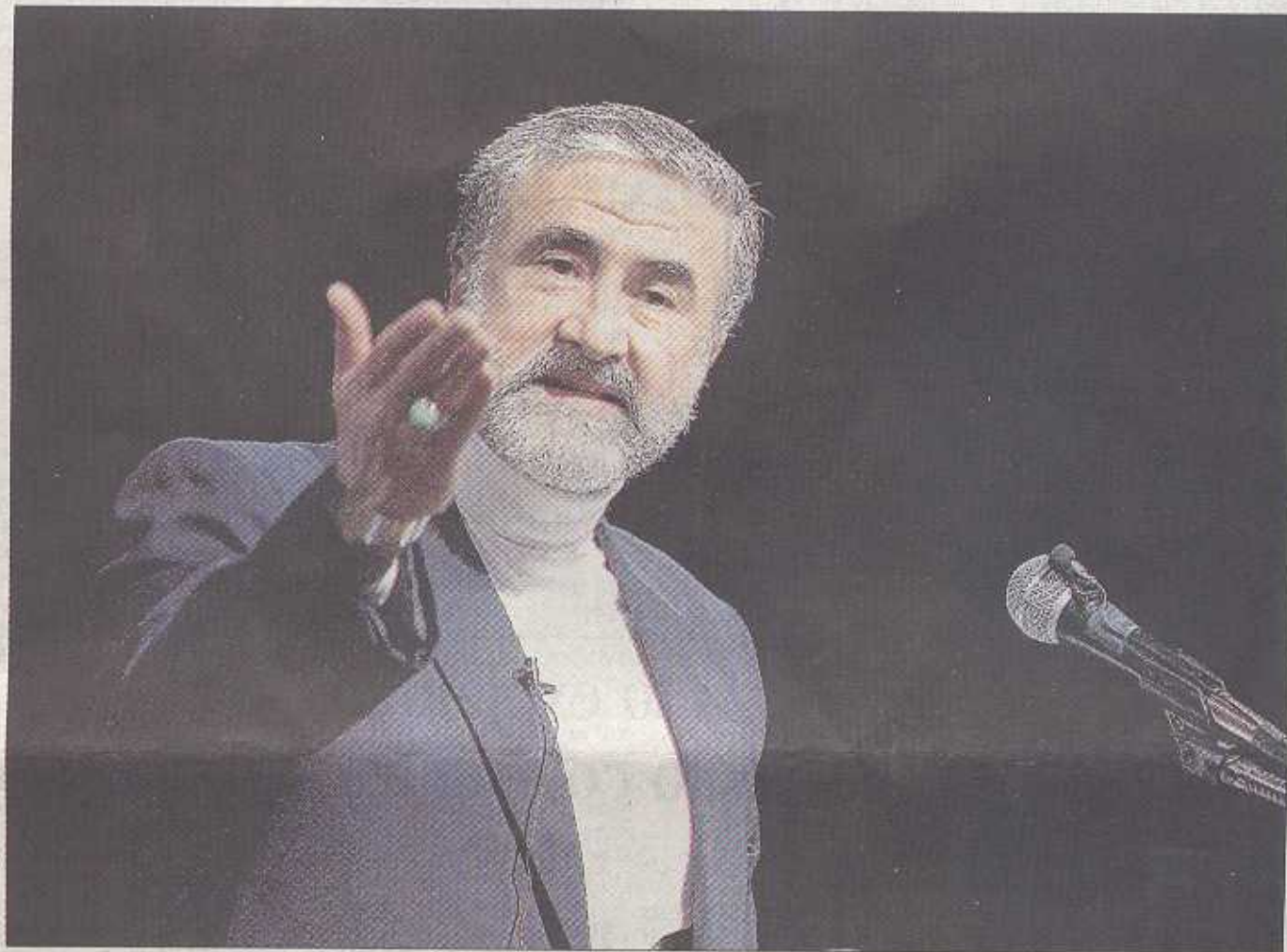


'More warmth and light'



STEVE CANNON /Special to the Democrat

Dr. Majid Naini speaks as part of the Mayor's Summit on Race, Culture and Human Relations at Leon High School.

Poet's message of peace resonates at summit

By Julian Pecquet
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State University professor Aubteen Darabi enjoyed a special treat Monday evening, a chance to hear the words of one of his favorite poets dissected by an international expert on the subject.

And as an added bonus, he got to enjoy them in their original Farsi.

At a time when the latest fad gets hyped to death but evaporates faster than the morning dew, Darabi, who hails from Iran, was among a diverse group of 80 or so who filled the Leon High School auditorium to hear words of wisdom penned 750 years ago in a far-away land.

"Peace and tolerance," said Darabi. "That's the message we want, isn't it?"

Majid Naini, an expert on 13th-century mystic Rumi, delivered the Per-

ON THE WEB

- Visit Tallahassee.com for audio of Majid Naini's presentation.

INSIDE

- Learn more about the 13th-century mystic Rumi. 2B

humanity to a Tallahassee audience enthralled by his upbeat tone, excited demeanor and rhythmic readings in the original language of ancient Persia.

His presentation, titled "Rumi's Teachings on Global Peace and Harmony," was a highlight of the sixth annual Mayor's Summit on Race, Culture and Human Relations.

"Ladies and gentlemen, who is this man," Naini



SHAHRIAR SHAHRIARI /rumionfire.com

Thirteenth-century mystic Molana Jalale-Din