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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Iran's Prestigious Position in the Book World

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Books, in their printed form, are an indispensable part of human life, despite the giant leaps made by the electronic media and the e-books available on the net for download and reading on the screen.

Iran, which is one of the ancient centres of civilization going back several thousand years, has a rich heritage of printed books and manuscripts, many of which are rare and nowhere to be found elsewhere in the world, especially the Arabic and Persian collection that is eagerly sought by researchers from other countries.

"Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave," had said Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), a saying which continues to serve as an impetus for Iranian Muslims.

As a result, libraries in Iran are well-stocked with books on all subjects under the sun, including modern sciences.

Libraries in Iran, such as the one at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, and the Ayatollah Mar'ashi Library in Qom, which houses the vast manuscript collection of a single person, as well as the Majlis (parliament) Library and National Library in Tehran – to name a few – top the list of the leading libraries with international fame.

Throughout the country, almost all mosques, madrasahs, and colleges, have their own unique libraries that cater to the requirements of the local people. There are numerous private libraries all over Iran, most of which are undocumented.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 made books and book-reading all the most popular in Iran, which currently has a 93 percent literacy rate.

In view of these facts, following the establishment of the Islamic Republic, it was but natural for Iran to hold an international book exhibit every year, although book exhibitions on various scales are common throughout the country.

This year, Iran is holding the 31st Tehran International Book Fair that started on May 2 at the sprawling 130-hectare Imam Khomeini Mosalla (Prayer Ground) and will continue till May 11.

This annual fixture affords an opportunity for the acquaintance of the young generation with the latest publications in Iran and abroad, as well as familiarity with the heritage of the past.

This year a total of 1147 publishers from Iran and 53 other countries have put on display around 86,000 new titles, of which publishers from Arab states account for 37,500 titles.

In recent years, the spread of the Internet has caused many bookworms to switch to cyberspace. According to the latest figures, 42 percent of book-readers, especially of the new generation prefer to read e-books, and this trend is on the increase.

Thus, in addition to the opportunities provided for researchers, thanks to digitizing of important books, the Internet is contributing to the spread of the book culture. As a result, information technology has vastly improved.

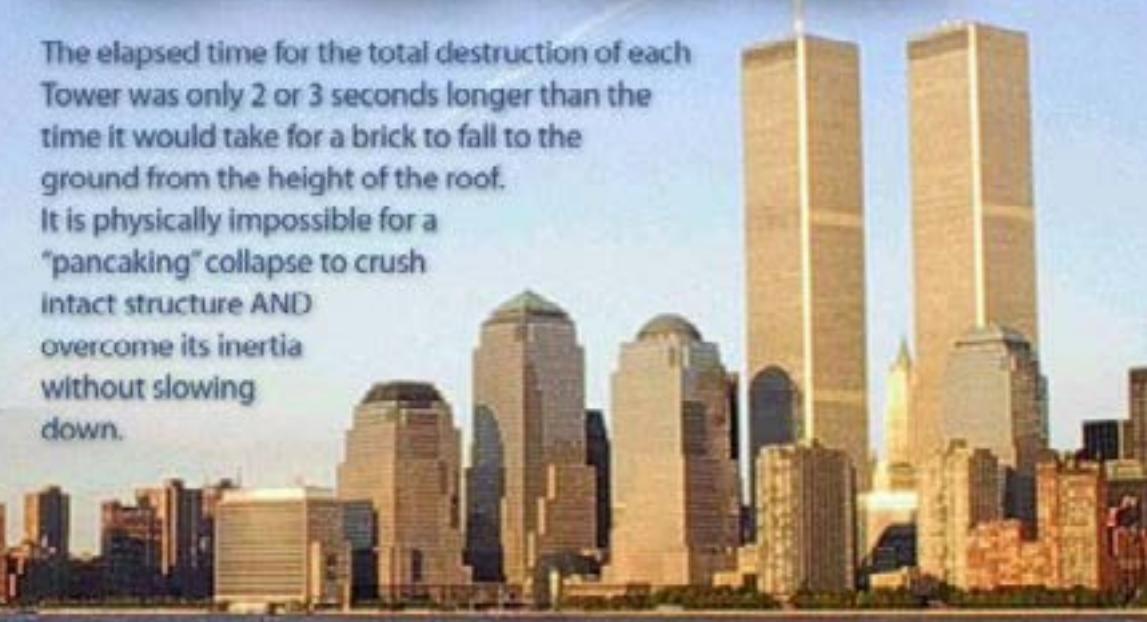
In short, the future is bright for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which despite the sanctions imposed by the cowardly US, has gained access to the latest knowledge in all fields.

Foreign Ministry:

U.S. Ruling on Tehran Link to 9/11 'Absurd'

THEY FELL TOO FAST

The elapsed time for the total destruction of each Tower was only 2 or 3 seconds longer than the time it would take for a brick to fall to the ground from the height of the roof.
It is physically impossible for a "pancaking" collapse to crush intact structure AND overcome its inertia without slowing down.



Demand a REAL Investigation into 9/11

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday vehemently rejected a court ruling in New York, which ordered the Islamic Republic to pay \$6 billion to the families of those killed in 9/11 attacks in the United States.

Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said the default ruling issued by a judge in New York was politically-motivated, without any solid evidence or findings against the Iranian government or nationals as regards the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"Issuing such an absurd and unacceptable verdict mocks not only the international legal system but also the survivors and families of the victims of the September 11 attacks," he said.

"The architects of this political game are seeking in vain to distort realities and change the result of legal proceedings in order to alter the final verdict in a stupid way," Qasemi added.

Such efforts, the spokesman said, are aimed at hiding the role of the main

culprits and rewriting the history at wish, but to no avail.

The Iranian spokesman underlined that the verdict stands in stark contrast to all acceptable norms of international law which call for judicial impunity for all states in the world.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran preserves the right to respond to the illegal procedures," he added.

The judgment, issued by Manhattan federal judge George Daniels on Tuesday, is hollow because Iran has never responded to the lawsuit and is unlikely to ever pay.

The lawsuit claims that Iran provided

Tehran Court Sentences 16 Female Daesh Members to Jail

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Court has sentenced 16 female members of the Daesh terrorist group to jail.

Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi said Sunday the women who had moved to Syria to join Daesh and receive terrorist training were arrested upon return to Iran.

Based on the indictment, the women will have to both serve their prison terms and pay the money they received as salary from Daesh and undergo some other supplementary punishment, ISNA reported.

Last week, Iranian judiciary began the trial of 26 of Daesh members which targeted the Iranian parliament and the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini last year, killing 17 people.

Iran's security forces have also arrested a person linked to

the terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who was planning to carry out acts of sabotage in the holy city of Mashhad.

Judge Hassan Heydari, deputy for political and security affairs at the prosecutor's office in Mashhad, said the 37-year-old suspect sought to infiltrate certain guilds on the eve of Workers' Day and Teachers' Week in Iran.

"The suspect, who had long been under surveillance for contact with the agents of the terrorist group of the hypocrites (MKO), was arrested on a judicial order and the investigation continues," he said.

Peaceful protests over economic conditions in Mashhad last December quickly degenerated into unruly riots which spread into a few other towns, with authorities saying terrorist groups such as the MKO played a role.

(Continued on Page 7)

where more than 17,000 people have fallen victim to "the nasty phenomena".

He also touched on Iran's achievements in the fight against terror and underlined the urgent need for global commitment to eradicating terrorism and extremism across the world.

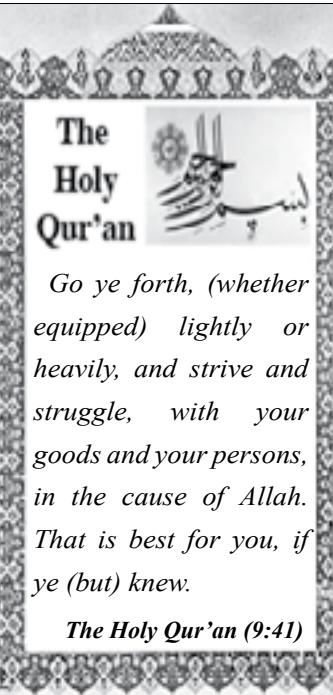
The Iranian diplomat noted that to achieve the goal, international cooperation, serious political will and appropriate regional

mechanisms taken by all regional states are highly significant.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Dehqani said foreign aggression and the occupation of lands is behind a rise of extremism across the world.

"The military adventurism of some states which have paved the way for the current insecurity in the world over the past 15 years should come to an end," he said.

The diplomat further called for



Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye (but) knew. The Holy Qur'an (9:41)

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening(Maghreb)	20:15
Dawn(Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:30
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:06

technical assistance, training and planning to the Al-Qaeda operatives that conducted the attacks.

However, the official investigation on the attacks, known as the 9/11 Commission Report, said that Iran did not play a direct role.

Nevertheless, Daniels insisted that the country was liable to more than 1,000 "parents, spouses, siblings and children" involved in the lawsuit.

He signed off on a pro forma default order against "the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran" after they refused to respond to the suit.

The lawsuit is not linked to a case filed against Saudi Arabia, which families of 9/11 victims say provided direct support for the attackers. Fifteen of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were Saudi citizens.

FM Zarif Tells Parliament:

Afghanistan Undertook to Release Iran's Water Share

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said here Sunday Afghanistan has pledged to let Iran have its share of water from Hirmand river.

He also said the two neighbors have for the first time reached agreements on the legal regime of Harirud river.

Although there are various options to secure Iran's share of water, including strict policies towards Afghanistan in certain areas, relations between Tehran and Kabul have always been brotherly and friendly, Zarif said.

The two neighbors, he said, have agreed to set up five committees to handle various bilateral issues, including disputes over the water share.

Zarif said the foreign ministry sent two protest letters to Afghanistan in March and April to remind Kabul of Iran's rights under a 1973 treaty.

Iran and Afghanistan disagree on the allocation of water from Hirmand as both countries suffer from protracted droughts.

Iran's Energy Ministry says Afghanistan has breached a bilateral treaty after refusing to release Iran's share of the water from Hirmand.

Under the treaty, Afghanistan is obliged to release 26 cubic meters of water per second for drinking and irrigation in Iran.

Over the past two decades, the fertile Hamoon wetlands which were fed by Hirmand have substantially dried up.

The Taliban closed the sluices at Kajaki dam, in Helmand, choking off water to Iran from 1998 to 2001.

This compounded the impact of the worst drought the region has experienced in many decades, caused in part by climate change and warming temperatures.

Envoy Urges World to Unite Against Terrorists

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for legal and international affairs Gholam-Hussein Dehqani has urged all states to get united in their fight on terrorism and extremism.

In an address to the International Conference on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Tajikistan Saturday, Dehqani described Iran one of the main victims of terrorism

where more than 17,000 people have fallen victim to "the nasty phenomena".

He also touched on Iran's achievements in the fight against terror and underlined the urgent need for global commitment to eradicating terrorism and extremism across the world.

The Iranian diplomat noted that to achieve the goal, international cooperation, serious political will and appropriate regional

mechanisms taken by all regional states are highly significant.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Dehqani said foreign aggression and the occupation of lands is behind a rise of extremism across the world.

"The military adventurism of some states which have paved the way for the current insecurity in the world over the past 15 years should come to an end," he said.

The diplomat further called for

in-depth studies on the root causes of extremism and terrorism, saying the Takfiri ideology leads to a spread of hatred among nations.

Dehqani called for urgent measures to alleviate poverty in the region through creating jobs, stemming financial resources of the terrorists, avoiding double standards in fighting terror and ending use of media to spread extremism and terrorism.