



Iran, Turkmenistan agree on cooperation in tourism, cultural development

Arts & Culture Desk

A joint meeting was held in Tehran on Tuesday between Deputy Secretary of Iran's Free Zones Secretariat Mehdi Mazinani and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Ylyas Gayypov, with the two sides agreeing to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and cultural sectors. During the session, Mazinani and Gayypov reached agreements aimed at strengthening cultural and tourism exchanges between Iran's free and special economic zones and Turkmenistan. The Iranian and Turkmen officials underscored the deep historical, civilizational, and cultural bonds between the two countries, describing their shared border of over 1,000 kilometers as a "frontier of friendship." Emphasizing the need to leverage free trade and special economic zones to deepen bilateral relations, Mazinani

and Gayypov also discussed establishing direct flights between Turkmenistan and Iran's Kish, Qeshm, and Chabahar islands to boost tourism. Planned initiatives include a forthcoming visit by Turkmenistan's ambassador to Chabahar to explore potential investment opportunities, the dispatch of a Turkmen investment delegation to participate in hotel and tourism complex projects in Iran's free zones, and organizing joint tourism events, such as Iran Cultural Nights in Turkmenistan, which highlight the shared heritage of the ancient Silk Road and showcase the tourism potential of Iran's free and special economic zones. In the cultural section, both sides agreed to jointly organize a commemoration ceremony for Magtymguly Pyragy, the renowned Turkmen poet and symbol of cultural identity for both nations, emphasizing his role in strength-



Deputy Secretary of Iran's Free Zones Secretariat Mehdi Mazinani (R) and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Ylyas Gayypov meet to agree on cultural exchanges in Tehran on November 4, 2025.
● ISNA

ening cultural ties between Iran and Turkmenistan. The Turkmen ambassador, for his part, referring to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's statement that "Iran and Turkmenistan are kin with extensive cultural commonalities," stated that these shared cultural and historical bonds provide a solid foundation for expanding comprehensive cooperation. Gayypov stressed that such relations should be further developed through joint cultural, tourism, and economic programs. Both sides also reaffirmed their com-



mitment to continuing joint meetings and establishing an executive working

group to follow up on the agreements reached.

Mokri's 'Black Rabbit, White Rabbit' throws down gauntlet in Saudi festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The fifth Red Sea International Film Festival, taking place in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah from December 4 - 13, 2025, unveiled on Tuesday its main competition lineup of 16 films, which includes the newest work from Iranian filmmaker Shahram Mokri, "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit." The film — produced as a joint effort between Tajikistan and the UAE with Negar Eskandarfar as producer — was written by Mokri and Nasim Ahmadpour and features an international cast including Babak Karimi, Hasti Mahmayi,

Kubra Dilbova, and Bijan Davlyatov. Previously, Mokri's film won the "Asia's Future" award at the Busan International Film Festival and was also shown at festivals in London and Chicago. The movie is now Tajikistan's official submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 2026 Oscars. The story centers on three intertwining narratives — a mysterious film device, an enigmatic audition, and a seemingly random road incident — woven together in Mokri's signature non-linear style, blending long takes with both dark humor



and elements of magical realism. "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" is Mokri's fourth feature film. He is renowned for previous acclaimed works such as "Fish & Cat" (2013), which won the Special Prize in Venice's Orizzonti section, as well as "Invasion" (2017) and "Careless Crime" (2020), the latter of which won the Chicago jury prize and was also selected for Venice.

Aliakbari's 'Burial Permit' to be screened in US, UK, Turkey

Arts & Culture Desk

The short narrative film "Burial Permit," written and directed by Hashem Aliakbari, has been accepted into three prestigious festivals in the United States, England, and Turkey. The short narrative film "Burial Permit," written and directed by Hashem Aliakbari, will participate in the 25th Maryland Film Festival in the United States. The festival — held from November 5 to 9 at the historic

SNF Parkway Theatre in Baltimore — is one of the prestigious events of independent American cinema, showcasing creative works by prominent and emerging filmmakers from around the world, along with specialized sessions featuring renowned figures in American cinema for discussion and exchange of experiences. Additionally, the film "Burial Permit" successfully reached the semi-finalist stage of the 30th Rhode Island International Film Festival, one of the

festivals approved by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars). The film has also been accepted into The Bay International Film Festival (England) in January 2026, and the 5th Golden Bridge Istanbul Short Film Festival (Turkey) in October 2025. The short film "Burial Permit" is directed by Hashem Aliakbari and produced by Ghazal Mojtahedi, featuring actors such as Hamidreza Mohammadi, Navid Laeghi Moghadam, Sahra Asadollahi, Setareh Hey-



darabadi, Ali Ghiasvand, Touran Ramazani, with the presence of Amir Ghaffar Manesh, and child actor Mahtisa Pasandideh.

Deputy minister: Asian countries seeking health services from Iran

Social Desk

Deputy Tourism Minister Anushirvan Mohseni Bandpey announced on Tuesday that in the field of health tourism, the countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan are seeking to receive health services from Iran. "Iran has civilizational, historical, cultural, natural, religious, and spiritual capacities, and in the health sector, thanks to the [1979] Islamic Revolution, we are witnessing the training of specialized and skilled human resources in all medical fields," Mohseni Bandpey said. "In the field of health, we are superior among the countries in the region, and in some medical fields, we

are on par with European and American countries." Stressing that a system has been designed for health tourism, whose oversight is entrusted to the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Ministry of Health, he said, "In this system, the type of service is specified from the moment health tourists enter the country until their discharge from the hospital." In the past, Mohseni Bandpey said, healthcare services were provided in a way that could not be tracked or monitored, but with this system, standard services are provided to tourist patients under the supervision of responsible authorities. "Every tourist traveling to Iran from South Asia spends an average of 1,270



dollars, but this figure is three to four times higher in the health sector," he added. The number of foreign tourists entering Iran in March and April increased by 48.5 percent compared to the same period last year. Before the US-Israeli imposed war broke out in June, tourist arrivals increased by eight percent, but later, it was minus 22 percent; also, the number of tourists entering the country in July was minus 52 percent and in August was minus 68 percent.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT (Prequalification Stage)

Consultant: Alborz Design and Structure Consulting Engineers
Employer: Islamic Republic of Iran Football Federation

The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) intends to select a qualified contractor for the design, construction, and implementation of the new FFIRI Headquarters Building through an international two-stage tender (prequalification and bid evaluation) process.

All international companies with relevant technical, financial, and professional experience are invited to express their interest and obtain the prequalification documents.

1) Tender Subject: Design, Construction, and Implementation of the New FFIRI Headquarters Building

2) Employer: Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

3) Project Location: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

4) Tender Type: International, Two-Stage (Prequalification and Bid Evaluation)

5) Document Collection Period: From 2025/11/06 to 2025/11/14 obtainable via <https://tsalborz.co>

6) Deadline for Submission of Prequalification Documents: Until 2025/12/02 local time on <https://tsalborz.co>

7) Additional Notes:

- Applicants must possess valid technical and professional qualifications and relevant experience.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.
- All costs of participation shall be borne by the applicants.

For further information, interested parties may contact:
email: info@tsalborz.co

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)