



Iran calls for oriental culture revival, tourism alliance at SCO summit

Arts & Culture Desk

Tourism should be used to rebuild global trust and bridge civilizations, not just boost economies, Hojatollah Ayoubi, senior advisor to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts told a gathering of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) tourism ministers in China. Speaking on behalf of Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, Ayoubi described the East as "the cradle of meaning" and tourism as a tool to rebuild "global trust" and challenge dominant narratives, IRNA reported.

He framed tourism not just as an economic driver, but a civilizational "bridge" that can reconnect nations fractured by modern isolation and mistrust.

"Tourism has the power to break media monopolies," Ayoubi said, emphasizing its role in correcting distorted narratives and re-establishing people-to-people ties.

He added that countries like Iran offer "living culture and enduring traditions," which he sees as vital for global spiritual and cultural restoration.

Criticizing the spiritual void in Western modernity, he said the West is "trapped in racial supremacy and meaninglessness," while the East has successfully merged tradition and modernity.

Renewal in the East, he argued, means not imitation but "reinterpretation" of its historic wisdom.

"Humanity is yearning for the warmth of mysticism and the open arms of meaning-driven cultures," Ayoubi told delegates, urging SCO members to loosen visa barriers and boost intra-regional tourism to fuel both reconciliation and strategic cooperation.

He tied this vision to larger geopolitical initiatives such as China's Belt and Road project and the revival of the Silk Road, calling for "real unity among nations with a shared fate."

Ayoubi also invited SCO members to attend a high-level summit on cultural, artistic, and health tourism to be hosted in Iran next year.

Ayoubi condemned Israel's recent strikes on Iranian territory and called on SCO states to take a firm stance in defense of Iran's sovereign rights. "Justice," he said, "is not just a legal demand. It is a civilizational necessity aligned with the goals of the World Tourism Organization and the human ideals of the SCO."

On the sidelines of the SCO culture ministers' summit, Iran and Tajikistan called for a formal union to promote Persian language and heritage across the region. Ayoubi met with Tajikistan's Minister of Culture, Matluba Khan Sattoriyon, to stress the deep-rooted cultural ties between the two nations. Both sides agreed that Iran and Tajikistan, as "the two wings of Persian culture," must lead efforts to unify the Persian-speaking world.



Hojatollah Ayoubi, senior advisor to Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, speaks during the 22nd meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) culture ministers and a tourism leaders' conference in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, July 7, 2025.

● IRNA

Ayoubi proposed building a "permanent framework" for cultural and academic cooperation, drawing parallels to pan-Turkic initiatives already in motion.

"With our shared treasures in language, history, and philosophy," he said, "we must step up and shape a cohesive cultural space."

'Black Scarf' wins jury prize at Spanish festival



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Alireza Shahhosseini was awarded the Special Jury Prize for his short film 'Black Scarf' at the DiversidArte Social Inclusion Short Film Festival in Spain, according to a statement by the film's media advisor.

The decision was made by a jury of leading Spanish film figures, Kike Otero, Alberto

Tome, and Álvaro Pita, after viewing the six finalists in the main fiction category, IRNA reported.

The jury praised 'Black Scarf' as "deeply moving" and "remarkably striking," selecting it as the best short film of 2025.

The award places the film among the most talked-about independent works on the European circuit this year,

highlighting the growing global footprint of Iranian cinema despite ongoing geopolitical friction.

Shahhosseini donated his €500 cash prize to the families of those killed or injured during the 12-day war between Iran and Israel earlier this year. The gesture was described as a tribute to "martyrs and war veterans," aligning the film's narrative

themes with current political undertones.

Produced by Shahhosseini Film, an international production house, 'Black Scarf' weaves a haunting tale inspired by a chilling metaphor: "Do you know anything about spiders?... They eat their mates." The line appears in the film's official synopsis and mirrors its psychological tone.

The cast includes Pasha Rostami, Tara Majidzadeh, Lotfolah Seifi, Mahna Seyyedi, the late Hatem Mashmouli, Javad Falahatkar, Hasti Gharib, Iraj Abedi, Naser Marefat, Ebrahim Naji, and Arshia Cheraghi. The festival has gained a reputation for spotlighting bold, socially reflective storytelling from across the globe. This year's edition took place in Galicia, northwestern Spain.

Date: 1404/4/18 - No.:0455/7789

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Firstst Announcement

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of **3×50000±5% MTS of Granular Triple Super Phosphate** through one step international tender. All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated **9/7/2025** until **Tuesday** dated **15/7/2025** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **16/8/2025** (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be on **Sunday** dated **17/8/2025** at **14:00** with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

1- The bid bond value should be at € **568004** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on **30/6/2025** for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be **IRR 189,243,589,281** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public Relations and International Affairs of Agricultural Support Services Company

4,000 housing units damaged in Iran-Israel war

Tehran Municipality takes over rebuilding

Social Desk

Iran's government confirmed on Tuesday that more than 4,000 housing units were damaged during the recent 12-day war. Responsibility for rebuilding these homes has now been fully transferred to Tehran's municipality, officials said, according to IRNA. The move marks a major shift from earlier plans that involved direct compensation through public funds.

Majid Joudi, deputy head of the Housing Foundation's reconstruction division, said about 3,500 units require repair, while 500 need complete reconstruction. All evaluation files and damage assessments gathered by 140 experts have been handed over to city authorities.

The change comes after the cabinet initially approved a compensation plan but reversed course in a follow-up session, assigning the municipality full control over reconstruction efforts in Tehran. This includes not only repairs and rebuilding but also emergency and temporary housing for affected residents. The handover has created uncertainty among homeowners and officials. Mohammad Reza Rezaei-Kouchi, head of parliament's Urban Development Commission, noted that while a reconstruction package has been approved in principle, it has yet to be formally communicated to the responsible bodies. "We need clarity on which agency will lead the rebuilding," he said. Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani stated the city



is prepared to handle the task and has begun planning for emergency shelters, including prefabricated concrete bunkers to be installed underground. He emphasized readiness to act swiftly if hostilities resume. Zakani also addressed concerns about "density sales," a practice of granting additional building permits to developers in exchange for fees, which some fear could reduce homeowners' land shares. He said the city is trying to balance reconstruction needs with protecting property owners' rights, warning that "people should not be sidelined" in the rebuilding process. The municipality plans a multi-tiered reconstruction approach: from city-led projects to owner-led repairs and complete rebuilds involving contractors. Zakani called on the government to finalize approvals and fund releases without delay. "The city is ready. Now we need the paperwork to catch up," he said.