

Largest Training Village to Open in Hamadan



TEHRAN -- The largest educational and training village to improve students' skills will be inaugurated soon in western Iran, the vice-chancellor of educational and technical sciences of Islamic Azad University says.

The village has been established in Hamedan, Muhammad Ali Nadi told ANA.

Nadi said the model of technology development and entrepreneurship in the university is a triangle composed of education, skill and technology, which includes various fields, including TMC centers, laboratories, workshops and simulated skill environments.

Christie's to Auction \$2.6 Million Safavid Carpet



A rare silk Safavid 'Polonaise' carpet.

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Luxury auction house Christie's is set to host its Art of the Islamic and Indian World sale at its headquarters in London on Oct. 24, with objects spanning more than 1,000 years of history.

The auction will offer a curated selection of carpets, ceramics, manuscripts, textiles, works on paper and metalwork from across the Islamic world.

The Oct. 24 sale will be led by a rare silk Safavid Polonaise carpet from the early 17th century, valued at between \$1,300,000-\$2,600,000, and a pair of beveled Sasanian silver bottles from Iran, from the 6th or 7th century.

The bottles are a highlight for Sara Plumbly, who heads up the auction house's Art of the Islamic and Indian World department, as they represent a rare look at a style of adornment that foreshadowed the early Islamic beveled style of architecture style in the 9th

century.

"They're a kind of pivotal piece in that they're Sasanian, they're pre-Islamic, but they are informing the art and the architecture of future dynasties," she said of the gilt-and-silver pieces.

With an estimated value of \$270,000-\$390,000, the beveled bottles were on show in Dubai and visitors marveled at the strikingly modern style of the raised carvings.

"One of the things that appeals to me the most is the design, it almost feels Art Nouveau or something," Plumbly said, referring to the form popularized at the start of the 20th century.

Another highlight in the auction is a Florentine portrait of Ottoman leader Suleiman the Magnificent, painted in Italy circa 1600.

Artist Cristofano dell'Altissimo, or a member of his circle, painted the tenth and longest-reigning sultan of the Ottoman empire based on a previous painting of the sultan, which had been sent to Florence.

"Barbarossa met with his counterpart, a French admiral, and presented to him this wonderful ebony and ivory box that was ... filled with portraits of Ottoman sultans ... and so that was copied," Plumbly explained, referring to Hayreddin Barbarossa, admiral of the Ottoman Navy.

The Italian version of the image of Suleiman became widely distributed across Europe and informed the European image of one of the most well-known Ottoman sultans in history.

The auction encompasses "everything from the of birth of Islam, so the 7th century, right up until the 19th, and from Spain to China," Plumbly said of the wide-ranging lots set to go under the hammer next week.

Tale of Palestine in Yahya Sinwar's Novel (Part I)

TEHRAN -- It was unlikely that Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and head of its political bureau who was assassinated in Rafah on Friday, spent much time thinking about the novel he wrote 20 years ago.

A Persian translation of Sinwar's novel "The Thorn and the Carnation" will be published in Iran. Translated by Hanieh Kamari, the book will soon be published by Soore Mehr Publication in Tehran.

Published in 2004, "The Thorn and the Carnation" was smuggled out in sections from Israeli prisons where he was serving four life sentences. The novel reflects a time of personal despair and defiance, a stark contrast to his role at the helm of Palestinian decision-making during a war that has reshaped the geopolitics of the region.

Yet reading the novel today is nevertheless akin to listening to Sinwar's voice narrate the background to the ongoing war in Gaza. These are the only words he has written about himself, making this document required reading at a time when Palestinian narratives are obscured, as they relate to this war and beyond. In the same vein, Sinwar's novel has been glossed over in the extensive Western analysis of Hamas' top man.

Since Hamas' military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on Oct. 7, 2023, there has been a flurry of Israeli reports about Sinwar. Both Israeli and U.S. intelligence reports agree he bears direct responsibility for the operation. Curiously, these reports have largely overlooked Muhammad Deif, the commander of the



Al-Qassam Brigades, despite his status as the only public face celebrated by supporters of the Palestinian resistance in both the West Bank and Gaza over the past three years.

The obsession with Sinwar intensified on Aug. 6, when Hamas announced his appointment as head of its political bureau, just five days after the assassination of his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran. Western media scrutiny of his biography has increased, drawing heavily on Israeli intelligence sources, including accounts from Yuval Bitton, a dentist who later became a senior intelligence officer in the Israeli prison service. Prominent Western newspapers carry conflicting portrayals of Sinwar, who was to turn 62 in late October, that oscillate between demonization and awe, describing him as cunning, shrewd, intelligent and resilient.

The words of Sinwar in his speeches have been parsed by many Western and Israeli analysts for obscure religious meanings, reflecting a cultural misunderstanding whereby Palestinian and Arab leaders are often seen as inscrutable and alien.

In most of these analyses, Sinwar's life story, as portrayed in "The Thorn and the Carnation," is rarely mentioned, although it is the most extensive document available that offers glimpses of his biography within the broader context of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Any attempt to understand Sinwar's personality is incomplete without an in-depth look at this book, written by his own hand, which provides crucial insights into the environment that shaped him and his generation of Hamas leaders in Gaza across four decades of Israeli occupation.

French Museum Showcases Sufi Art of Persia

PARIS (Le Monde) -- From the outside, the manor house on the banks of the Seine, protected by high gilded gates, looks like the other villas in this affluent enclave of Chatou, a western Parisian suburb.

The courtyard offers a wonderful view of the Island of Impressionists that was spared from the real estate industry's voracious appetite. In the garden's maze of roses and jasmine, the soft splash of a fountain imbues the air with a gentle tranquility. A soothing melody fills the rooms.

In the Museum of Sufi Art and Culture, which opened on September 28, everything was done to create an atmosphere of luxury, calm and delight.

Financed by the MTO Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism, the venue showcases a reassuring environment for a tolerant brand of Islam. Finely crafted traveler's canes and beggars' begging dishes carved into coconuts bear witness to a mystical quest whose precepts are delivered in Persian by the hologram of a Sufi master. Even the tabarzins, a kind of axe, have been stripped of their warlike nature. "They're used to symbolically cut the ties with the material world and with our ego," explained Claire Bay, the museum's young Sufi president.

These ritual objects are paired with works by living artists with varying degrees of familiarity with mysticism. Some are Muslim, like Morocco's Younès Rahmoun and



The gardens of the Museum of Sufi Art and Culture, Chatou (Yvelines).

Iran's Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, others are not. "Sufism's aura can be felt in all of these creations, from which a thousand threads can be drawn beyond questions of religion and geography," asserted museum director Alexandra Baudelot. In her view, "what fuels the most toxic fantasies is a lack of understanding." Claire Bay concurred: "People hear music, they see calligraphy, they see works of art, and they think: 'Oh, so this is Islam?'"

Picture of the Day



Buffaloes are an integral part of the life of rural Arab people of Khuzestan. In Dasht-e Azadegan, herdsmen take their buffaloes to the river two to three times a day for swimming depending on the weather.
Photo by Mehr News