



Iran pitches seven SCO cultural initiatives, from Silk Road heritage to video games

Salehi says culture 'true alternative' to violence, unilateralism

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran proposed seven regional cultural initiatives, ranging from joint Silk Road heritage nominations to collaborative animation and video game production, at the 23rd Meeting of Culture Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on Sunday. Culture Minister Abbas Salehi described culture as "the true alternative to violence and unilateralism" and reaffirmed Iran's readiness to deepen cultural cooperation across the bloc. Addressing ministers from SCO member states, Salehi described culture as "the common language of nations and a bridge to mutual understanding and solidarity," saying the organization has, for more than two decades, treated culture as a pillar of confidence-building and peo-

ple-to-people ties rather than a peripheral field, farhang.gov.ir reported. He said Iranian civilization, with its millennia-old cultural heritage, has consistently regarded culture as the foundation of sustainable development, justice, peaceful coexistence and human dignity. "Iranian civilization has always pursued a culture of peace alongside the defense of national dignity," Salehi said, adding that Iran, like all independent nations, seeks "justice, national sovereignty and human dignity." Calling SCO members heirs to one of the world's richest civilizational spheres, shaped by centuries of exchanges along the historic Silk Road, Salehi said their shared legacy places a collective responsibility on member states to preserve, revive and pass it on to future generations.

To strengthen that mission, Iran unveiled seven proposals for expanded cultural cooperation. They include preparing joint UNESCO nominations for Silk Road cultural and intangible heritage, establishing an SCO network of civilizational and cultural studies centers linking universities, libraries and research institutes, and organizing regular cultural weeks among member states. Salehi also proposed expanding co-productions in cinema and documentaries centered on family, ethics, identity, historical heritage and the Silk Road. He further called for reciprocal translation and publication of major literary works, closer cooperation among national libraries and archives to digitize and restore manuscripts, and joint projects in creative industries, animation, video games and digital content to engage



Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi participates in the 23rd SCO Culture Ministers Meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on July 19, 2026. ● farhang.gov.ir

younger generations. He said the region's future should be built not on "exhausting rivalries" but on mutual cultural understanding, respect for civilizational diversity and broader human cooperation. "Today, more than ever, we need cultural diplomacy," Salehi said. "A diplomacy that brings nations closer together and defends reason, ethics and humanity against hatred and war." The minister said Iran stands ready to work with all SCO members to build "a future based on mutual respect, cultural diversity, justice and shared prosperity." On the sidelines of the ministe-



rial meeting, Salehi is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from participating countries, meet Iranian studies scholars, Persian-language professors and academics in Kyrgyzstan, attend the SCO International Film Festival awards ceremony, and participate in official events hosted by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Culture.

The 23rd Meeting of Culture Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is being held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, from July 16 to July 20, bringing together cultural leaders from the organization's member states to advance cooperation in heritage preservation, cultural exchange and creative industries.

Veteran archaeologist Yaghmaei dies after lifetime safeguarding national heritage



Arts & Culture Desk

Esmail Yaghmaei, one of Iran's most distinguished archaeologists whose five-decade career helped uncover and preserve some of the country's most significant ancient sites, died on July 17 in a Tehran hospital after suffering a stroke. Yaghmaei, born in 1941, devoted more than half a century to excavating, documenting and protecting Iran's archaeological heritage. A graduate of the University of Tehran in archaeology and art, he began his professional career with the National Archaeology Department in 1967 and went on to lead or participate in dozens of landmark excavations across the country, IRNA reported. Jebrael Nokandeh, director of the National Museum of Iran, extended condolences to Yaghmaei's family and the archaeological community, saying his contributions "will remain etched in the memory of Iran's archaeology and history." He praised the late scholar for standing "firm in defense of Iran's heritage," adding that generations would remain indebted to his lifelong commitment to preserving the nation's cultural legacy. Yaghmaei played a pivotal role in archaeological research at major historical sites, including Haft Tappeh, Susa, Shahr-e Sukhteh, Chogha Gavaneh, Marvdasht, Kangavar, Kermanshah, the Qazvin Plain, Gorgan, Kerman and northwestern Iran. His fieldwork significantly advanced scholarly understanding of the civilizations that shaped the Iranian plateau. Beyond excavation, Yaghmaei left a lasting literary legacy through works such as 'Susa: Archaeological Excavations in the Fifteenth City of the Middle Elamite Period', 'A Thousand-Year-Old Tress: Memories of an Archaeologist', 'That Palace Which Jamshid...', 'Safe Points' and 'When I Was a Kid'.

Uzbek art academy chief to showcase contemporary works in Tehran virtual exhibition



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Academy of Arts will open a virtual exhibition on July 20 featuring more than

27 paintings by Akmal Nuriddinov, president of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan, in a cultural initiative aimed at deepening artistic

exchanges and strengthening cultural diplomacy between Iran and Central Asia. Hosted on the Academy of Arts' online portal, the exhibition introduces a selection of works by one of Uzbekistan's leading contemporary painters while expanding scholarly and artistic cooperation between the two countries, IRNA reported. Organizers said the program is designed to foster mutual understanding of artistic traditions, encourage exchanges among artists and researchers, and pave the way for broader regional cultural

engagement. Nuriddinov described his artistic vision as one that unfolds "between the visible and the hidden," where the physical world meets humanity's inner and spiritual experience. Rather than merely depicting external reality, he said his paintings seek to reveal "silence, longing, love, solitude, memory and the human yearning for the absolute." He added that his work draws deeply on the philosophical and cultural heritage of the East, particularly the Sufi understanding of

love, viewing art as a path toward self-discovery. A prominent figure in Uzbekistan's contemporary art scene, Nuriddinov has exhibited widely in Moscow, Tashkent, Leningrad, Skopje, Istanbul, Seattle, Washington, Hangzhou and other international venues. His paintings are held in major public and private collections, including the State Museum of Arts of Uzbekistan, the Samarkand State Museum of History and Architecture, Seattle's Davidson Gallery and the Credit Suisse art collection.

Eight medals go to Iranian students at global chemistry, biology Olympiads



Iranian students delivered another strong performance on the international academic stage, winning a total of eight medals, including three gold medals, at the 2026 editions of the International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) and the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). At the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO 2026), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from July 10 to 19, the Iranian team earned three silver medals and one bronze while competing against more than 350 students from 90 countries, Press TV reported. Ali Shamsi-Mofakhar, Mahyar Najjar, and Amirreza Hosseini

each won a silver medal, while Ariyo Seyrafi claimed the bronze, showcasing the scientific excellence of Iran's young chemistry talents. Iran's success continued at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2026), held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from July 12 to 19, where the national team secured an even stronger result, taking home three gold medals and one silver among more than 300 contestants from over 80 countries. Radin Bayani, Mohammadreza Vaezi, and Amirhossein Nosrati Zagloujeh captured gold medals, while Amirhossein Hemmati earned silver, underscoring the high caliber of Iranian students in the life sciences. The achievements at the two prestigious international Olympiads add to a string of international successes by Iranian students in science and technology this year. Earlier this month, Iran's nation-

al physics team claimed three gold and two silver medals at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPHO 2026) in Bucaramanga, Colombia, where more than 400 students from over 90 countries competed. The country's young mathematicians also made headlines after winning the fourth International Mathematics Competition of Shanghai (IMSC 2026), securing the overall team title with four gold medals and two silvers to finish ahead of Poland and Brazil. Iranian students have likewise excelled beyond academic Olympiads. At the RoboCup 2026 World Championship, the country's robotics teams earned multiple distinctions, including the Best Technical Presentation award, and advanced to the world's top four in several leagues, further highlighting Iran's growing presence in international scientific and technological competitions.



Notice of AMENDMENT for the bid submission tender for export sale No. Z/1405/09
Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

With reference to Tender Notice Z/1405-09, we hereby informed that the bid submission and bid opening have been revised as follows:
All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 22. July.2026- to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).
Bidders are invited to the transactions commission office of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 22. July.2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.