

Isfahan to become cultural capital of Islamic world

ISFAHAN, Dec. 13 (IRNA)--Isfahan mayor, Seyed Morteza Saqaiyan-nejad here Tuesday said that on January 1, 2006, the flag-hoisting ceremony marking the official announcement of the city of Isfahan as the cultural capital of the Islamic world will be attended by representatives from 57 Islamic countries.

The flag will be hoisted at the city's historical Imam Square.

Isfahan mayor told IRNA that the city of Isfahan will soon become one of the world seven major cities registered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

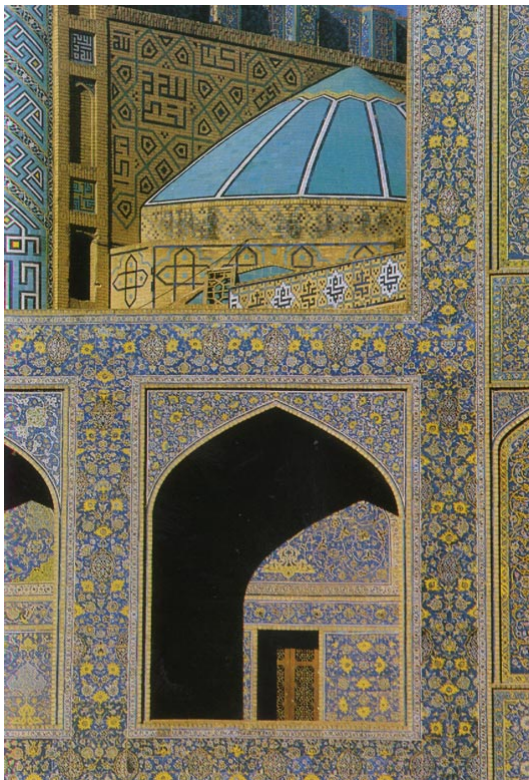
"Once the city is officially recognized as the Islamic states' cultural capital, it will host various scientific olympiads for gifted pupils from Muslim countries," he added.

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Saqaiyan-nejad promised to award 10 reporters from Iranian reporters and news agencies giving the most coverage to the event with facilities for Umrah Hajj pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

"Celebrations and special festivals to be held on the occasion should not just be limited to government rather people and the non-governmental sector should also play a role in it.

"This year's Umrah Hajj pilgrims from Isfahan will be provided with some brochures to enable them to introduce the status of the city of Isfahan to Muslims from various countries and the reason for it being selected as the cultural capital of the world of Islam," the mayor concluded.



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