

● License Holder Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 ● ICPI CEO Ali Motaghian
 ● Editor-in-chief Mostafa Shirmohammadi
 ● Int'l & National Desk Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
 ● Economy Desk Reza Abesh Ahmadi, Sadeq Dehqan
 ● Sports Desk Amirhadi Arsalanpour
 ● Iranica Desk Leila Imeni
 ● Arts & Culture Desk Hamideh Hosseini
 ● Language Editor Mehdi Ebrahim

● Editorial Dept. Tel +98 21 84711226
 ● Address 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
 ● ICPI Publisher +98 21 88548892-5
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 ● Website www.irandaily.ir/newspaperirandaily.ir
 ● Email irandaily@icpi.ir
 ● Printing House Iran Cultural & Press Institute

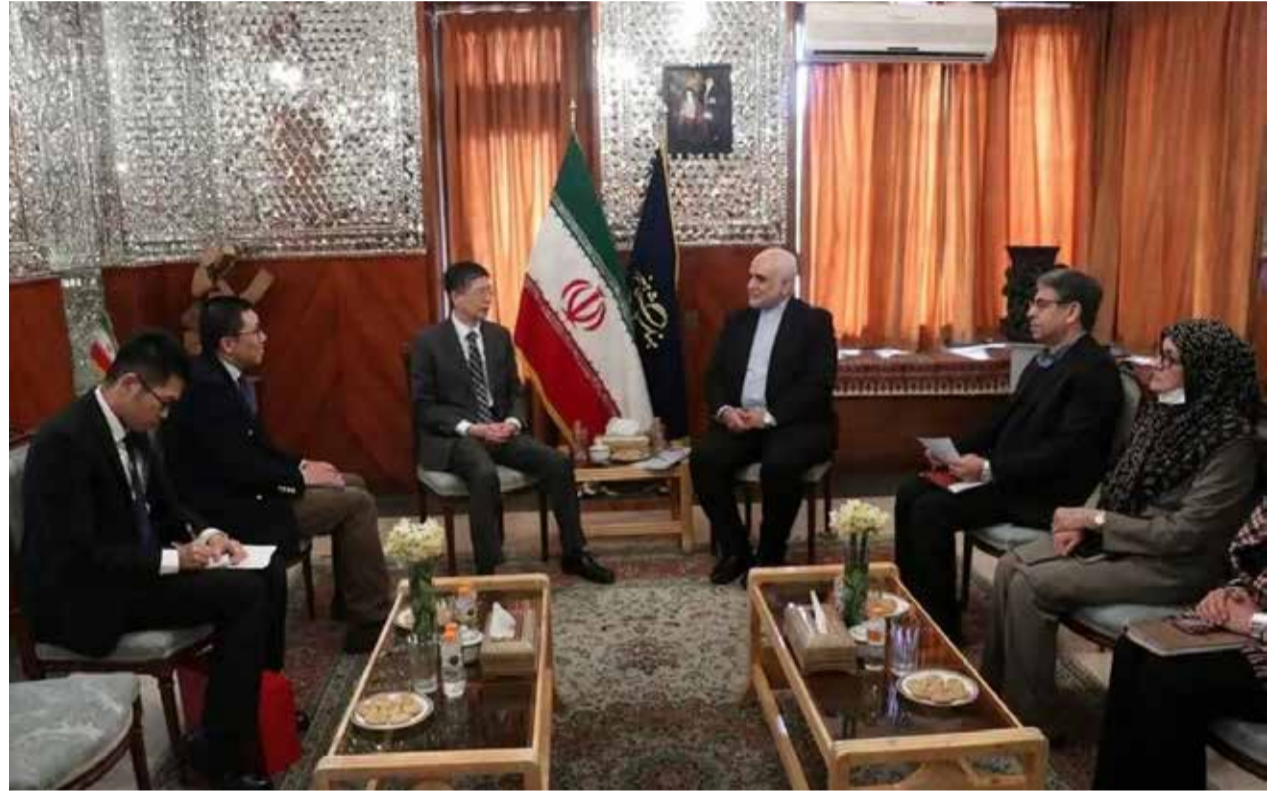


Chinese 'One Belt, One Road' initiative requires cultural, artistic integration: *Official*

Arts & Culture Desk

Majid Shah-Hosseini, the head of the Iranian Academy of Arts, asserted that China's strategic initiative "One Belt, One Road," currently being pursued in West Asia, would be incomplete without a cultural and artistic framework. He made these remarks during a meeting with Cong Peiwu, the Chinese ambassador to Iran, and his accompanying delegation, IRNA reported. The gathering, attended by embassy secretaries and several officials from the Iranian academy, focused on reviewing the historical cultural and artistic ties between Iran and China. Participants exchanged ideas and proposed strategies for implementing a recently signed memorandum of understanding between the art academies of both nations. During the meeting, Shah-Hosseini expressed his pleasure with the official visits that took place during the Iranian academy's delegation trip to China, thanking the Chinese side for their hospitality. He highlighted the vast intellectual and artistic potential of the academy's members, whom he described as the "heartbeat" of the organization, particularly in areas like traditional and modern arts, artificial intelligence, future studies in art, and digital art. He stated, "The Belt and Road initiative, without cultural and artistic attachments, is essentially an unfinished project." In this context, the Iranian Academy of Arts is eager to engage in collaborative efforts within cinematic

projects, including "Silk Road 2," organizing biennial exhibitions for Belt and Road countries, translating art books, conducting webinars to showcase the cultural and historical identities of Iran and China, and hosting art exhibitions such as a painting show by artist Juan Zhou. Shah-Hosseini emphasized that this strategic initiative serves the interests of both ancient civilizations and will only be realized through practical steps taken by both academies. Shah-Hosseini also noted the need for a comprehensive understanding of ancient civilizations, stating, "Unlike the torrents from emerging countries lacking deep-rooted cultural foundations, ancient civilizations offer gentle and enduring rains that rejuvenate cultural climates." He expressed hope for a future where culture and art become a common language in today's world. Ambassador Cong Peiwu agreed with the Iranian proposals, describing the discussed ideas as wise and insightful. He emphasized that cultural exchange and civilizational interaction play a crucial role in the relationship between the two countries, stating, "This dialogue and peaceful coexistence among civilizations remove distances and tensions." Cong highlighted the historical significance of the Silk Road as a conduit for cultural exchange, noting that instruments such as the Iranian Sorna (double-reed musical instrument) and Barbat (a string instrument) have traveled to China along this route. He mentioned recent cultural cooperation, including the ongoing exhibition



"The Glory of Ancient Iran" taking place in three major Chinese cities. Plus, he pointed out advancements in Persian language education, stating that over ten universities are now nurturing future experts to enhance bilateral relations. In closing, both sides exchanged gifts as a symbolic gesture and expressed hope that continued collaboration would fos-

ter further growth in cultural and artistic endeavors. The "One Belt, One Road" initiative, introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in the fall of 2013 during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, encompasses the "Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road." This project aims to connect four continents, and Beijing seeks to utilize its re-

Head of the Iranian Academy of Arts Majid Shah-Hosseini (3rd R) and Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu discuss cultural ties as part of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative during a meeting in Tehran, on January 21, 2025. ● ILNA sources and those of various countries, including Iran, to advance the initiative.

Fajr Int'l Theater Festival, catalyst for nat'l unity, cultural exchange: *Minister*

Arts & Culture Desk

In a message to the 43rd Fajr International Theater Festival, Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, emphasized the festival's potential to foster deep synergies that enhance national unity. He noted that the event holds the promise of instilling joy, tolerance,

and global dialogue, IRNA wrote. Salehi's statement highlighted the rich legacy of Iranian Islamic art, which he described as a "treasure trove of truth-seeking, virtue, and shared human aesthetics." He asserted that the performing arts in Iran, drawing upon this profound heritage, embody

visual attractiveness and substantive depth, allowing for the expression of lofty messages on the stages of Iranian theater. The minister acknowledged the dedication of artists throughout generations, who have preserved the authentic essence of their homeland with passion and commitment.

He also recognized the audience's role, particularly in challenging historical contexts, in safeguarding national values and cultural heritage, sometimes at great personal cost. "They have embodied knowledge, goodness, and beauty in their lives with remarkable patience and resilience," he stated. Salehi characterized

these individuals as the intellectual and ethical assets of the nation, contributing significantly to the quality of Iran's performing arts. The minister further expressed that the festival is ripe for utilizing the rich capacities of theater as a medium for conveying the peace-loving spirit of the Iranian people.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi Cartoonist



Iranians spend 12 to 30 minutes a day reading

Arts & Culture Desk

The average time spent on reading in Iran ranges from 12 to 30 minutes daily, the head of the Iran Book and Literature House, revealed according to various assessments. During a visit to the Abi cultural complex and bookstore in Shiraz, Ebrahim Heidari, noted, "There are differing metrics for evaluating the reading rate in the country. Based on several authorities, the average reading time is reported to be between 12 and 30 minutes." He cited research conducted in 2020 by the Research Center for Culture, Art and Communications, which indicated a reading average of 12 minutes, while the Statistical Center of Iran reported just nine minutes. Other

sources have suggested a higher figure of 30 minutes, IRNA reported. Heidari also addressed the declining print runs of books, attributing this trend to a combination of economic, cultural, political, and technological factors. "Despite facing challenges, books still have their admirers," he stated, acknowledging that this sector, like others, has experienced reductions in engagement. He emphasized that the economy influences culture, explaining that books are cultural commodities evaluated alongside other goods. "The reading rate is not confined solely to books," Heidari added. He highlighted the government's approach to fostering a politically and culturally open environment, clarify-



ing that this does not equate to a disregard for the arts. "The publishing and literary sectors require a space for freedom within the framework of the law," he noted. Heidari concluded by underscoring the government's commitment to decentralizing cultural and artistic events and promoting public participation in these efforts.