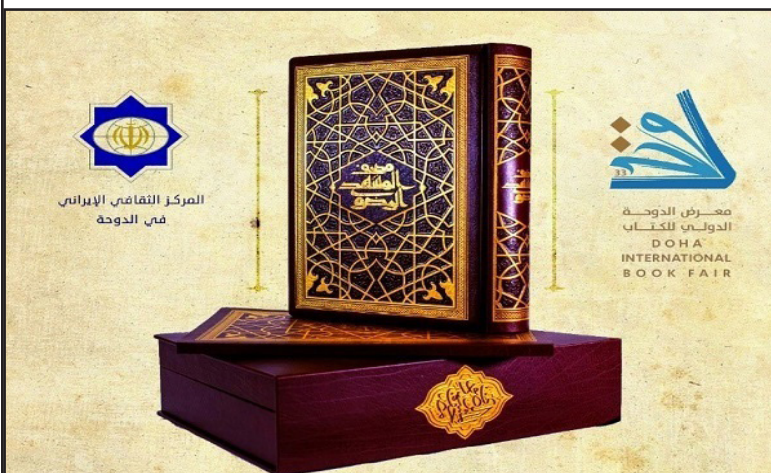


Doha Book Fair to Display Codex Mashhad



TEHRAN -- Codex Mashhad, a 14-centuries-old Qur'an copy, is set to be displayed at the Doha International Book Fair in Qatar.

The codex will be displayed on Tuesday in a ceremony that is set to host Qatari officials and scholars as well as representatives from other countries, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) announced on Monday.

The Doha International Book Fair opened on May 9 and will wrap up on May 18.

Qur'an researcher and translator Morteza Kariminia will provide explanations about the unique features of this Mushaf.

Codex Mashhad was unveiled in a ceremony in Mashhad in late November. The 252-page copy contains 95

percent of the text of the Holy Book.

It was written on parchment measuring 35 by 50 centimeters, either in Medina or Kufa, and was later taken to Khorasan in northeast Iran.

Then, in the late 5th Hijri century, the owner endowed the copy to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS).

Kariminia said in November that the textual characteristics of this codex, including custom features, spelling features, variations in readings, and the arrangement of surahs, along with extensive Carbon 14 testing, reveal that the primary portion of this version dates back to the first century.

This edition includes explanations and an annotated introduction in both Arabic and English, presented in facsimile printing to faithfully replicate the original, he added.

Leader Pays Visit to Int'l Tehran Book Fair

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday paid a visit to the 35th Tehran International Book Fair in the Iranian capital.

During the three-hour visit on Monday, Ayatollah Khamenei toured various sections of the exhibition and spoke with publishers, writers and visitors. The Leader was briefed on the latest situation in Iran's book market.

The Tehran International Book Fair opened to the public on Wednesday.

Over 2,500 Iranian publishers as well as 60 foreign publishers take part in this edition of the book fair, which is underway in both physical and virtual formats, allowing each publisher to choose their preferred method of participation based on

the fair's regulations.

For physical book sales, publications from 2020 onwards are accepted, while for virtual sales, books published from 2014 onwards are eligible for inclusion in the fair.

Yemen is the special guest of this edition of the book fair. Initially, India was designated as the special guest of the book fair, but due to restrictions on Indian citizens traveling to Iran, the organizers made the decision to replace India with Yemen.

Being Iran's major trade fair for books, the TIBF has been turned into a landmark, momentous book fair in West Asia after 34 editions in a row. Millions of visitors inspect the fair every year, including thousands of university students,



scholars, and their families.

The cultural event currently serves as the most significant cultural event in Iran. The foreign publishers substantially offer their materials in English or Arabic however titles in French, German,

Chinese, Korean, and Japanese are also available.

The 35th Tehran International Book Fair, with the slogan "Let's Read and Create," will continue until May 18 in the Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

Top Iranian Chemists of the Year Announced

TEHRAN -- The Iranian Chemistry Society has announced the top chemists of the year at the 22nd chemistry congress held at the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) here.

During the three-day event, outstanding chemists in the majors of physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and analytical chemistry were introduced.

Professor Mostafa Habibi Khorasani from the province of Sistan and Balochestan received honors in the field of physical



chemistry. Professor Shayasteh Dadfarnia

from the University of Yazd was recognized for her contributions

to analytical chemistry.

In organic chemistry, Sadeq Rostamnia from the University of Science and Technology was honored.

Hadi Kargar from the University of Ardakan was selected as the best chemist in inorganic chemistry.

Researchers submitted papers to the congress secretariat covering topics such as physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, applied chemistry, analytical chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and phytochemistry and biochemistry.

Collapse of Shahr-e Belqeys Sparks Consternation



TEHRAN -- A portion of the restored walls of 1500-year-old Shahr-e Belqeys (City of Belqeys), a historical city made of mudbricks in northeast Iran, has collapsed, sparking concerns about the integrity of the remaining structure.

The old city of Esfarayen is located in the northeast of Iran and the southwest of the modern city of Esfarayen. In the Qajar period, it was called the "City of Belghays".

Although Belqeys' antiquity is estimated to be around 6,000 years old by archaeological excavations at neighboring mounds and hilltops, the area was prosperous from the late Sassanians to the early Islamic periods. Belqeys citadel is one of the largest mudbrick fortresses in Iran after the UNESCO-registered Bam Citadel.

Hussein Rahmani, the director of the National Cultural Heritage Base in the historic city of Belqeys, highlighted the significance of the city.

"A section of the restored walls of Shahr-e Belqeys, which is the second mudbrick-and-clay structure in Iran, has been collapsed recently," ISNA quoted Rahmani, who presides over the national site, as saying.

Rahmani expressed concerns that have persisted over the past two to three years regarding the potential collapse of all the restored walls. He also called for urgent restoration work.

Approximately 160 square meters of the restored walls have collapsed, Rahmani said.

He lamented the lack of allocated funds for the restoration of this historical site in recent years, with national funds primarily directed towards employee salaries.

Regarding the cause of the collapse, Rahmani attributed it to improper restoration methods, resulting in uneven restoration depths ranging from 10 centimeters at the bottom to 70 to 80 centimeters at the top of the walls.

Moreover, he emphasized the importance of conducting thorough studies before commencing restoration work, including determining the appropriate materials and techniques.

He criticized the use of raw clay and the application of straw during the restoration process, which deviated from historical construction practices during the Safavid, Ilkhanid, and Seljuk periods.

Furthermore, Rahmani pointed out that the builders of the original structure were well aware of the presence of termites in the region, which posed a threat to the stability of the building. However, the use of inappropriate materials during restoration exacerbated the risk of collapse.

"The combination of expansive soil, erosion, and the weight of the structure led to the collapse of sections of the restored walls."

In Iran's history, the Sassanian era (224-651 CE) is extremely significant. Persian art and architecture saw a general rebirth during the Sassanians. Large-scale architectural designs were common, as seen in the ensemble's highlights, the palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan.

Among the artifacts that have been discovered in Belqeys thus far during excavation rounds are family quarters, irrigation channels, a cistern, and remnants of the citadel.

Philosophy Book by Japanese Writer Published in Persian

TEHRAN -- "Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin: Freedom, Politics and Humanity" (2021) by Japanese expert Kei Hiruta has been rendered into Persian and published.

Described as an impeccably researched work, providing lucid explanation of the political thought of both Arendt and Berlin, the book has been translated into Persian by Saman Safarzai. Tehran-based Parseh Publishing has released it in 414 pages.

For the first time, the full story of the conflict between two of the twentieth century's most important thinkers—and the lessons their disagreements continue to offer

Two of the most iconic thinkers of the twentieth century, Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) and Isaiah Berlin (1909-1997) fundamentally disagreed on central issues in politics, history and philosophy.

In spite of their overlapping lives and experiences as Jewish émigré intellectuals, Berlin disliked Arendt intensely, saying that she represented "everything that I detest most," while Arendt met Berlin's hostility with indifference and suspicion.

Written in a lively style, and filled with drama, tragedy and passion, "Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin" tells, for the first time, the full story of the fraught relationship between these towering figures, and shows how their profoundly different views continue to offer important lessons for political thought today.

Drawing on a wealth of new archival material, Kei Hiruta traces the Arendt-Berlin conflict, from their first meeting in wartime New York through their

widening intellectual chasm during the 1950s, the controversy over Arendt's 1963 book 'Eichmann in Jerusalem', their final missed opportunity to engage with each other at a 1967 conference and Berlin's continuing animosity toward Arendt after her death.

Hiruta blends political philosophy and intellectual history to examine key issues that simultaneously connected and divided Arendt and Berlin, including the nature of totalitarianism, evil and the Holocaust, human agency and moral responsibility, Zionism, American democracy, British imperialism and the Hungarian Revolution. But, most of all, Arendt and Berlin disagreed over a question that goes to the heart of the human condition: what does it mean to



be free? Kei Hiruta is lecturer in philosophy at

the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Picture of the Day



A nomadic family milking their livestock in southern Fars province.

Photo by ISNA

Iran Attends Lebanese Short Film Festival

TEHRAN -- The third Lebanese International Short Film Festival has opened in the city of Tripoli with the participation 24 countries, including Iran.

The "Tiro Arts Association" and "Istanbouli Theater" in Lebanon are the organizers of the festival and the festival will host the screening of 64 films.

Holding festivals and film screenings and free educational workshops is a very important opportunity for the people to get to know different cultures of the world, Kassem Istanbouli, actor, director and founder of the National Theater of Lebanon said at the opening of the event.

Tripoli has now turned into a capital of cinema, theater and art in Lebanon and the Arab world, he said.