

# Tehran, Beijing eye joint restoration of war-damaged heritage sites



Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi (R) and Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu hold a box containing Chinese traditional handicrafts presented to the Iranian side after a meeting in Tehran June 16, 2026. ● CHTN

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and China are exploring joint efforts to restore historical sites damaged during the recent war, Iranian cultural heritage officials said on Tuesday after talks in Tehran between Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi and Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu, as the two countries moved to expand cooperation in conservation, tourism and cultural exchanges. The discussions centered on restoration technologies, knowledge transfer and broader cultural engagement between the two ancient civilizations, with both

sides emphasizing the role of heritage diplomacy in strengthening people-to-people ties, CHTN reported. "Iran and China have enjoyed deep cultural and friendly relations for more than 2,000 years," Darabi said, expressing hope for greater Chinese tourism and wider collaboration across sectors overseen by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Darabi called for closer cooperation through the Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (ACHA), describing the organization as a mechanism for mutual support during crises. He also praised China for

hosting the exhibition Glory of Ancient Iran, calling it a successful example of cultural partnership. Pointing to damage inflicted on cultural landmarks during the recent conflict, Darabi said 149 historical sites across 20 provinces had been affected, including five UNESCO World Heritage properties, 54 museums and seven historic urban districts. He noted that Tehran's UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace sustained damage after being struck twice during the hostilities. Seeking Chinese support for reconstruction efforts, Darabi highlighted China's advances in

underwater archaeology, digital preservation, heritage scanning and restoration technologies. "China has achieved valuable results in conservation science, and Iran is interested in benefiting from these experiences," he said. Cong said Iran and China, as two of the world's oldest civilizations, should continue to broaden cultural cooperation alongside their political and economic relations. He noted that Iranian cultural exhibitions in China have attracted significant public interest, reflecting growing appreciation for Iran's history and civilization among Chinese audiences. The envoy described the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to deepen cooperation in tourism and cultural heritage. Recalling a recent visit to Golestan Palace, he called the site "a symbol of the grandeur of Iranian civilization" and voiced regret over the damage it sustained. Cong welcomed Iran's proposal for cooperation in restoring affected heritage sites and said he would convey the initiative to China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. "Chinese experts have previously cooperated with their Iranian counterparts in heritage conservation, and this collaboration will continue," he said. The meeting concluded with an exchange of traditional handicrafts, a symbolic gesture reflecting the enduring cultural bonds between Tehran and Beijing.

## Iran expands insurance coverage, approves national rehabilitation plan

### Social Desk

Iran is moving to expand insurance coverage for medicines and strengthen rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and injured patients, Health Minister Mohammadreza Zafarghandi said on Tuesday, following decisions adopted at the 20th meeting of the Supreme Council of Health and Food Security. Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, Zafarghandi said the government is working to ensure that rising pharmaceutical costs do not translate into heavier financial burdens for households, IRNA reported. "The concern of both the Health Ministry and the president is that these changes be offset through insurance coverage so that less pressure is placed on the public," he said. According to the minister, discussions with insurers, the Central Bank of Iran, the Plan and Budget Organization, and lawmakers are focused on expanding insurance capacity to absorb a larger share of approved medicine costs. Separately, the council approved a National Rehabilitation Document aimed at integrating rehabilitation services into the treatment process and helping patients return to daily life and employment. Zafarghandi said the ini-

tiative would strengthen support for people with disabilities and others requiring rehabilitation services while promoting closer cooperation among government agencies and healthcare institutions. The council also adopted new measures to reduce road traffic fatalities, assigning additional responsibilities to transport, safety, and healthcare authorities. Zafarghandi welcomed a decline in road and hospital deaths linked to traffic accidents compared with a year earlier and said sustained efforts would continue to improve safety, particularly for young people and motorcyclists. On pharmaceutical supplies, the minister said Iran is taking steps to maintain stable production and availability of medicines despite logistical challenges affecting the import of some raw materials. "We sought to compensate for these shortages through rail and air transport," he said, adding that maintaining an uninterrupted pharmaceutical supply chain remains a top priority. Zafarghandi said Tehran has intensified consultations with major suppliers, including India and China, and dispatched delegations to explore additional procurement channels and reinforce supply security.

## Social drama joins North Macedonia competition



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian social mystery drama 'Gambler,' directed by Mohsen Bahari, will compete in the competition section of the fifth Across the Lake International Film Festival, set to run from July 8 to 15 in the North Macedonian cities of Dojran, Strumica and Gevgelija. The film, produced by Sajad Nasrollahi and backed by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, will make its interna-

tional debut after being introduced at the 2026 Cannes Film Market. The foundation's international affairs department is handling the film's overseas rollout. 'Gambler,' Bahari's first feature film, follows the aftermath of a cyberattack on a domestic bank, a crisis that casts suspicion on one of the institution's programmers and triggers a race to uncover the truth and safeguard national security. The cast includes Kourosh

Tahami, Armin Rahimi-an, Shabnam Ghorbani, Amir Nourozi, Roshan Rostampour and Emad Emami. The film previously screened at the Fajr Film Festival, where Bahari won the Crystal Simorgh for Best First-Time Director. The production also earned five additional Crystal Simorgh nominations. The Across the Lake festival, which spotlights cinema from the Balkans and Mediterranean region while welcoming selected international works, will place a special focus on contemporary Iranian filmmaking this year. Festival director Jani Bojadzi said the event would feature Iranian cinema as its country focus and host a world premiere from Iran. "I am pleased that we are recognized as an important festival that hosts world premieres," he said.



## AUCTION SJSCO. B140504

Sirjan Jahan Steel Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of 10,000 tons **STEEL BILLET** (Size 150 x 150 mm), with the possibility of increasing the contract amount to 30,000 tons on basis of FOB Bandar Abbas (Other ports are negotiable) according to INCOTERMS 2020. Interested applicants are hereby invited to obtain the tender documents by visiting the official website of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at [sjSCO.ir](http://sjSCO.ir), through the Sales and customer portal, Tender and Foreign Tender section. Alternatively, interested bidders may collect the physical tender documents in person from the head office of Sirjan Jahan Steel Company at the following address: 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, No. 2, JOOBIN ALLEY, SHAHIDI STREET, JAHAN KOODAK JUNCTION, TEHRAN, IRAN. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than **Monday, June 29, 2026**.

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## AUCTION SJSCO. D140504

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