

## Prodigy to Represent Iran in UAE Qur'an Competition



TEHRAN -- Qur'an memorizer Amir Hadi Bayrami will represent Iran in the international Qur'an competition of United Arab Emirates.

He left Tehran for the Persian Gulf Arab country on Friday. Bayrami, who is visually-impaired, is from the northwestern province of Ardebil.

Born in 2010, he is a memorizer of the entire Qur'an. He learned the Qur'an by heart by taking memorization courses of the Meshkat Qur'anic plan, implemented by the Iranian Academics Qur'anic Organization.

Bayrami has also graduated from university, managing to get a BA two years ago despite his young age.

The last time Iran participated in the UAE's international Qur'an

competition was in 2019. Muhammad Reza Valimohammadi competed for Iran in that year's edition but failed to win any ranks.

# Mashhad to Host Int'l Qur'an Competition in February 2025

TEHRAN -- The 41st edition of Iran's international Holy Qur'an competition will be held in the northeastern city of Mashhad in February 2025.

In a ceremony in held in the holy city on Saturday, the competition's organizing committee officially began its work.

It was attended by Hamid Majidmehr, head of the Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization's Quranic Affairs Center.

He said it has been decided that cities other than Tehran and Mashhad would also host the prestigious event in the coming years.



Mashhad had also been selected to host the competition's 37th edition in 2019 but the coronavirus pandemic forced the organizer to hold the event virtually.

This year, the final stage of Iran's 40th international Qur'an competition was held in Tehran from February 15 to 21 with the participation of 69 reciters and memorizers from 44 countries.

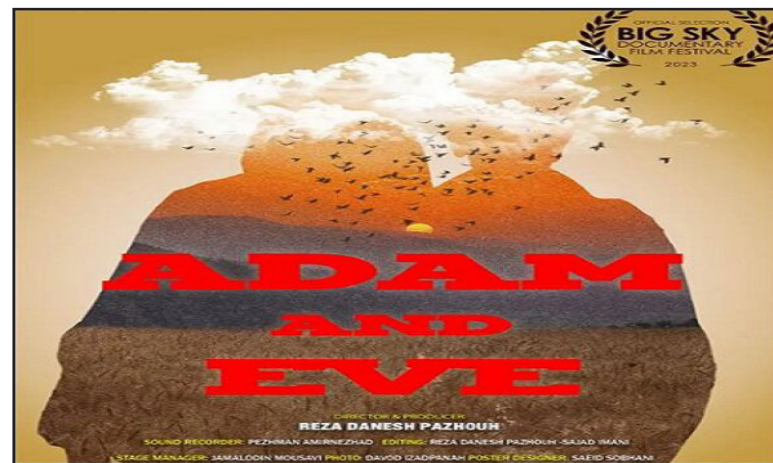
The annual event, organized by Iran's Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization, aims to promote the Qur'anic culture and values among Muslims and showcase the talents of Quran reciters and memorizers.

## 'Adam and Eve' to Premiere in German Festival

TEHRAN -- Iranian documentary film "Adam and Eve" produced and directed by Reza Daneshpajoooh will be screened at the German International Ethnographic Film Festival.

The documentary has previously participated in prestigious American and European festivals.

The German International Ethnographic Film Festival takes place from 8 to 12 May 2024 in the Paulinerkirche in Göttingen, Germany.



## Iranian Researchers Make Neurostimulation Device

TEHRAN -- Researchers at a knowledge-based company in Iran have designed and manufactured a device for stimulating nerve cells in animals for research in the laboratory environments.

Iranian researchers, especially in the field of cognitive neuroscience, can use this neurostimulation device to electrically stimulate parts of the brain with the settings provided by the device's software and observe the effect of this stimulation on the animal's behavior to fix and treat the failures and problems, ANA reported.

Rouhollah Shir Afkan, the director of the research and development (R&D) department of the knowledge-based company, explained that the device can be used to artificially produce body movements and observe the effect of stimulation on vision, hearing

and different parts deep in the brain.

"Electrical stimulation is one of the common methods used in recent years, which has found many applications in the medical and research sector. These stimulators are usually used to stimulate the cells of the auditory and visual nerves, and specially the neurons in the brain," he said.

"The device enjoys the capability to generate stimulation of two independent pulse current channels in single-phase, two-phase, and pulse train with the pulse width, frequency and desired amplitude settings," Shir Afkan said.

Neurostimulation devices are utilized to establish a connection between the nervous system and the external environment, playing a vital role in neural recording and stimulation.

## Astrolabe Discovered in Verona Reveals Islam's Golden Age



ROME (Dispatches) -- An eleventh-century rare astrolabe bearing Arabic and Hebrew inscriptions was recently discovered in a museum in Verona, Italy. It dates from the 1100s, making it one of the oldest astrolabes ever discovered.

The discovery of ancient astronomical tool bearing Arabic and Hebrew inscriptions has unveiled a rich tapestry of scientific exchange among Arabs, Jews, and Christians during medieval times.

Its history tells a fascinating story of centuries-long adaptation, translation, and revision by Muslim, Jewish, and Christian scholars in Spain, North Africa, and Italy.

Astrolabes are early scientific calculators that could measure time, distances, and the position of stars, and even make horoscopes predicting the future. They are pocket-sized maps of the universe that enable users to plot the position of the stars. Dr Federica Gigante, from

Cambridge's History Faculty and Christ's College, made the discoveries in a museum in Verona, Italy, and just published her study in the journal Nuncius.

"The museum didn't know what it was and thought it might actually be fake. It's now the single most important object in their collection," said Dr. Federica Gigante.

Dr Gigante first came across a newly-uploaded image of the astrolabe by chance on the website of the Fondazione Museo Miniscalchi-Erizzo. The 1,000-year-old astrolabe was identified by complete chance.

"When I visited the museum and studied the astrolabe up close, I noticed that not only was it covered in beautifully engraved Arabic inscriptions but that I could see faint inscriptions in Hebrew. I could only make them out in the raking light entering from a window. I thought I might be dreaming, but I kept seeing more

and more. It was very exciting."

"This isn't just an incredibly rare object. It's a powerful record of scientific exchange between Arabs, Jews, and Christians over hundreds of years," said Dr. Gigante.

"The Verona astrolabe underwent many modifications, additions, and adaptations as it changed hands. At least three separate users felt the need to add translations and corrections to this object, two using Hebrew and one using a Western language."

She deduced that it was initially created in 1100s Muslim-ruled Spain by looking at its unique features and inscriptions. The latitudes of the inscriptions correspond to cities in Spain, such as Toledo and Cordoba.

Dr. Gigante believes the astrolabe was possibly made in Toledo, which back then was an important center where Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived, studied, and worked side-by-side.

Subsequent owners of the astrolabe added Hebrew inscriptions, rendering Hebrew names for zodiac signs and other terms. This means that the astrolabe probably made its way to Italy at some point, where the local Jews had stopped speaking Arabic. However, the Hebrew additions contain an error about latitude, indicating that they were not writ-

ten by an astrolabe expert.

In the Roman numerals that we still use today, some numbers were also very faintly inscribed. According to Dr. Gigante, these were even later additions made by Verona residents who spoke Latin or Italian. Interestingly, some of their "corrections" were actually incorrect, demonstrating that the original Arabic values were more accurate.

This finding underscores the significance of cross-cultural cooperation in advancing science and deepens our understanding of past scientific practices.

## Picture of the Day



The Persian Gulf has always been associated with honor and pride for Iranians. A strategic waterway of high political and economic importance, it is a vast tapestry of life and struggle.

Photo by IRNA