

9th Caspian Media Forum

Envoy: Iran, Russia reject clash of civilizations, advocate for intercultural dialogue



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, emphasized that both Iran and Russia oppose the concept of a clash of civilizations and believe in respecting all cultures. Speaking at the 9th Caspian Media Forum in Astrakhan, Russia, Jalali criticized the idea of one civilization's superiority, saying it is rejected by nations with rich, ancient cultures like Iran and Russia, IRNA wrote. He emphasized that intercultural dialogue and respect for all civilizations are essential. Jalali pointed to the concept of clash of civilizations predicated on the notion of one civilization's superiority, emphasizing that nations like the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation reject such views. He highlighted that nations with rich, ancient cultures advocate for intercultural dialogue and respect for all civilizations, asserting that no civilization should be subjected to insult. While criticizing the recent events at the opening ceremony

of the 2024 Paris Olympics, the Iranian envoy to Russia said, "What happened in the Paris Olympics is worth considering. One day Christianity is insulted, the next day Islam is insulted, the next day the Prophet of Islam and the next day the Qur'an is insulted. Such issues have been theorized in the issue of the clash of civilizations." Referring to the consequences of a unipolar world and the genocide in Gaza, he said that Iran and Russia oppose such issues, noting that the architects of a war of civilizations bear responsibility for the massacre in Gaza. Jalali emphasized that the media should strategize towards establishing a multipolar world and asserted that the Caspian field does not require the involvement of extra-regional powers. He also highlighted the strengthening ties between Iran and Russia, noting that under the administration of the late Ebrahim Raisi, Iran-Russia relations significantly broadened, assuring that Iran will maintain and develop its relations with Russia

and other neighboring nations with its new government. The Caspian Media Forum, which is held annually, has become a platform for strengthening dialogue and cooperation among media professionals in the Caspian region. The one-day conference, which focuses on "cultural dialogues" between the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea, is attended by about 120 foreign guests, including government officials, representatives of regions, expert community, and mass media. Representatives from the Caspian Sea littoral states, as well as delegations from Moldova and Uzbekistan, participated in the conference. Astrakhan Governor Igor Babushkin, who also spoke at the forum, said that the event aims to promote the dialogue of cultures and share working tools and mechanisms to improve its quality. "I am sure that today's platform will become a good place for media interaction and a point of unity for the peoples of the Caspian Sea," he said.

Iranian students win bronze medal at international AI Olympiad

Social Desk

Iran's national team won a bronze medal and ranked 18th overall at the first International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence in Bulgaria. The team of four students — Mohammad Sadra Kouhestani, Amir Hossein Zarei, Parsa Sadeghi, and Alireza Rahimi Yazdi — demonstrated exceptional skills in the competition, which drew around 40 teams from 33 countries, Mehr News Agency reported. In one of the three scientific challenges, the Iranian team provided the best solution, surpassing not only their competitors but also the problem's designer. The event aimed to highlight the importance of artificial intelligence education and



competition at the high school level. The first International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence took place from August 9 to 15 in Burgas, Bulgaria. Teams from

Poland, Singapore, and other countries won gold medals in the competition. Iran's Education Minister, Reza Moradi Sahraei, congratulated the team on their achievement,

expressing hope that the establishment of a national artificial intelligence organization will help Iran compete with other countries in scientific competitions.

Russia's Altyn festival to showcase Iranian films

Arts & Culture Desk

The 20th Altyn Minbar International Film Festival in Russia is set to kick off on September 6, featuring a lineup of Iranian films, including the opening film 'In the Arms of the Tree'. Directed by Babak Khajeh Pasha, 'In the Arms of the Tree' will be screened on September 6 as the festival's opening

film. The movie, a product of the Soureh Cinema Organization and the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, was previously nominated for seven Simorgh awards and won the Crystal Simorgh for Best Screenplay at the 41st Fajr Film Festival. In addition to 'In the Arms of the Tree', two Iranian animated

films will also be showcased at the festival. 'Loupetoo', directed by Abbas Askari and produced by Mohammad Hossein Sadeghi, and 'A Passenger from Ganora', directed by Ahmad Alamdar and produced by Mohammad Hossein Alamdar, will both be screened during the festival. The international distribution of these films is handled by the Soureh Cinema

Organization. The festival, which runs from September 6 to 11, aims to promote cultural exchange between Russian and international artists, showcase films that promote kindness, peace, and justice, and highlight the achievements of filmmakers who create movies that promote spiritual and cultural values.

Iranian mosques eyed for UNESCO World Heritage List

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has begun work on a UNESCO registration dossier for the "Iranian Mosque" as a global cultural heritage site, with hopes of completing the process by the end of the Iranian year. Abdolrasoul Vatandoust, manager of the project, said that the file is one of Iran's most important in the past 50 years. He noted that preliminary studies have started, but fieldwork has not yet begun, ISNA wrote. The project involves studying around 34 mosques in 12 provinces, which represent the evolution of mosque architecture

in Iran from the Islamic period to the present day. However, the number of mosques may change during the process, which is expected to take around two years. Vatandoust expressed hope that the project would be completed quickly, pending sufficient funding and cooperation from provincial authorities and other organizations. He also confirmed that mosques previously recognized by UNESCO, such as the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, would be included in the dossier, as they are part of a "chain" of mosques that showcase the evolution of Iranian mosque architecture.

