

Iran's Rasht city demonstrates tourism potential at BRICS Forum

Arts & Culture Desk

The mayor of Rasht, a city in northern Iran, introduced the city's tourism capacities to mayors and officials of BRICS countries at the 6th BRICS Urbanization Forum in Moscow. Rahim Shoqi, who is accompanying Iranian officials at the forum, highlighted Rasht's unique cultural and tourism attractions, including its local cuisine, which has gained international recognition. Rasht is known as the "food heaven" of Iran, with over 250 types of local dishes and more than 2,000 restaurants and cafes.

Shoqi said the city has committed to promoting its natural and organic food, which has been praised by international experts, including French Iranologist Christian Bromberger, IRNA wrote. The city's efforts to develop its culinary industry have led to increased employment and tourism, he added. Rasht has also been recognized as a UNESCO Creative City, with a focus on gastronomy, and has established a permanent secretariat for creative cities in Iran. The city plans to develop a food museum, breakfast park, and a campaign to promote local

cuisine. Shoqi also noted that Rasht is a popular destination for foreign tourists, particularly from Arab and Central Asian countries. He expressed interest in developing trade relations with BRICS countries, including through the Anzali Free Trade Zone and flights between Rasht and Astrakhan. The two-day BRICS forum, focused on development and network cooperation on various topics with Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African countries, as well as the climate agenda, concluded its work on Wednesday, August 28.



● IRNA

Iranian film 'Nietzschean Suicide' heads to Vancouver



Iranian short film 'Nietzschean Suicide' is set to compete in the 43rd Vancouver International Film Festival, which kicks off on Sept. 26.

The film, written and directed by Payam Kurdistanani and co-produced by Kurdistanani and Bahman Rezaei, was shot in Ghazali Cinema Town. It will be screened alongside other international films in the festival's short film competition, Tasnim News Agency reported. The 10-day festival, which runs until Oct. 6, aims to promote cross-cultural understanding through cinema, develop the art of filmmaking, and connect industry professionals. 'Nietzschean Suicide' has already made a name for itself, winning four top prizes at the 40th Tehran International Short Film Festival, including Best Film,

Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Editing, and an Honorary Diploma for Best Set and Costume Design. It was also nominated for the 13th Iran Short Film Association Awards and won Best Film at the Berlin Kurdish Film Festival. It was a contender for the Crystal Simorgh Award for Best Short Film at the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival. The film features a cast including Bakhtiar Panjei, Farshid Gavili, Osveh Sadeqi, Saeed Ahmadi, Mohammad Rauf Mohammadi, and Maryam Boobani. The film's plot revolves around a small town's only midwife who decides to take her own life.

Iran, Tajikistan to collaborate on Int'l Sports Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Tajikistan agreed to collaborate on the International Sports Film Festival, with the Tajikistan National Olympic Committee expressing support for the event.

A meeting was held between the representative of the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) in West Asia and the Secretary General of the Tajikistan National Olympic Committee, where they emphasized the importance of cooperation between the two countries on the festival, Mehr News Agency reported.

Mojtaba Alavi, representative of the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) in West Asia, said the festival in Iran has reached its 14th edition and has been met with enthusiasm from filmmakers from around 60 countries. During the meeting, held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, Alavi and the Chairman of Tajikistan Olympians Association, Mavzuna Chorjeva, discussed the possibility of hosting the festival in Tajikistan.

Alavi noted that the President of Tajikistan, who is also the head of the National Olympic Committee, has shown interest in hosting cultural and artistic events, and is likely to support the festival. When asked why Tajikistan was chosen

as the primary destination for expanding the festival's reach in the sports genre, Alavi cited the cultural ties between Iran and Tajikistan, including shared language and ethnic and territorial relations. He added that a proposal for co-hosting the 14th International Sports Film Festival in Dushanbe has been submitted to the Tajikistan Olympians Association.



No monkeypox cases confirmed in country:

Health official

Social Desk

Iran's deputy health minister said that no cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in the country, despite rumors of outbreaks in some cities.

Hossein Farshidi dismissed reports of monkeypox cases as "rumors" and assured that the country's disease surveillance system is closely monitoring the situation around the clock.

He urged the public to disregard rumors and not to worry, ILNA reported. Farshidi noted that the World Health Organization has declared a public health emergency due to monkeypox outbreaks in some African and European countries. As a precautionary measure, Iran has stepped up health checks and controls at its borders.

The deputy health minister emphasized that a definitive diagnosis of monkeypox can only be made through laboratory tests, and warned that spreading unverified news or images can cause unnecessary panic. He reassured the public that if any suspected cases are detected, they will be announced through official channels.

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How science exploration parks affect education in Iran



By Mehdi Jalilian
Guest contributor

Science exploration parks are places where every outstanding scientific phenomenon and unfathomable process will be put on display for students and youth so that they can make the most of them and elevate themselves. Most of these parks are solely designed to spark the

public interest, provide the learners with more insights into the scientific phenomena, and principally offer learning experiences. These parks are equipped with practical demonstrations, easy access facilities, and exhibitions which make learning about science more interactive, engaging, and—most vital of all—fun. These parks that are set up under the aegis of presidency offer workshops, science camps, and education programs for several different

ages to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and exercise. Science exploration parks follow an experiential learning approach in the educational centers. In experiential learning, students learn by direct or first-hand self-experience or naturalistic observation and not by mere passivity and instructions. In this way, a student can learn physics through testing a force and motion under a controlled environment,

or learn biology while examining the live specimens and ecosystems, features that form the backbone of such parks. Oftentimes, in the science parks, students engage in collaborative learning because they might need to work together or do experiments. This norm replicates what always happens in the real field of scientific research, and with the essence of teamwork, they facilitate the practice of working in

groups. From these group activities, students acquire critical thinking, powers of communication, and problem-solving skills. They also learn to appreciate the different perspectives and approaches. In the case of Iran, the availability of quality educational facilities varies throughout the country according to the geographical location and associated development, or lack of it, in terms of economic activity. These parks are urban-based

in most cases but the reach of the children of other regions, including underprivileged areas, will be possible. Truth be told, science exploration parks have a really equalizing influence in the society. As a result, we can realize that these kinds of parks offer free or low-cost admission and educational programs, and will make a great influence on high-quality scientific education in order to reduce the educational gap.