

Iran attends tourism managers' CICA meeting

Chi Fang, deputy executive director of CICA Secretariat, expressed gratitude to Tajikistan for hosting the important event in the tourism industry, which is one of the main economic sectors that have been affected severely by the pandemic. She stressed the importance of promoting sustainable tourism in the region, creating job opportunities for local people, enhancing mutual understanding and friendship among people as well as preserving natural and cultural heritage of tourism destinations. The CICA has 27 member states and 12 observers, including some international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Arab League as well as Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, Ukraine and the United States. Iran, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Russia, India, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan Republic and Thailand are among the main member states of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. Asia Plus reported that tourism organizations from Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed more than 50 memoranda of understanding in a regional tourism development assembly, which was held in Dushanbe on November 12.

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Thus spoke the artist: Rings of faith in humanity

EXCLUSIVE



Art is arguably an act of addition since artists add something to the world. One may object that usually some materials are reduced or destroyed to make a new addition to the world, but this loose sense of subtraction does not bring sadness, or even joy, which is normally associated with subtraction and loss. Keyvan Rahiminejad, however, has flipped the script. We are 'happy' that he subtracted clutter and garbage from the world to make his artistic additions, and so is he. The 51-year-old calligraphist has

found that using a particular canvas gives him the most sense of pride and pleasure: unrecyclable wastes, or in other words, anything that is safe to be repurposed into an art piece, like bottle caps, plastics, etc. "The idea bounced around in my head when I saw a private beach littered with trash a few years ago. The day after, I decided to buy two dozen trash bags and single-handedly clean the beach. To my surprise, in a display of humanity, other residents sympathized with my environmental cause and helped me completely remove the trash in a few hours. The peace I felt afterward motivated me to go the extra mile and do something with the 18 bags that were collected to promote recycling." That experience gave Rahiminejad an eye for detecting unwanted items that cannot be recycled but certainly can

be turned into art pieces. Case in point, two unrecognizable satellite dishes were on display beside him at the group exhibition. Apparently, even though his neighbors had replaced these two dishes with newer models, they didn't have the heart to throw them away. So, Rahiminejad offered them money in exchange for "removing pollution from your environment", not detailing what plans he really had in mind for the dishes. Of course, now we know that he decided to color the inner surface of the dishes, draw near-perfect rings and practice his calligraphy. Each ring contains a repeated line of a poem that "played huge roles" in his life. One black and red colored dish looked more like an ominous reactor. The metal rings of the reactor at a closer glance read, "I'm drunk by the wine of love

/ I will not be made sober". Rahiminejad explained that he saw a similarity between a forceful statement such as this that comes from the heart and the core of a nuclear reactor inching toward erupting from within. The other blue and yellow colored dish evidently drew inspiration from the Iranian poet Sohrab Sepehri's famous line: "Our job is not to discover the 'secret' of the red rose, / Our job is, perhaps / To float in the charm of roses". Heeding Sepehri's advice, the artist set aside the color red and chose to know less.



Artworks on Iran's first presence in FIFA World Cup on display in Tehran



ISNA - An exhibition featuring artworks related to Iran's first presence in World Cup in 1978 is being held at Ahmad Shahi Pavilion in Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran, from November 22 to December 21. Iran has appeared in the FIFA World Cup on six occasions: In 1978, 1998, 2006, 2014, 2018 and 2022. The collection includes memorials made of Chinese ceramics and decorated with the symbol of the World Cup of that period and the names of the participating countries in the tournament. In addition, two volumes of football-themed books published in 1976 and 1977 have been displayed next to the memorials.

Iran's animation 'Loupetou' to compete at Indian festival

IRNA - Iranian animation 'Loupetou' by Abbas Askari will compete at the KidzCINEMA festival, to be held in India from December 2 to January 2. It participated in various domestic and international festivals including the Universal Kids Film

Festival (UKFF) in Istanbul, Turkey. "Ali's father treats his patients by teaching them how to make toys in Loupetou workshop. An unknown culprit vandalized the creative toy workshop, which is particularly popular among

Iranian children. Ali tries to help his father who is now in a pickle," a synopsis for the animation reads. Askari has already directed award-winning animated movies 'The Elephant King' and 'Princess of Rome'.



Celtic gold coins worth 'several million euros' stolen from German museum



GUARDIAN - Thieves stole a hoard of Celtic coins worth several million euros from a German museum after apparently disrupting local telephone and internet connections. Employees at the museum in Manching discovered that a "showcase was broken" and the collection of 450 coins had been stolen, local police told AFP. Investigators did not provide any other details as to the circumstances surrounding the heist, but local officials highlighted a disruption to phone and internet services.

"They cut off the whole of Manching," the mayor, Herbert Nerb, told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "The museum is actually a high-security location. But all the connections to the police were severed." "Professionals were at work here," Nerb added. The disappearance of the treasure was a "complete catastrophe" for the Bavarian town, he said. The collection of gold coins has been a highlight of the Celtic and Roman museum in Manching. Discovered in 1999, the coins date back to the third century BC and have a value of "several

million euros", according to police. "The loss of the Celtic treasure is a disaster," Bavaria's Minister of Science and Arts, Markus Blume, told German news agency dpa. "As a testament to our history, the gold coins are irreplaceable." The coin theft is the latest in a series of high-profile museum heists in Germany. In another numismatic robbery, the "big maple leaf", considered the world's second-largest gold coin, was snatched from Berlin's prestigious Bode Museum in 2017. Thieves also took 21 pic-

es of jewelry and other valuables in a brazen night-time raid on the Green Vault museum in Dresden's Royal Palace in November 2019. Authorities believe members of a notorious criminal family carried out that robbery. There remains no trace of the jewels, which include a sword with a diamond-encrusted hilt and a shoulder piece which contains a 49-carat white diamond. Insurance experts said the Green Vault loot was worth €113.8m (£98.6m), with German media calling it the biggest art heist in modern history.

THE MET The Metropolitan Museum of Art @metmuseum
 As part of our #MetAccess program, each month we invite Disabled and Deaf artists to respond to works in our collection that spark curiosity or inspiration. Today @RGarlandThomson shares her thoughts on this calendar and the artist Matthias Buchinger.
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 #WednesdayWisdom from Jane Goodall We need real actions if we want a chance to save our planet! Read Goodall's interview in our #WorldHeritage issue and learn more about the importance of protecting our #biodiversity: http://on.unesco.org/3ucbf10
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Museum of London @MuseumofLondon
 Before the blue police box, there was the Watchman's box. This wooden box stood near Furnival's Inn in Holborn and would have been used for shelter by watchmen employed by local parishes to keep order. It's much bigger on the inside than it looks from the outside! #DoctorWhoDay
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