rich artistic heritage."

'Noqte' has already received critical acclaim, winning awards at prestigious film forums such as the XXXII International Film Forum "Golden Knight" and the International Competition VIVA 2020. It was also nominated for the XXI National Award "Laurel Branch".

The film, produced in 2020 with support from the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation, will be available in multiple languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese, on the TV BRICS portal following its television premiere.

