



Islamic Culture and Relations
Organization



IRAN FOCUS



A LOOK AT REAL IRAN IN MONTHLY NEWS

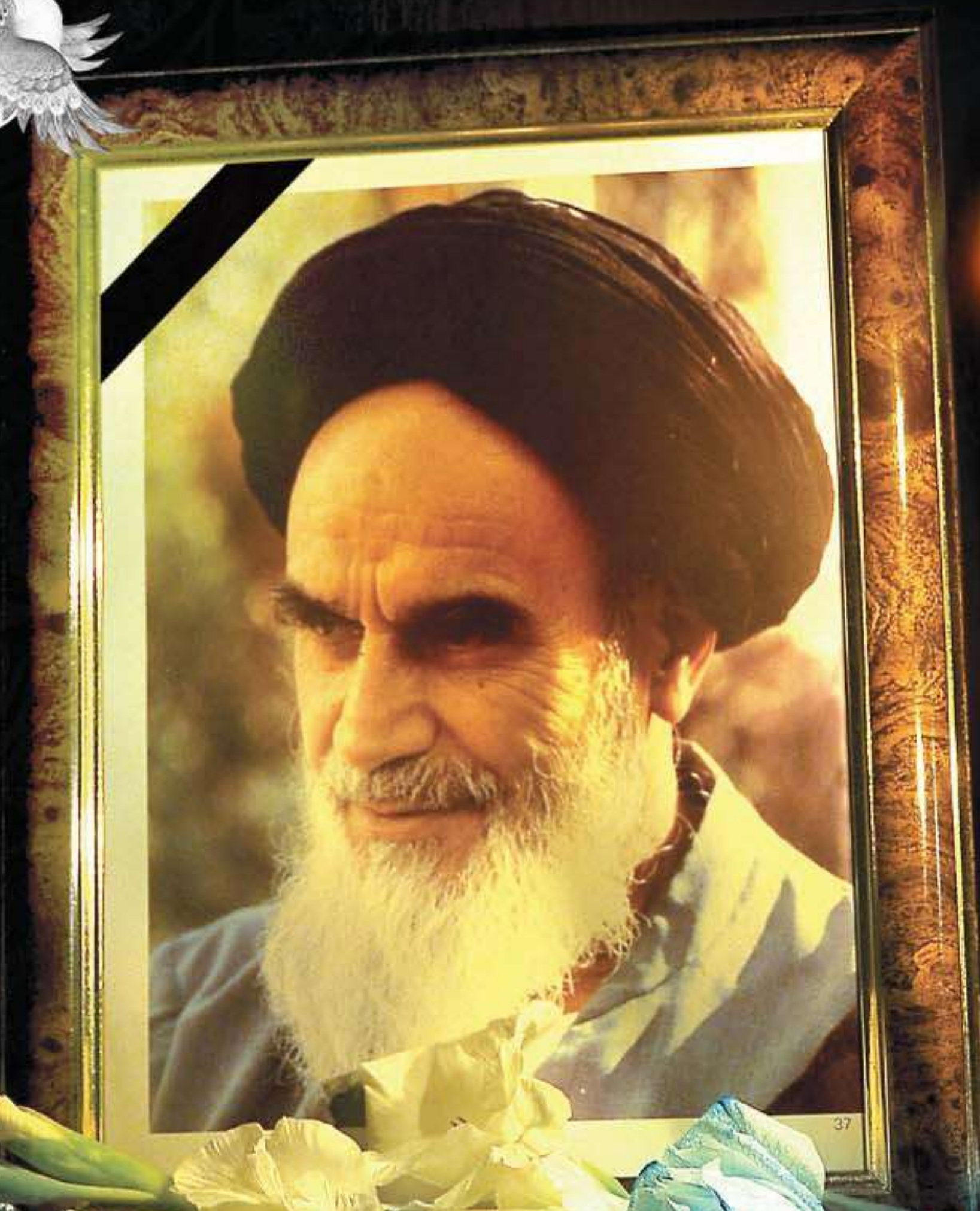
June
2022

Issue No.51



CULTURAL CONSULATE OF THE EMBASSY OF I.R. IRAN – PRETORIA

*In the Name of God,
The Beneficent, The Merciful*



اللهم صل على محمد وآل محمد



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**CULTURAL CONSULATE OF
THE EMBASSY OF I.R. IRAN – PRETORIA**

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INTRODUCTION



Imam Khomeini's great lesson and service to freedom-seeking nations was that he told them, "You can; you have strength. Strength is in your hands. You just need to be determined and make sacrifices. That's how everything can be accomplished".

Imam Khamenei



Iran: A concise History

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran is a country with a history of over 10000 years and home to one of the oldest known civilizations. Persia, or Iran, as the country is more appropriately called, presents a lexicon of human history matched only by a handful of other countries in the world. The name Persia is derived from the Persis, a province in southern Iran from which a southern Iranian tribe, known as the “Persians” created a world empire in the sixth century B.C. The name Iran, pronounced “Eran”, however, comes from the term “Aryan” meaning “the land of nobles”, a name first used about the first millennium B.C.

‘Iran’ as a territory has multiple meanings. Broadly and devoid of any sort of political or territorial claims, one can see it as three regions. First, there is modern Iran, within its international borders. Then there is ‘Greater Iran or / ‘Iran exterior comprising the additional areas that once formed part of the Iranian world at various times in history. Lastly, there are the areas, sometimes very remote from the center, including parts of Europe and India that exhibit Iranian influence.

In the seventh century A.D. the new faith, Islam, which was based on Monotheism, offered the Iranian population an excellent opportunity whence for several centuries Iranian arts and acumen crystallized and became paramount in the Islamic world. The following centuries witnessed the development of distinctive traditions in pottery and ceramics, tile work, stucco, brickwork, metalwork, glassware, carpets, textiles, jewelry, music and poetry.

In antiquity, and again during the Islamic period, Iran’s position between the West and China helped to transform this land into “a crossroad of civilizations” and one of the great sources of art and thought. Iran’s originality is such that it continuously invented new forms while maintaining its distinct character, as its influence extended over immense regions.

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LEADER DECRIES NORMALIZATION BETWEEN ISRAEL, ARAB STATES

June 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has touched on the issue of normalization of ties between Israel and some Arab states, underlining that establishing relations with Israel will be of no advantage to them.



After a two-year shutdown of the Hajj pilgrimage due to the coronavirus pandemic, Iranian Hajj pilgrims are expected to set off their religious journey to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, an annual Islamic ritual featuring Muslims from around the world descending on the holy Saudi city of Mecca. Prior to the Iranian Hajj pilgrims starting their journey to perform the 2022 Hajj pilgrimage, Ayatollah Khamenei met with a number of officials in charge of conducting Hajj. He addressed a number of issues pertaining to Hajj and its rituals as well as international relations. The Leader expressed satisfaction with the easing of corona-related restrictions on performing Hajj. “This was great news that after 2 years, God reopened the door for Hajj. This is a divine invitation opening the way to the Hajj pilgrims. This is not a favor from anyone; it is God’s acceptance of the respected pilgrims and your enthusiasm. God willing, you will have a good Hajj,” he said.



Ayatollah Khamenei described Hajj as a way of strengthening coexistence. “What are mankind’s problems in the world now? That they don’t know how to coexist, and they act aggressively toward each other. Hajj teaches coexistence. In Hajj people who don’t know each other and who are coming from different cultures coexist in peace,” he said, adding, “Much of the world’s miseries and problems are the result of aristocratic lifestyles and luxurious living. A great part of the world’s wealth is being spent on such things everywhere. Hajj teaches you to have a simple lifestyle.”

The Leader also pointed out the issue of normalization of ties between Israel and some Arab states.

The Leader called Zionism a “plague” for the Muslim world, underlining the need for the Hajj pilgrims to expose “Zionists’ conspiracies and plots.”

“Today, Zionism is an obvious plague for the world of Islam. The Zionists have always been a plague, even before establishing the fraudulent Zionist regime. Even then, Zionist capitalists were a plague for the whole world. Now they’re a plague especially for the world of Islam,” Ayatollah Khamenei said. “The plague of Zionism should be exposed, in any way you can. These Arab and non-Arab states that shook hands, kissed and held meetings with the Zionists won’t benefit from what they did at all, not at all. This will only be to their loss.”

The remarks come against a backdrop of renewed Israeli efforts to accelerate the normalization of ties with Saudi Arabia. Western media has recently reported that Israeli and Saudi officials have held meetings to discuss the normalization of ties, a claim that Saudi Arabia neither confirmed nor rejected.

WORLD SHOULD MOVE TO END UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES

June 11, 2022

TEHRAN - The deputy ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Zahra Ershadi, has condemned the unilateral coercive and unjust measures that affect the health and medical sectors in countries, calling on the international community to take an effective step to end the unilateral sanctions against Iran.



“As was emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled Eliminating Discrimination to End the Spread of AIDS, efforts to eradicate the roots of this disease until the year 2030 are behind the time plan drawn up. So, member states should take effective and serious measures to address the challenges that impede reaching this goal,” Ershadi said in her speech Friday at the United Nations General Assembly on AIDS.

She noted, “The world is not only facing HIV now, but at the same time has to face the repercussions and consequences of the outbreak of the Corona pandemic. We are witnessing in such difficult circumstances that the global community faces problems to address the obstacles that impede equal access to health and medical services.”

Ershadi pointed to the achievements of Iran in combating AIDS and said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran is among a limited number of countries in Asia that have made remarkable achievements in controlling and treating HIV. Iran is among the countries that have provided safe access to specialized health and treatment needs for individuals infected with AIDS.”

She added that rooting out the transmission of AIDS from mother to child is one of Iran's important priorities, and the joint United Nations program to combat AIDS can play an important role in this field.

She continued, “As was emphasized in the third recommendation of the Secretary-General's report, it is necessary to put the latest medicines and health and treatment technologies related to the prevention and treatment of AIDS within the reach of developing countries quickly. Therefore, with this assurance, it is necessary to remove all obstacles that prevent these countries from obtaining such medicines.”

Ershadi stated, “Unfortunately, the unilateral coercive measures, including the unilateral economic, financial and banking sanctions imposed on Iran, seriously violate the right of Iranians to access health and treatment services, and individuals who face problems resulting from AIDS suffer in particular from this situation directly.”

“Coercive and unjust unilateral measures block the normal channels of international cooperation and are a source of concerns that negatively affect Iran's efforts to confront diseases. Moreover, they severely restrict access to timely and effective access to diagnosis, medicine, treatment, medical devices and technology needed to provide comprehensive health and treatment services, especially with regard to individuals infected with AIDS,” she said.

Ershadi noted, “Iran, while condemning such illegal and unjust measures and policies and illegitimate approaches which impinge on countries' health sectors and hinder the provision of services to patients, including those living with HIV, calls on the members of the international community to take effective, urgent and practical measures to lift the forgoing coercive sanctions.”



United Nations

GOVERNMENT WARNS ISRAEL, SAYS SECURITY OF IRANIANS ARE RED LINE

June 13, 2022

TEHRAN— Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said that security of the Iranian citizens is Tehran's red line.

Bahadori Jahromi pointed to the recent provocative and hostile moves of the Israeli regime, saying, "The nature of the usurper Zionist regime was and is clear, and the illegitimate establishment of this regime is based on terror, terrorism, oppression and murder, and its continuation is based on this terrorist nature."



Therefore, he added, the position of Iran towards such a regime is clear and there will be no change in Tehran's stance.

The government spokesman went on to say that "naturally it is expected that international organizations will have a clear position on such illegitimate natures and a clear action against the illegal and terrorist acts of such a regime in order to remove the shadow of the destructive effects and actions of this evil regime from the region."

Bahadori Jahromi then stated that the red line of the Islamic Republic is the security of its citizens, and in order to maintain security and safeguard the security of the public, Iran will take any necessary measures as a reciprocal action against any external act by this regime.

Israel has tacitly acknowledged that it assassinated Iranian Colonel Sayyad Khodaei in downtown Tehran on May 22.

ART & CULTURE

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CHILDREN GATHER TOGETHER AT TEHRAN STADIUM TO CHANT “SALAM COMMANDER”

May 27, 2022

TEHRAN – Tens of thousands of children and their parents gathered together on Thursday evening at the soccer field of Tehran’s Azadi Sports Complex to perform an anthem entitled “Salam Commander”.



A number of the eulogists were also in attendance at the huge gathering. “Salam Commander” was first recorded as a music video featuring eulogist Abuzar Ruhi on vocals along with a choir of 313 children.

The choir named MAH, an abbreviation for a Persian phrase that literally means “We Are the Nation of Imam Hussein (AS)”, a spoken discourse by General Qassem Soleimani, is from the northern Iranian town of Langerud.

The word “commander” in the lyrics refers to Imam Mahdi (AS), the twelfth Imam of the Shia, as Ruhi said, “In ‘Salam Commander’, the lyrics denote the children’s desire to serve as soldiers among the companions of the Imam.”

“Salam Commander” was welcomed by religious and military officials, including IRGC chief Major General Hossein Salami, who called it a “heavenly” song.

Afterwards, public organizations across the country recorded their own editions of the music video.

A group of Kashmiri schoolchildren in Pakistan has performed the anthem in Persian. An Arabic edition has also been recorded in Nigeria.

A band has also performed the anthem in the Azerbaijani language spoken in several provinces in northwest Iran.

IRANIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO PICKS “NO PRIOR APPOINTMENT” AS FILM OF THE YEAR

May 30, 2022

TEHRAN – The drama “No Prior Appointment” about autism has been selected as the film of the year by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

This film has been chosen for its special regard for autism, the commission announced on Monday.



The film follows Yasmin, a woman who returns to her homeland Iran after years of living in exile in Germany due to her father's death. Her six-year-old autistic son makes her visit to Iran more difficult, however, in her short stay in Iran, she achieves a new understanding of humanity and death.

“No Prior Appointment” had its Iranian premiere at the 40th Fajr Film festival in Tehran in February and won the Golden Simorgh for best film from the national point of view.

The film also received over ten prizes at the National Will Manifestation Awards, a supplement to the Fajr Film Festival and the awards are presented to those films that promote issues being pursued by some public organizations and institutes. Juries from the organizations select winners from the films screened at the Fajr Film Festival every year.

The Astan Qods Razavi, the organizational custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), Municipality of Mashhad, were among the centers honoring the film. Scenes of the drama were shot on location in Mashhad, the northeastern Iranian city that is home to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS).

It also received prizes from the Vice Presidency for Women’s and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

LONDON PUBLISHER TO INTRODUCE FIRST COMPLETE SPANISH TRANSLATION OF SHAHNAMEH

June 6, 2022

TEHRAN – Candle and Fog, the London-based Iranian-British publishing house, plans to introduce the first and only complete Spanish translation of the Shahnameh on Tuesday in a special meeting at the National Museum of Iran.

Published in seven volumes, the Shahnameh has been translated into Spanish by Beatriz de Salas Rafiee, a Spanish professor at the Tehran Islamic Azad University. Persian literature scholars believe that Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh (The Book of Kings) can be considered as a preserving force keeping the culture and customs of the Iranian people alive.

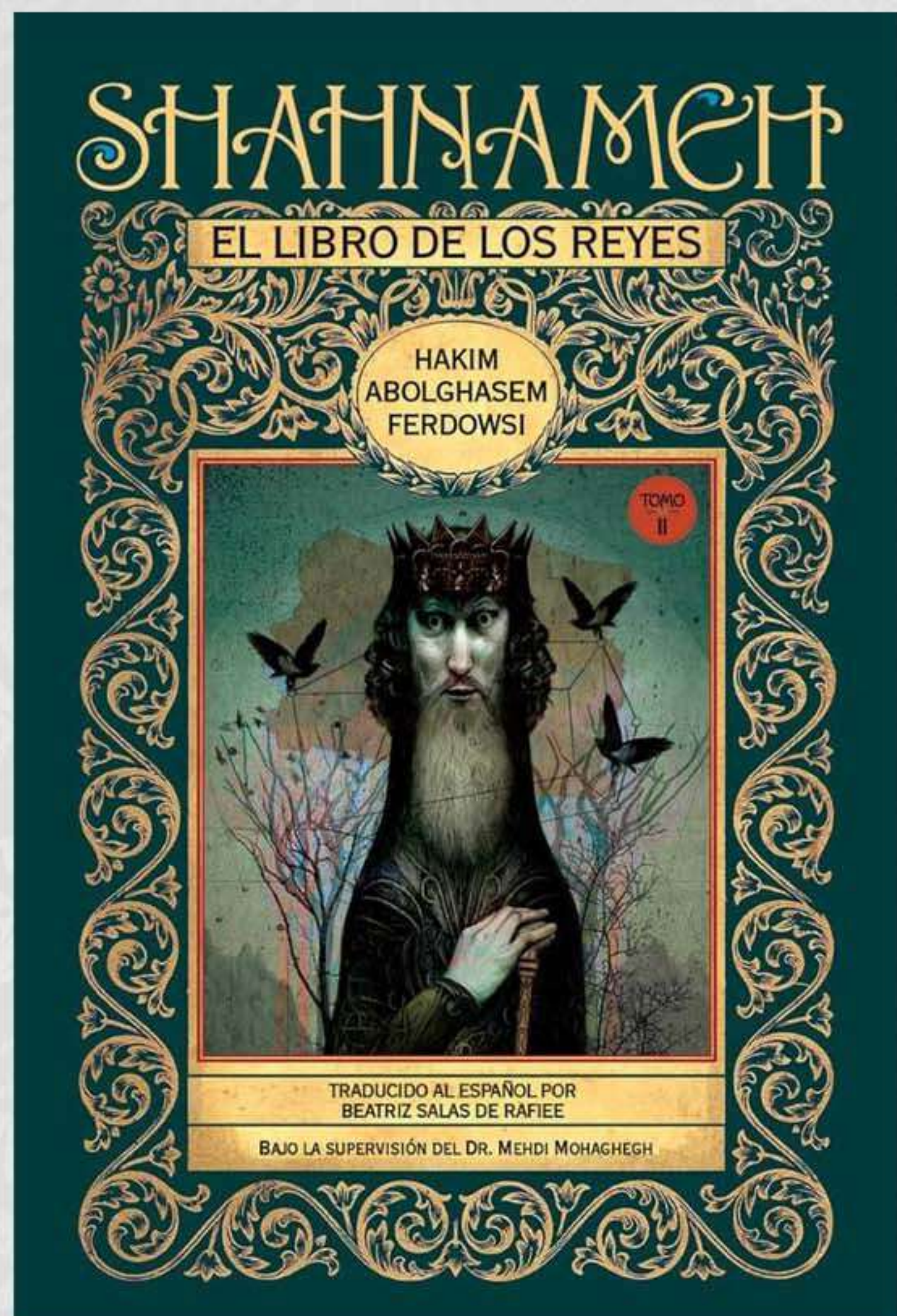
In a verse from the book, Ferdowsi wrote, "I toiled much over thirty years, by the Persian language I remade Iran."

The verses refer to the fact that Ferdowsi spent 30 years writing the Shahnameh over a millennium ago.

The Spanish edition, which is comprised of 5000 pages, has been translated based on a Persian version corrected and streamlined by top Persian literature expert Mehdi Mohaqqueq.

The cover of the book has been designed by Iranian two-time Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee Pejman Rahimizadeh.

A complete French translation of the book by Belgian Iranologist Pierre Lecoq was published in 2019 by Les Belles Lettres.



IRANIAN HOUSE OF CARTOON LAMPOONS

“HOLY SPIDER” WIN BY “CANNES IN CLOSE-UP”

June 7, 2022

TEHRAN – The Iranian House of Cartoon is mocking the Cannes Film Festival decision to award “Holy Spider” by organizing three exhibitions entitled “Cannes in Close-up”.

Iran has found the film insulting to Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia. One of the exhibitions opened on Monday in the Vali-e Asr Station of the Tehran subway, where the Iranian House of Cartoon’s statement was read.

“The Western art and cultural festivals are not compatible with divine values,” the statement said, and added that the cartoonists of the house have come together at the exhibition to express their opposition to the Cannes organizers’ action.



“Holy Spider” directed by Denmark-based Iranian filmmaker Ali Abbasi is based on a true story about a serial killer targeting sex workers in Mashhad, home to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS).

The co-production of Denmark, Germany, Sweden and France premiered at this year’s Cannes, which awarded the France-based Iranian star of the film, Zar Amir Ebrahimi, as best actress for her portrayal of a journalist tracking the serial killer. In addition, the Cinema organization of Iran denounced Cannes for awarding the film’s star, and called the festival’s decision to acclaim the film “an insulting and politically-motivated move.”

In its statement, the organization also said that the Cannes Film Festival is an event organized under the French government’s control and authority, and asked France and the organizers “to remove this black mark from the festival’s professional reputation.”

“WOODGIRLS”, “WATER, WIND, DUST & BREAD” COMPETING IN DOC EDGE FESTIVAL

June 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian films “Woodgirls - A Duet for a Dream” and “Water, Wind, Dust & Bread” are competing in the Doc Edge Festival in New Zealand.

Directed by Azadeh Bizargiti, “Woodgirls” tells the unique story of Leila Avakh and Sediqeh Momennia, as they follow their dream of opening a carpentry workshop run by women for women.

“Water, Wind, Dust, Bread” follows 11-year-old Abolfazl who lives with his family in an oasis in the Iranian desert. He picks dates, tends to his family’s cows, does his homework, and has fun with his best friend Setayesh.

As an Oscar-qualifying international documentary festival, the Doc Edge Festival opened its online edition on June 1 and will run until July 10.

113 films, including 74 features and 39 shorts are competing in the festival, who’s in-person editions will take place from June 15 to 26 in Auckland and Christchurch.

The festival will also be held in Wellington from June 30 to July 10.



“DISTRICT TERMINAL” TOPS AT IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL ZURICH

June 10, 2022 - 18:37

TEHRAN – “District Terminal” was picked as the best film at the 8th edition of the Iranian Film Festival Zurich currently underway in Switzerland, the organizers announced on Thursday.

A co-production between Iran and Germany by directors Bardia Yadegari and Ehsan Mirhosseini, the film is about Peyman, a poet living in an old district of Tehran with his mother.

“At the End of Evin” directed by Mehdi and Mohammad Torabbeigi received an honorable mention.

“Barter” co-directed by Emad Arad and Ziba Karamali and “The Doll” by Elham Esmaeili shared the award for best short film.

The award for best documentary was granted to “Tonight’s Homework” directed by Ashkan Nejati and Mehran Nematollahi.

“One Thousand Women” by Mojgan Ilanlu was given an honorable mention.

This year’s festival paid tribute to Mehrjui, a pioneer of Iran’s New Wave cinema, with a review of his 1969 drama “The Cow” on the opening day.

Tamara Milosevic, Stefan Haupt, Sophia Rubischung, Helene Aecherli and Daniel Wiegand were the members of the jury.



CROATIAN WRITER YASMIN DAR'S NOVEL ON IRAN

“ON THE ROADS OF PERSIA” INTRODUCED IN ZAGREB

June 11, 2022

TEHRAN – “On the Roads of Persia” (“Putevima Perzije”), a novel by Croatian writer Yasmin Dar on Iran, was introduced on Friday in Zagreb.

Dar, who is also known as Yasmina Mehic, Iranian Ambassador Parviz Esmaeili and dozens of Croatian cultural figures attend a meeting held at the library of the Zagreb municipality to present the novel, the Embassy of Iran announced.

“On the Roads of Persia” was published by the Croatian publishing house Cekape on June 1. Dar has written the novel based on her visit to Iran in 2018. Her visit was focused mainly on Iranian cities such as Tabriz, Isfahan and Shiraz. Accordingly, the novel is somewhat of a travelogue of Iran.

In her short speech at the meeting, Dar called Iran a must-see for everyone and a different country with kind and hospitable people.

She said, “I tried to illustrate what I observed in my visit to Iran in the form of a novel based on what I had read in the Persian literary works produced between the 12th and 17th centuries by Hafez, Sadi, Khayyam, Attar and other great Persian poets.”

In this dreamy-realistic prose, the author plunges into the depths of her own being through the spiritual character of the Persian poet Hafez, but her narrative is not solely mystical, she added.



GEORGIAN IRANOLOGIST LILI ZORZOLIANI WINS SHAHRIAR MEDAL

June 12, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran’s Sadi Foundation has honored Georgian Iranologist Lili Zorzoliani with a Shahriar Medal.

Zorzoliani, who is best known for her translation of Persian poet Fedowski’s masterpiece Shahnameh, received the medal from Iranian cultural attaché Ahmad-Ali Mehri at Tbilisi State University, the Iranian Culture Center in Tbilisi announced on Sunday.

Zorzoliani won the medal at the Fifth Shahriar International Scientific and Cultural Medals Festival in November 2020 for her article on Iran-Georgia cultural relations and the place of the Shahnameh in Georgia.

In a meeting with Zorzoliani, Mehri, who is the representative of the Sadi Foundation, a Tehran-based organization that promotes the Persian language abroad, praised the expert for her career in Iranian studies, which spans nearly 50 years. He said that Zorzoliani has made great contributions to the establishment of the Iranian Studies Department, where numerous students and professors have been trained.

On her part, Zorzoliani expressed her thanks to the Iranian Culture Center in Tbilisi, and said, “The award makes our duty to promote Persian literature and Iranian studies heavier than ever.”

Tbilisi State University paid homage to Zorzoliani in 2012 for her prominent role in promoting the Shahnameh in her country.

The 2021 Shahriar International Scientific and Cultural Medals Festival honored the Georgian Iranologist Giorgi Lobzhanidze with a Shahriar Medal. Lobzhanidze, an oriental studies and Arabian language graduate of Tbilisi State University, is the director of the Oriental Studies Department at the Center of Cultural Relations of Georgia.



Saadi Foundation
Global Persian Language Teaching

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRAN

National Museum of Iran is a state museum under the auspices of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. The Museum consists of the Iran Bastan Museum (Ancient Iran) and the Museum of Islamic Archaeology and Art of Iran, as well as eight research departments, the conservation department, the library and the archives. The research departments are organized by specific archaeological and historical periods and topics. This Museum houses the largest collections of archaeological objects in the country. Dating from the Paleolithic to the late Islamic period, the collections represent more than a million years of human settlement and cultural achievement in Iran. The Paleolithic personal ornaments, clay and human figurines from the early village communities, earliest evidence of administrative technology and writing from the 4th millennium BC, Persepolis stone reliefs and capitals, Parthian life-size bronze statue of the “Shami Man”, natural mummy of a man called “Salt Man,” the Ilkhanid Mihrab (prayer niche) of Dar-e Behesht, and the pen and ink (Siah Qalam) paintings by Reza Abbasi of the Safavid period are among the important objects in the museum.



Ancient Iran

The Ancient Iran Museum is the first building in Iran specifically designed and built as a museum. It was designed by the French architect André Godard and constructed by two Iranian masons, Abbas-Ali Me'mar and Morad Tabrizi between 1933 -1936. Its façade and portico were inspired by the famous arch of Taq-e Kasra of Ctesiphon, one of the famous examples of the architecture of the Sassanian period; the building's brickwork exhibits the Persian tradition of brick construction.

The permanent exhibition covers a surface area of some 4,800 square meters on two floors and a basement, containing selected artifacts in chronological order, from the Lower Paleolithic period (ca. 1,000,000 years ago) to the end of Sasanian times (651 CE). The first-floor galleries contain prehistoric objects including Paleolithic, Epipaleolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic artifacts. The ground floor galleries contain historic objects including Bronze Age, Elamite, Iron Age, Median, Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanian artifacts



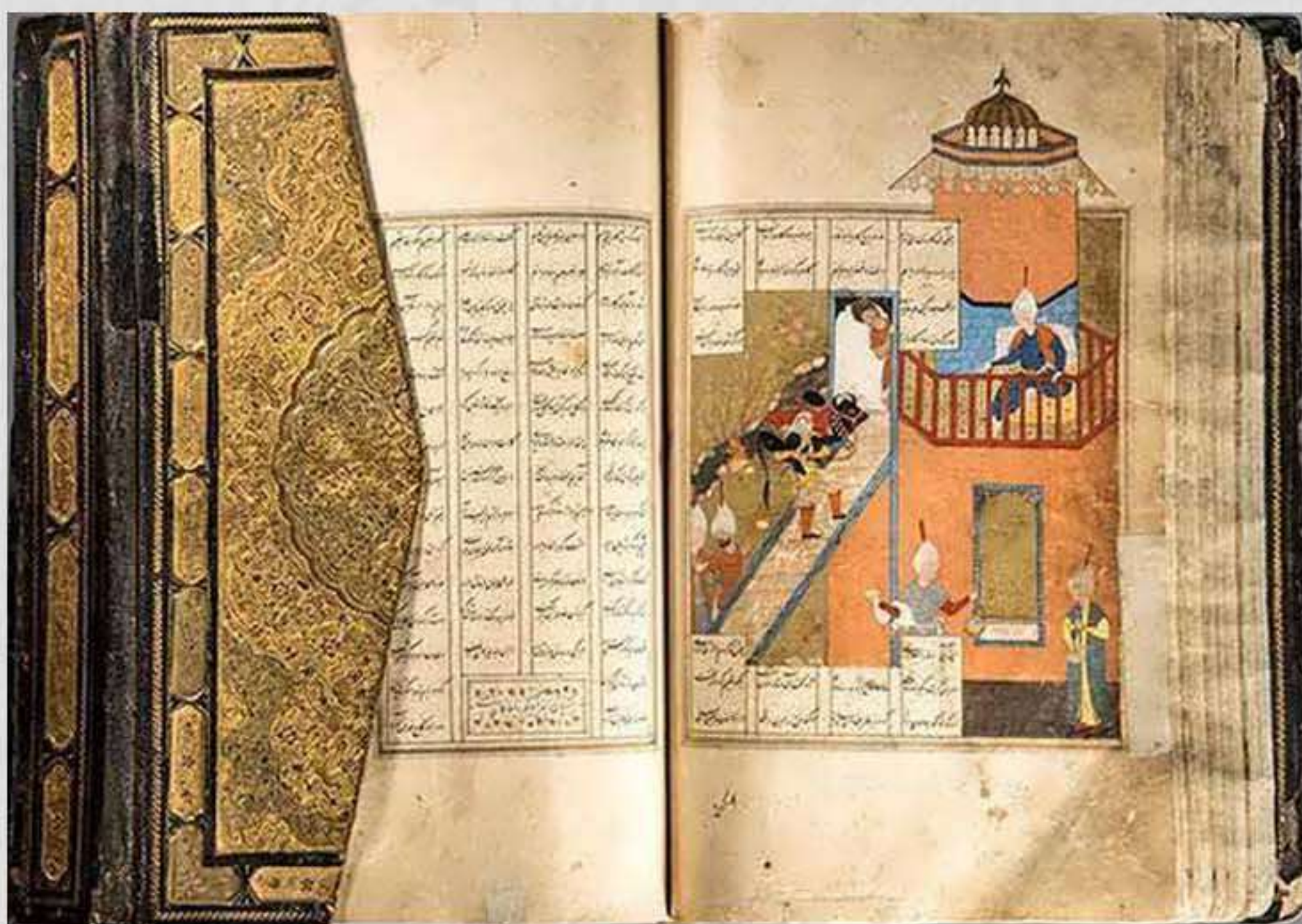
Islamic Archaeology and Art of Iran

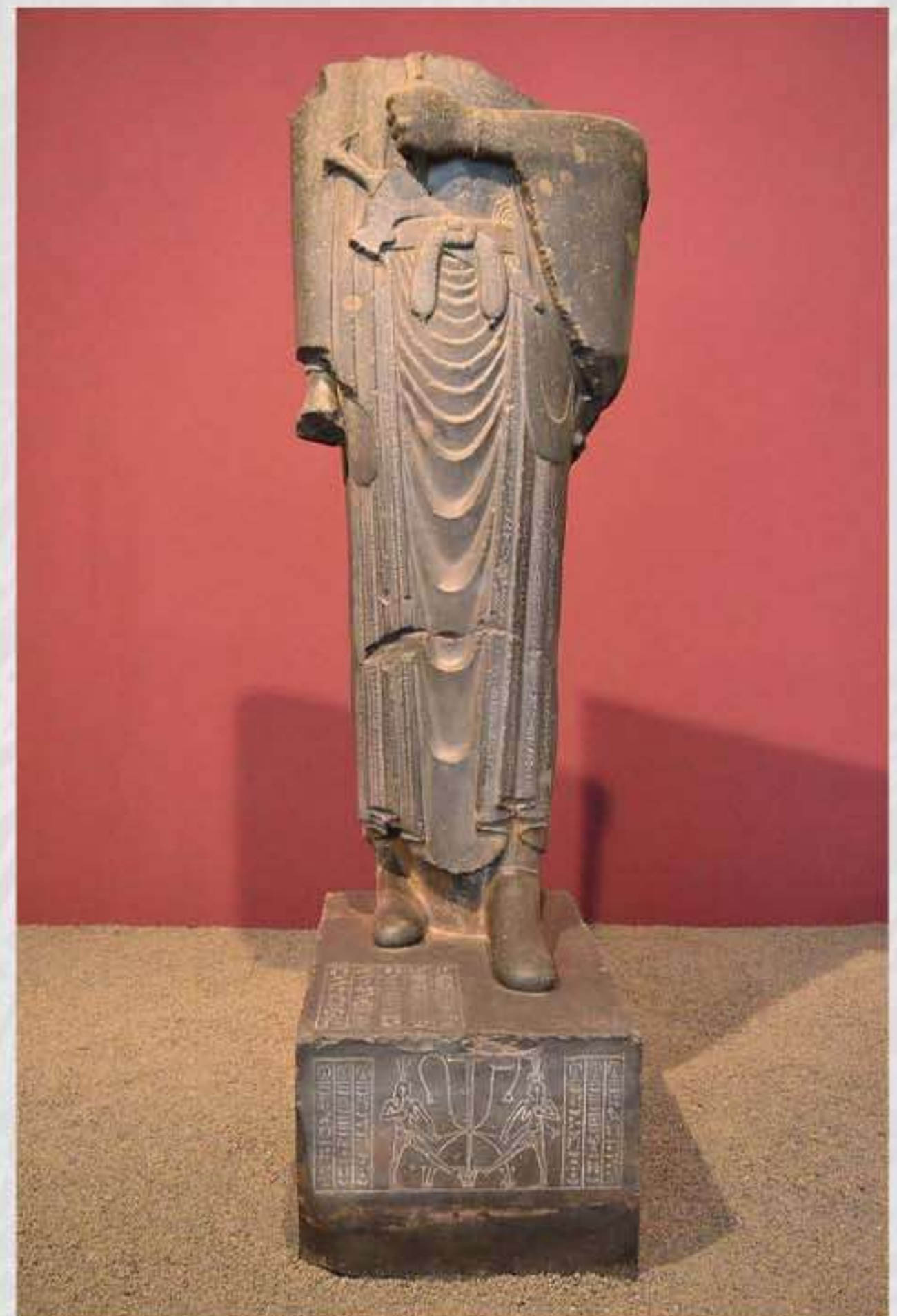
The Museum of Islamic Archaeology and Art of Iran covers some 4000 square meters with three floors is a part of the National Museum of Iran. Its octagonal plan is inspired by the Sasanid palace at Bishāpur. The museum building was designed by architect Eugene Aftandilian, and its construction began in the 1940s and completed in the 1950s. The building was initially used as ethnography museum and for temporary exhibitions. After a period of renovation, the building was reopened in 1996 as the Museum of the Islamic Era. In the summer of 2006, another phase of restoration and reconstruction began, and the new museum was reopened in 2015.

The ground floor is designated as the auditorium and the temporary exhibitions hall. The Islamic artifacts are on display chronologically on the first and second floors. The second floor contains the early Islamic, Seljuq and Ilkhanid periods and the first floor houses the holy Qurān hall, and artifacts of the Timurid, Safavid, Afshār, Zand and Qajar periods.









SOCIETY

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PARVANEH VOSSOUGH, AN EPITOME OF HUMANITARIAN DEVOTION

May 20, 2022

The late Prof. Parvaneh Vossough, a pioneer of modern pediatric hematology and oncology in Iran, and one of the foremost global authorities in pediatric oncology, devoted her entire life voluntarily to those in need of her knowledge, experience, and guidance.



She was appointed as an attending pediatric oncologist at M.D. Anderson Medical Center in Houston, Texas. In spite of various opportunities outside the country, having decided to come back and serve in her country, Iran, she resigned from her position and rejected all other job offers. This was the beginning of a lifelong career filled with love and dedication realizing that “cancer is curable”.

The effort Prof. Vossough exerted in establishing the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology ward in Ai-Asghar Hospital, which led to the establishment of comparable departments in various hospitals, was groundbreaking and among her greatest success stories in the field of cancer treatment, leaving behind a legacy of extremely difficult to match. Throughout her many years of service, Prof. Vossough functioned as a dedicated volunteer without ever collecting any compensation.

Prof. Vossough was the chairwoman of MAHAK’s Board of Trustees and an active member of various medical societies, including the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (INCTR) and the Middle East children with cancer with the most up-to-date, proper, and comprehensive treatment protocols.

Prof. Parvaneh Vossough, born in 1935 in Tafresh, passed away on May 19, 2013, at the age of 78. For us, there are no goodbyes, as she will always be in our hearts. On May 19, we commemorated her efforts and commitment. May her memory and her fulfilling life of humanitarian devotion give us comfort and direction.

IRANIANS WASTE THE LEAST FOOD IN WEST ASIA

June 6, 2022

TEHRAN – The Food Waste Index Report 2021 from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) states that Iranians have the lowest food waste per capita in West Asia (the Middle East).

This report sheds new light on the magnitude of food waste, and on the prevalence of household food waste on all continents, irrespective of country income levels. By throwing away 17 percent of the food available at retail, food service, and consumer level, the impacts of food systems on climate, nature, and pollution are generated needlessly. An estimated 8-10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food that is not consumed and yet none of the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement mention food waste. This suggests a total of around 931 million tons of food waste across these three sectors, sixty-one percent of which came from households, 26 percent from food service, and 13 percent from retail.

This suggests that 17 percent of total global food production may be wasted.

On a global per capita level, 121 kilograms of consumer-level food is wasted each year, with 74 kilograms of this happening in households.

According to UN estimates, Iranians have the lowest food waste per capita in West Asia (the Middle East). Bahrain has the highest food waste per capita in this region. Every Bahraini loses 132 kilograms of food a year, which is more than other people in the region.

Some other countries that have more food waste per capita than Iran are Canada with 79 kg, the USA with 79 kg, France, Germany, Britain, Turkey, and Afghanistan.



DONATING BLOOD IS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY

June 13, 2022

TEHRAN - World Blood Donor Day takes place on 14 June each year. The day provides an opportunity to call to action governments and health authorities to provide adequate resources to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, unpaid blood donors and to manage access to blood and the transfusion of those who require it.



For 2022, the slogan is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives” to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

To ensure that everyone who needs transfusion has access to safe blood, all countries need voluntary, unpaid blood donors who give blood regularly.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country and more than 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually. Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP), according to WHO.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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IRAN'S SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING CORONAVIRUS TO SPOTLIGHT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 22, 2022

TEHRAN – The successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the coronavirus pandemic will be made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said. Focused on the theme of “Health for Peace, Peace for Health”, the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22 to 28. Stating that the country has been able to reduce the Covid mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, he added that this success has even been considered by the world’s scientific circles.

The summit will address health-priority issues around the world, including primary health care, sustainable development goals, vaccinations, the role of medicine and the environment in health, he said, adding that Iran’s achievement in containing the global pandemic is also mentioned.

Einollahi is heading the Iranian delegation to the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly.

Other key topics under discussion include strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, an implementation road map 2023–2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and an intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022-2031, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; poliomyelitis; and the Global Health for Peace Initiative.



INTL. SCIENTIFIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS

May 25, 2022

TEHRAN – The 14th International Festival of Movement, aiming to introduce the top scientific achievements of students, announced winners at the closing ceremony on Tuesday.

This year, students from 63 countries participated in this international festival.



Held annually, the festival also aims to attract students to participate in scientific activities, identify outstanding scientific students, transfer experiences and synergies between scientific associations, strengthen the relationship between society and industry and focus on solving the country's issues, strengthen interdisciplinary activities, and get acquainted with companies and owners of industries and the increase of scientific interactions.

In 2008, the first edition of the event with the title "National Festival of Movement" was hosted by the University of Tehran.

The projects will be judged and evaluated in 13 sections and a special section; including 53 inventions, 337 top associations, 32 dynamic associations, 218 creative activities, 73 entrepreneurship projects, 56 books, 147 digital content, 121 competitions, 303 publications, 35 top universities, 10 unions of top scientific associations, 4 journals, 307 international works and 98 works in the special section of the festival on the subject of corona and post-corona, resilient economics and environment.

In this regard, over 60 countries have submitted their works, which include 1894 cases, to the Secretariat. Associations from Nepal, Mauritius, India, Ukraine, Iraq, etc. participated in the festival in person. Other countries such as the Netherlands, Spain, the United States, Poland, France, Syria, Pakistan, Canada, Brazil, Malaysia, etc. also followed the event virtually.

IRANIAN UNIVERSITY TOPS WORLD'S LIST FOR GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

June 15, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran University of Medical Sciences has ranked the world's leading university for contributing to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of good health and well-being.

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' contributions to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), show that universities worldwide are seizing the moment to double down on a long tradition of public service of delivering sustainable social and economic impact for their communities and society at large.

Among more than 1,400 universities from 106 countries, 17 different universities from 14 countries top one of the 17 individual rankings for each SDG – a diverse global community ready to hold itself accountable for the delivery of the global goals, sharing data, and benchmarking progress.

During the last four years, Iran University of Medical Sciences has been the first and top university in West Asia (the Middle East) in this ranking.

In the Times Impact Rankings 2022, Iran University of Medical Sciences, in addition to gaining the top rank in the Health and Wellbeing Index, won the seventh rank in the field of Quality Education.

Most recently, fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education.



SPORT



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IRAN'S AIR PISTOL TEAM WIN GOLD AT ISSF WORLD CUP

May 31, 2022

TEHRAN - The Iranian men's air pistol team won the gold medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup 2022 in Baku on Tuesday.

Iranian men's air pistol team with Javad Foroughi, Mohammad Rasoul Efati, and Sajjad Pourhosseini defeated Italy's Paolo Monna, Luca Tesconi and Federico Nilo Maldini 16-10 in the final.

The bronze medal went to Germany who beat Uzbekistan 16-6.

The competition has brought more than 700 athletes from 66 countries together in Azerbaijan capital.



ESTEGHLAL LIFT IPL TROPHY

May 31, 2022

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team posed for a photograph after winning title of Iran Professional League (IPL) Monday night.

The Blues, captained by Vouria Ghafouri, won the title after nine years.

Esteghlal also became the first team in history of the competition to win the title without suffering a single defeat.



IRAN'S BAKHTIAR WINS GOLD AND SILVER AT 2022 ASIA OCEANIA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 16, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian Para powerlifter Mohsen Bakhtiar claimed two medals at the 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships on Thursday.

Bakhtiar seized a gold medal with personal best lift of 185kg and 543kg in total in the Men's Up to 59kg.

El Salvador's Herbert Aceituno won a gold medal in total and the bronze medal went to Chinese Qi Yongkai.

Iran's Hamed Solhipour had won two gold medals in the up to 97 kg weight class on Day 1.

The 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships take place from June 15 to 20 in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. The event has brought 231 athletes from 33 countries across the six days of competition.

It is the first of four Regional Championships in the 2022 Para powerlifting season followed by the Americas, Africa, and European Open Championships.

Iran registered female athletes for the first time and powerlifters are on their journey towards Paris 2024.



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IRAN EYES IMPLEMENTING BARTER TRADE WITH AFRICA

June 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) deputy head for export markets development has said his organization is looking for ways to implement barter trade mechanisms with the country's African trade partners, the TPO portal reported.

"Given the implementation of barter trade mechanism by the Trade Promotion Organization with several countries, we hope to benefit from this platform with African trade partners as well," Ahmad-Reza Alaei Tabatabaei said.

The official noted that the TPO has prepared a list of 1,100 commodity items that can be included in the barter trade with African countries.

Referring to the TPO plans to expand trade with Africa, Tabatabaei announced the improvement of export infrastructure and strengthening of the presence of Iranian commercial attachés in the said continent.

According to the official, the most important challenge for Iranian businessmen regarding Africa is the lack of knowledge and familiarity with its markets.

He further noted that another important challenge in the way of expanding trade with African countries is transportation and logistics, especially the need for developing maritime transportation infrastructure.

"Establishing regular shipping lines, which we have recently witnessed in East Africa and which needs to be strengthened, must also be implemented and regulated in West Africa. By allocating transportation subsidies, we try to regulate these lines; So that traders can benefit from this capacity," Tabatabaei said.

Referring to Iran's great potential in the field of technical and engineering services, he said: "African Countries are among of the most important importers of technical and engineering services in the world, and fortunately, Iran has become more advanced in this area in recent years."

The official also pointed to the 45 percent increase in exports to Africa, saying: "Currently, Ghana is Iran's first export destination in Africa, followed by South Africa and Nigeria in second and third places."



IRAN TARGETS \$5B ANNUAL TRADE WITH AFRICA BY 2025

June 11, 2022

TEHRAN – Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak has said the country is taking the necessary steps to increase annual trade exchanges with African countries to \$5 billion by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins in March 2025).



Peyman-Pak said the trade with the mentioned countries is expected to reach \$2.5 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

Referring to the preparation of the country's trade development roadmap at the beginning of the work of the 13th administration, the official said: "In this roadmap, major factors including exports and the share of different sectors is specified, and in the case of Africa, the priorities and targets for trade with different countries and the requirements for reaching these targets are determined."

Peyman-Pak put the share of African countries in Iran's export basket at \$1.2 billion, saying: "Africa's annual imports amount to about \$580 billion and our share of this figure is still small despite all the efforts. We have managed to export \$1.2 billion to this market."

He further mentioned the capacities of the mentioned continent for the export of technical and engineering services and said: "The total exports of technical and engineering services to Africa is currently \$300 billion; But our share last year, despite a slight increase reached only \$200 million, which is still small."

According to the TPO head, in order to increase the level of trade with Africa certain infrastructure including transportation and direct shipping lines, as well as proper legal, commercial, monetary, and banking relations must be provided, and TPO has been recently focusing on providing such requirements to facilitate trade with Africa.

"To solve the transportation problems, four countries have been selected in East, West, South, and North of Africa, to launch air and shipping lines," he said.

IRAN MARINEX 2022 RUNNING IN KISH ISLAND

June 14, 2022

TEHRAN – The 12th edition of Iran International Marine Industries Exhibition (Iran MARINEX 2022) kicked off at Kish International Exhibition Center in southern Hormozgan Province on Monday, the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior maritime officials including PMO Deputy Head Hassan Beyk-Mohammadlou and Head of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) Hossein Shiva.

As reported, the purpose of holding this four-day exhibition is to develop the maritime industry and to promote the maritime economy in various fields including shipping, designing, shipbuilding, ports, maritime, fisheries, environment, tourism, and other offshore activities.

Promoting scientific and trade relations among different fields, increasing the regional and global market share of port and maritime services, creating a suitable opportunity for interaction among maritime scholars, upgrading the scientific and industrial quality of the maritime sector, attracting foreign investment, and promoting the domestic production of the equipment used in this industry are also among the goals of this exhibition.

Many universities, research centers, maritime educational institutions, and also knowledge-based companies are also participating in this year's exhibition along with companies active in this field.





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