

Envoy: Japan, Iran cultivate cultural ties via academic collaboration

Arts & Culture Desk

In a recent address at the international symposium 'Art and the Space in Between', Japanese Ambassador to Iran, Tamaki Tsukada, emphasized the importance of cultural and academic collaboration between the two nations. He stated, "Regardless of political issues, an academic relationship between Iran and Japan has been established, and we welcome student exchanges between the two countries." The symposium aims to enhance comparative studies between cultures and facilitate the exchange of ideas in art and architecture along the Silk Road, IRNA reported.

Tsukada expressed his satisfaction with the event, noting that it allows the peoples of both countries to become more familiar with each other's cultures. He said, "We can utilize the historical connections and shared values between Iran and Japan." Tsukada further highlighted the need to strengthen student exchanges, aiming to promote Iranian culture and introduce it to other fields. He explained that understanding the cultural nuances of Iran has been a "remarkable" experience for many Japanese scholars. Elham Andaroodi, the symposium's secretary, noted that one of the primary goals is to identify

common themes in the architecture of Iran and Japan. She remarked, "Japan is positioned at the end of the Silk Road and serves as a gateway to technology, while Iran possesses a rich cultural and historical background." This synergy enables both countries to gain insights from each other's experiences, making mutual understanding essential. Andaroodi also pointed out that Japanese architecture has become a focal point of global innovation, mentioning that nine Japanese architects recently won prestigious awards. She encouraged participants to learn from Japan's journey of modernity built upon traditional roots, stating, "We must find

a connection to link our historical architecture with the needs of today's society." Discussing the similarities in transitional spaces within Iranian and Japanese architecture, Andaroodi highlighted the rich cultural and artistic heritage of both nations. She said, "We are very rich in the realm of transition and threshold, with elements like domes, courtyards, corridors, and gardens providing powerful connections between indoor and outdoor spaces." The symposium also coincides with an exhibition titled 'Journey along the Silk Road,' featuring works from renowned Japanese architects Arata Isozaki, Shigeru Ban, and Ryue Nishizawa.



This exhibition will run from January 7 to February 6 at the Kamal-ol-Molk Museum Gallery

and the Negarestan Garden in Tehran, welcoming researchers, students, artists, and enthusiasts alike.

'Kamal al-Fann', a caricatured call to resistance by Yemeni artist



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A solo exhibition titled 'Kamal al-Fann', featuring 120 pieces by Yemeni artist Kamal Sharaf, was inaugurated at the Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran on January 8, 2025. The opening ceremony was attended by Sharaf, who is currently in Iran, as well as numerous artists and families of martyrs, with the event focusing on the theme of resistance. Among the prominent attendees were Iranian graphic designers and caricaturists, including Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, the editor-in-chief of Iran Cartoon website, Masoud Nejabati, and Maziar Bijani, alongside Russian artists Alexandra and Alexander Faldin. The event also honored the family of martyr Mostafa Mohammad Mirzaei, the only Iranian martyr buried in Yemen.

Prior to the exhibition opening, a ceremony honoring Kamal Sharaf was held at the Mehr Hall of the Art Bureau, attended by notable figures such as Masoud Nejabati and Ali Hayati, as well as the mother of martyr Mostafa Mohammad Mirzaei. Masoud Shojai Tabatabai, in his remarks at the ceremony, expressed pride in hosting Sharaf and the Faldin artists, stating, "The works of Kamal Sharaf represent a positive contribution to the resistance front." He emphasized that while Sharaf's art may appear simple, it is technically sophisticated and distinctive. "This artist has a special focus on resistance and has not been able to overlook the events in Gaza and Lebanon," he added, noting that Sharaf's work serves as a testament to the struggle of the Palestinian people. Abdulrahman Rajeh, President of



the Yemeni Solidarity Association in Iran, also addressed the gathering. He expressed gratitude to the organizers of the event and acknowledged Iran for its support of Yemeni resistance. "Mr. Sharaf is one of the few Yemenis who has engaged in resistance caricature," he noted, highlighting Sharaf's recognition from senior Houthi leaders. Marzieh Hashemi, Secretary of the 15th Ammar Popular Film Festival, emphasized the importance of artistic expression in conveying the realities of Palestine and resistance, stating, "Every artist, especially in resistance countries, has a duty to address these realities." Following the ceremony, Kamal Sharaf shared his mixed emotions, stating, "I promise the mother of martyr Mohammad Mirzaei that I will visit his grave." He expressed both joy in partic-

ipating in the event and sorrow from a video shown during the ceremony. "The world not only watches the crimes of the last 15 months but also assists the criminals in their actions," he remarked. Sharaf elaborated on his perspective on caricature as a form of resistance, declaring, "I have viewed my work in caricature as a jihadist endeavor. I see myself as a soldier fighting against the enemy." He referenced Imam Khomeini's assertion that "America is the great Satan," affirming his commitment to using caricature as a tool for resistance. "Caricature is a language understood by all artists globally, regardless of the language they speak," he concluded. The exhibition 'Kamal al-Fann' is now open to the public at the Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau, showcasing the impactful works of the Yemeni artist.

Alzheimer's disease onset age drops to 45 in Iran: Health official



Social Desk

The President of the Iran Dementia and Alzheimer's Association, Masoumeh Salehi, raised an alarming concern regarding the decreasing age of Alzheimer's disease onset in the country. In a recent visit by Ali Rabiee, Iranian president's aide in social affairs, Salehi revealed that the association has identified 400 individuals aged 45 who are suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Salehi highlighted the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elderly population, stating that the restrictions, social isolation, and stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic have contributed to a rise in dementia cases, particularly Alzheimer's, both globally and in Iran, IRNA reported. According to IRNA, Salehi emphasized the need for

specialized support for Alzheimer's patients. The association is working towards providing insurance coverage and support for these individuals. She also announced plans to establish an imaging center and MRI facilities at the association's premises and to set up neurology and psychiatry clinics to improve access to services for patients. Ali Rabiee acknowledged Alzheimer's as a noncontagious disease with irreversible consequences for patients. He emphasized the importance of addressing social variables associated with noncontagious diseases and expressed his commitment to attending the association's monthly meetings to collaboratively devise strategies for addressing the concerns of dementia patients, including those with Alzheimer's.

What is Iraqi ...

Therefore, weakening or destroying the military capabilities of such groups could be presented as an immediate objective for Washington and Tel Aviv. However, some evidence suggests that Washington has recently prevented direct Israeli attacks on Iraq, resulting in pressures on Sudani and the Coordination Framework to seize the opportunity to disarm the resistance groups. It is not unexpected that rumors about a political regime change in Iraq represent targeted efforts to pressure the premier and the Coordination Framework to accept fundamental changes, such as disarm-

ment or the integration of factions into the army. The issue of collecting weapons from the resistance groups and handing them over to the government, which has been seriously raised and emphasized by Shia religious authorities like Grand Ayatollah Sistani, the leader of the Hikmat movement, and Motallebi Sadr, reflects Iraq's concerns about being involuntarily drawn into regional conflicts. Baghdad, especially after the escalation of Israeli actions and heavy attacks on resistance groups in Gaza and Lebanon, and its direct confrontation with Iran, believes that these groups might un-

essarily drag the country into tensions that would offer no benefits to Iraq. Therefore, it is expected that one of the main pillars of Sudani's negotiations with senior Iranian officials will be persuading the resistance groups to disarm. This request is not only the demand of the Iraqi government but also enjoys the support of the Coordination Framework. In the current regional environment, Sudani and the Coordination Framework are striving to convince Iran regarding the new conditions in Syria and to align Tehran's perspective on the Arab country's developments and its

new leadership with that of other regional countries. After Tehran, Sudani will travel to Qatar. Given Doha's good relations with Tehran and the Syrian groups, it appears that the Iraqi premier will request Qatari authorities to facilitate, in line with these efforts, the groundwork for a relative rapprochement between Tehran and Damascus or at least a reduction in tensions between them. On the eve of Donald Trump's return to power, Sudani is undertaking serious diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions, as any instability in the region could have direct and negative conse-

quences for Iraq and even increase the likelihood of terrorism returning to the country. Ultimately, the successful holding of the upcoming Arab League summit in Baghdad, which will be the first summit without Bashar al-Assad's presence, holds special significance for Iraq. Issues related to Syria and the Gaza war will be among its main topics. Utilizing these opportunities, along with threats and active diplomacy, Sudani aims to strengthen Iraq's position, secure the maximum benefits for the country, and keep it away from potential regional threats.