

## 'Standing With the Wolf' Listed for Award in India



TEHRAN -- The Iranian documentary 'Standing with the Wolf' has been nominated for an environmental award at the CMS Vatavaran film festival in India.

The Indian festival will announce the winner of this award in June 2024.

Directed by Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi, the film narrates the true story of Hadi Jalali, a forest ranger who has endured and overcome adversity in his dedication to protecting

wildlife. The CMS Vatavaran is a pioneering international film festival and forum on the environment and wildlife. The festival presents nature stories from around the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) produced this dramatic and social documentary, which was aired on one of IRIB's channels.

The short doc was screened at the 2023 SUNCINE film festival in Spain.

## Iranian Researcher Builds Solar Water Desalination System



TEHRAN -- An Iranian researcher at Sharif University of Technology succeeded in designing and building a new solar water desalination system by using the humidification-dehumidification method which is equipped with a heat pump.

"Desalination by humidification-dehumidification method is one of the most practical small-scale desalination processes. This method has outstanding advantages like low operating temperature, the ability to use solar energy, simple structure and no need for skilled personnel," said Muhammad Behshad Shafiyee, a professor of Sharif University of Technology and a PhD graduate in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan.

"At present, this method has been industrialized in the European countries and South Africa. On the other hand, with the increase in energy cost, the importance of its optimal use also

increases. Today, in order to use energy optimally, the combination of different types of desalination systems with heat pumps has attracted the attention of many researchers," he added.

Noting that heat pumps are suitable alternatives for heat recovery from various sources for industrial, commercial and domestic applications, Shafiyee said, "The purpose of this research is to experimentally study a new integrated system of desalination, humidification, dehumidification, and solar heat pump. Due to the importance of water in the economic development of Iran and its key role in production processes, it was necessary to conduct such a research."

In March, Iranian researchers at the Tehran-based Niro Research Institute (NRI) achieved the know-how and the technology of desalinating salty wastewater of the power plants by of 72%.

# First Iranian Group in Nine Years Makes Umrah Pilgrimage

TEHRAN -- The first group of Iranian pilgrims in nine years made its way to Saudi Arabia on Monday for the umrah, or minor pilgrimage, Iran's official news agency reported, as a result of improving ties between the two Middle Eastern powers.

Iranian media had said in December that Saudi Arabia had lifted restrictions on Iranians wanting to perform umrah but flights were delayed until now due to what Tehran called "technical problems".

In March 2023, China mediated an agreement under which Iran and Saudi Arabia restored full diplomatic relations that were cut since 2016 over Riyadh's execution of a prominent cleric and the subsequent storming of the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

Before ties were restored, Iranians had only been able to perform the Hajj pilgrimage, a religious duty deemed compulsory for Muslims who aim to carry it out once in their lifetime. The Hajj must be performed at a certain time



The first group of Umrah pilgrims in a decade headed to Medina from the Salam Terminal of the Imam Khomeini International Airport on Monday.

of the year, and which is subject to strict annual quotas.

The umrah can be performed at any time and is not deemed compulsory for Muslims.

Saudi Ambassador to Iran Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi was present at Tehran's main airport during the farewell ceremony held for the 85 pilgrims.

## Christie's to Auction Copy of Nizami's Khamsa, Kashan Bowl

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Christie's Art of the Islamic and Indian Worlds spring sale will see 261 lots — including paintings, ceramics, metal work, works on paper, textiles, rugs and carpets — go under the hammer at a live auction at their London headquarters on April 25.

These included lot 45, an exquisite miniature octagonal Qur'an, dated AH 985/1577-8 AD, which was made in Madinah. the Qur'an has an estimate of \$13,000-19,000, Arab News reported.

"We very rarely see manuscripts that were copied in the holy cities. So this being copied in Madinah makes it very rare," Sara Plumbly, Christie's head of Department for Islamic and Indian Art, explained.

"It has a Naskh script. This is a very steady, cursive script which is relatively easy to read — unlike some of the others. For example, Nastaliq script, which is copied on the diagonal, is much trickier to read. For Qur'ans you would almost always see a Naskh script for ease of reading. Nastaliq is usually reserved for poetic manuscripts," she said.

The miniature Qur'an would be small enough to carry with the owner on a daily basis, usually around the neck. Alternatively, they would be hung in their silver boxes on an 'alam (standard or flag) and carried into battle.

Plumbly, who completed



A Kashan pottery bowl inscribed with three Persian quatrains, or poetic verses.

her master's degree in Islamic Art and Archaeology at the University of Oxford, has lived and travelled extensively across the Middle East and North Africa, including extended periods in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Another stunning item in the sale is a Watercolor Al-

bum depicting a selection of known prestigious and rare Iznik ceramics from the Louis Huth collection. It comprises 44 single and double-page watercolor paintings of Iznik bowls, flasks, ewers and dishes.

It was also fascinating to see a rare and complete illustrated manuscript copy of the

Khamsa of Nizami by 12th century Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi, together with the Khamsa of Amir Khusraw Dihlavi, a 13th century Persian Sufi singer, musician, poet and scholar. The colors in the illuminations leap off the pages as though created yesterday.

Plumbly also pointed out the exceptional workmanship of an early 13th century Kashan pottery bowl, excavated in Iran's Kashan in 1934.

"This type of Kashan ceramics has a wonderful luster. It's a very difficult technique to perfect. This bowl has a really beautiful dark gold color which is very well controlled. The condition is remarkable. It's one of those 'best of type' objects," Plumbly observed.

## Picture of the Day



One of the most beautiful and pristine beaches of the Persian Gulf is Dastir in Hormozgan province, the many natural attractions of which are among the popular tourist attractions.

Photo by Mehr News