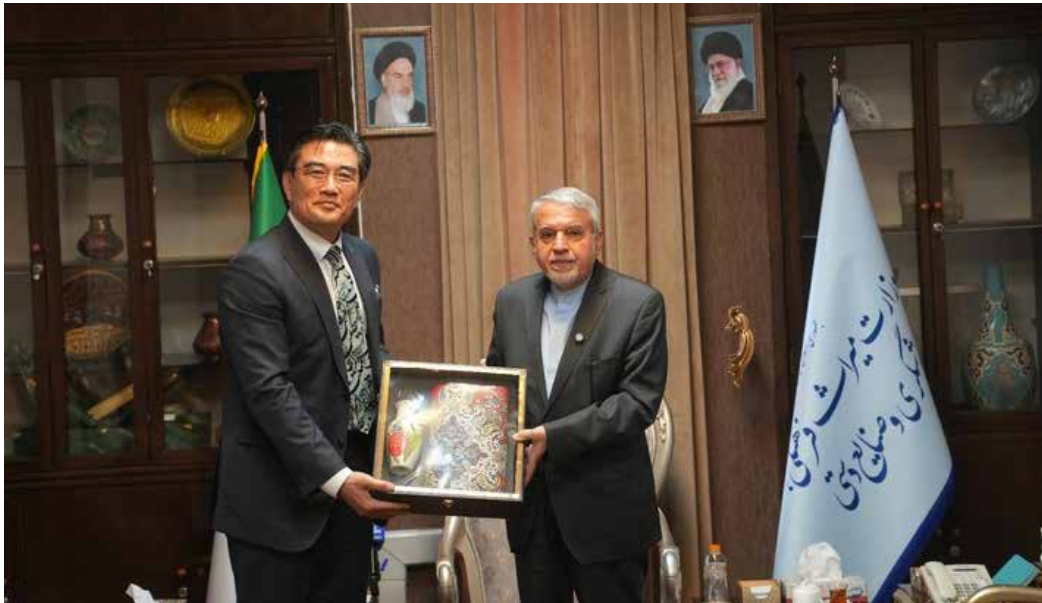


Iran seeks South Korean expertise to develop creative economy, cultural diplomacy

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran on Saturday described South Korea as a trusted partner in advancing the creative economy, cultural diplomacy, and heritage technologies, as Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri proposed broader cooperation in museums, artificial intelligence, tourism, and cultural exchanges during talks with South Korean Ambassador Kim Junpyo in Tehran. "South Korea is a trusted partner of the Islamic Republic of Iran in expanding cultural, civilizational, and tourism cooperation," Salehi-Amiri said, adding that Tehran is ready to open a new chapter of bilateral engagement in cultural heritage, handicrafts, creative industries, education, and museum affairs, CHTN reported. The minister said developing the creative economy has become one of the ministry's priorities, describing South Korea as a leading country in the sector whose



Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri (R) and South Korean Ambassador Kim Junpyo pose with a commemorative gift during a meeting in Tehran on July 11, 2026. ● CHTN

experience could help support Iran's cultural industries. He proposed reciprocal exhibitions of historical artifacts, joint conservation and restoration projects, expanded cooperation between

universities and museums, and wider scientific exchanges. Salehi-Amiri also called for closer collaboration in digital technologies and artificial intelligence, saying Iran is interested in ap-

plying South Korea's expertise to cultural heritage preservation, tourism, and handicrafts. He further proposed inviting South Korean artists, cultural figures, and media influencers to visit Iran

and introduce the country's historical and tourism attractions to international audiences. He said the anticipated announcement on the Alamut Castle during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee session in South Korea would provide a valuable opportunity to showcase Iran's rich civilization and further strengthen cultural cooperation between the two countries. The talks took place days before the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, scheduled for July 19-29 in Busan, South Korea, where member states will review nominations for new World Heritage inscriptions. Iran's Alamut Castle is among the cultural properties

under consideration. Highlighting Iran's cultural wealth, Salehi-Amiri said the country has 29 properties inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and 58 more sites on its Tentative List, underscoring Iran's prominent place among nations with outstanding cultural heritage. Kim welcomed efforts to deepen bilateral cultural ties and recalled that Alamut Castle was the first historic site he visited outside Tehran. "The climb to Alamut was part of its unique appeal," the ambassador said. "I wondered why such an important site had not yet been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List." He expressed hope that the expected UNESCO decision on the Alamut Castle would introduce more people around the world to Iran's cultural heritage, describing cultural heritage as a shared asset of humanity deserving broader international recognition.

VP lauds country's victory at China Int'l Math Olympiad

Iran's vice president for science and technology has praised the country's national mathematics Olympiad team after it secured first place at the 2026 China International Mathematics Competition (IMSC), describing the achievement as a testament to Iran's scientific potential. In a message released on Saturday, Hossein Afshin congratulated the team, writing, "Every scientific achievement is more than a medal or a ranking; it is proof that Iran's human capital, despite every challenge, continues to compete at the highest scientific level." According to Afshin, the championship reflected years of investment in nurturing young talent and demonstrated that Iran remains one of the world's leading sources of outstanding scientific ability, Press TV reported. The students, he noted, presented a true image of Iran's scientific capabilities to the world through their knowledge, perseverance, and self-confidence. Ensuring Iranian elites can participate in international scientific events has remained one of the Iranian government's priorities, with such opportunities allowing the country's young scientists to showcase Iran's academic capabilities on the global stage, he maintained. Afshin also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting outstanding talent and strengthening opportunities for Iranian elites to play a more active role in the international scientific community. "Supporting talented students and researchers is not merely support for a select group of individuals, but an investment in Iran's future." Iran claimed the team championship among 49 participating teams by winning four gold medals and two silver medals, finishing ahead of Poland and Brazil. The Iranian team consisted of Arian Zandi, Arsha Azizoddin, Seyed Amirhossein Tayeb, Alireza Sharifi, Radin Nik-Eghbali, and Ali Joonbakhsh Najafabadi.

'Paper Flowers' wins best animated short at Russian family film festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian animated short 'Paper Flowers' won the Best Animated Short award at the 21st Within the Family International Festival of Family and Children's Films in Russia, the Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center (DEFC) said, marking another international accolade for the film after its earlier triumph at the Kazan International Film Festival. Directed by Ramak Amin Kazemi



and produced by DEFC, 'Paper Flowers' claimed the top animation prize at the festival, held in Yaroslavl from July 4 to 7. The

award was presented during the festival's closing ceremony on July 7. "Paper Flowers' continues its successful international run," DEFC said, describing the latest honor as another milestone for the Iranian production on the global festival circuit. The short follows a writer who believes he has reached the end of his creative journey, unfolding the story through a poetic visual narrative that explores despair, resilience and renewal.

War inflicts \$300m damage on Iran's research infrastructure

Social Desk

Iran's vice president for science and technology Hossein Afshin said on Saturday that Iran's research infrastructure sustained about \$300 million in damage during the Ramadan war, while knowledge-based companies incurred losses equivalent to 650 trillion rials and \$25 million in foreign-currency terms. Speaking during a visit to the technology village at the University of Tehran College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Afshin said the government had launched a reconstruction program to restore damaged scientific and technological facilities, IRNA reported. "The enemy targeted Iran's scientific and technological capabilities, but these capacities will be rebuilt with strength," Afshin said the affected projects had focused on emerging technologies with civilian applications and stressed that investment in science and innovation remained essential for national progress. "Any country that invests in science and technology will succeed," He added that Iran was moving toward a more internationally oriented approach to supporting knowledge-based enterprises and that the country's science and technology parks must evolve



beyond first- and second-generation innovation models. Afshin also said support for knowledge-based companies would increasingly be tied to measurable outputs, allowing firms to attract credit-based assistance in proportion to the value they create. At the same event, Mohammad Ali Ebrahimzadeh Mousavi said strengthening food security required a comprehensive ecosystem linking innovation, private-sector investment, and scientific support. "Food security still has a long road ahead in Iran, and achieving food sovereignty requires modern innovation and a systemic approach," Mousavi said. He described the university's Innovation Village for Agriculture, Food Security, and Biosecurity as a model designed to turn scientific knowledge into economic value and enhance national resilience.

Award-winning Iranian shorts headline to Montreal



Arts & Culture Desk

Five award-winning Iranian independent short films will screen at the second Iran Cinema Night in Montreal on Sunday, organizers said, showcasing the latest works by a new generation of Iranian filmmakers to international and Persian-speaking audiences. Hosted at Cinéma du Parc, the event features acclaimed shorts produced in 2024 and 2025 that have competed at major international film festivals. The program was curated by Mohammad Hamzeh'i, directed by Fouad Asadi, and organized in cooperation with Saba Medias. Organizers said the event aims to spotlight the latest achievements of Iran's independent cinema while expanding cultural dialogue and strengthening ties between Iranian filmmakers and global audiences. All films will be screened with English subtitles. The lineup includes 'Conex' by Dina Rezaei, 'American Dream' by Houra Kian, 'Goodbye Paris' by Ebrahim Shahbazi, 'Old Maid' by Golnaz Izadan, and 'Mia' by Seyed Ali Ghase-mi. The Montreal edition follows the first Iran Cinema Night, held in October 2025 at Carleton University in Ottawa, as organizers seek to establish the event as a recurring platform for introducing Iranian independent cinema to audiences across Canada.