

## Yemen to Replace Indi as TIBF Guest of Honor



TEHRAN -- Yemen will replace India as the guest of honor of the 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) this year, its spokesman Ali Ramazani said on Sunday.

India had been announced as the guest of honor as per negotiations between Iranian and Indian cultural authorities. However, the country has stated that its citizens were unable to engage with Iran or travel to the country, he said.

Ramazani cited restrictions imposed on Indian citizens for travel to

Iran after the Islamic Republic's Operation True Promise through which the country responded to the occupying regime of Israel's attack on its consular building in Damascus with a salvo of drones and missiles.

He said that despite the efforts of the Indian cultural community, restrictions on their travel to Iran had not been sorted out.

"Hence, Yemen will be the guest of honor of the 35th Tehran International Book Fair," Ramazani said.

# El-Hashashin: Distortions of History in Egyptian Series

TEHRAN -- A staff member of the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies has criticized an Egyptian TV series depicting a medieval Persian figure over historical "distortions" and "a biased approach".

"I think a strange lie has been told in history that the Ismaili fighters were operating under the influence of hashish. How would a combatant and self-sacrificing person fight against the ruling power after consuming hashish which distracts the mind?" Yaghub Tavakkoli told ISNA news agency.

His remarks came amid media reports that "The Assassins," or "El-Hashashin" in Arabic, which recounts the story of Hassan Sabbah, the founder of Ismaili sect during the 11th century, had been banned in Iran.

The 30-episode series about Sabbah and his group, who operated out of mountain bases in northern and western Iran, was first broadcast during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, which ended earlier this month.

The head of Tehran's audiovisual media regulatory body, Mehdi Seifi, was quoted as saying that "the broadcast of 'El-Hashashin'



Hassan-i Sabbah in a screengrab from a scene of Egyptian show El-Hashashin.

series... is no longer approved in Iran."

"Its narrative of Islamic history includes many distortions and it seems to have been produced with a biased political approach," Seifi was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

IRNA said the series shows "a false image of Iranians" and quoted experts who argued it sought to link Iranians to the "inception of terrorism."

ISNA said the series was a "perfect example" of the "modification and falsification of truth."

"The Egyptians have clarified their disposition by making the El-Hashashin series. In order to find a justification for suppressing the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, they have gone to Iran's history and introduced Hassan Sabah as the 'badman' of Islamic history who sold his soul to the devil.

"To achieve power, [the series tries to say] he did not avoid anything, even assassination. After centuries, this evil spirit overtook Hassan Bana, the founder of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, who tried to gain power in Egypt with

the method he inherited," the news agency said.

The Muslim Brotherhood is Egypt's oldest and largest Islamic organization, with offshoots throughout the Arab world.

After the ouster of former president Hosni Mubarak in the Arab Uprising protests of 2011, the group's political arm won a plurality of seats in Egypt's lower house of parliament and its candidate, Muhammad Morsi, was elected president.

But Morsi was ousted by the military in July 2013, and the Brotherhood's members were imprisoned, went into exile, or were forced underground. As part of a wide-ranging crackdown on political opposition, the Egyptian government has labeled the group a terrorist organization, as have Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The remains of the Alamut castle, where the group resided, are today a tourist destination in northern Iran.

According to Tavakkoli, terrorism started after the infidels of Quraysh, a grouping of Arab clans that historically inhabited and controlled the city of Mecca and its Ka'aba, failed to confront Prophet Muhammad

(Peace be upon Him).

"The currents that adopted violent methods in the history were inclined towards Umayyad Islam, contrary to the popular belief that attributes them to the Khawarij and the Ismaili sect," he said.

"The total assassinations that the Ismaili sect has carried out during 200 years are no more than 80 to 120 people," he added.

Most of the assassinations, Tavakkoli said, have been carried out by the governments who attempted murders in a cruel and very brutal way.

"They made these murders appear to be legal, even though they were not legal. Such assassinations have continued all over the world, from the West to the East and attributing them to a certain group or people is obviously not right," he said.

Tavakkoli said terrorism is sometimes a tool of domination over nations, "like what the Zionists are doing all over the world as they intend to defeat the will of the nations with terror and assassinations".

"Sometimes they also want to cripple the governments that stand up to them," he added.

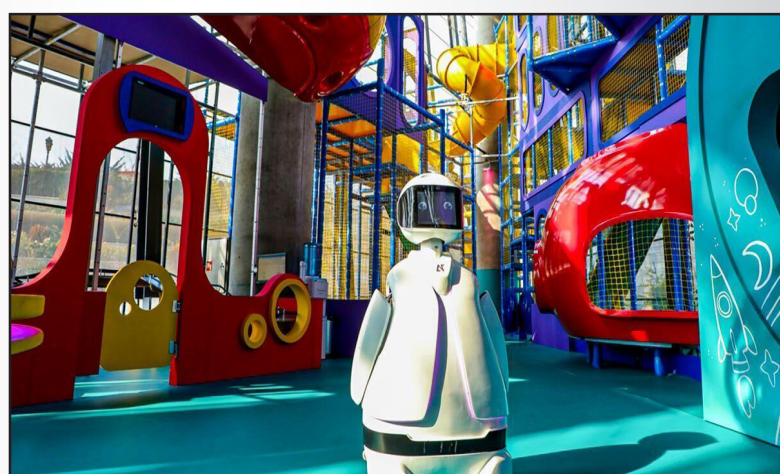
## Iranian Company to Establish Experience Parks in Iraq, Africa

TEHRAN -- Technologists of a creative Iranian company are due to establish experience parks in Africa and Iraq.

"Experience parks are designed with the aim of representing the environment of a big industry and brand for its future audience, which are mostly children and teenagers," Ali Vakili, the managing director of the company stationed at Azadi Innovation Factory, told ANA.

Noting that artificial intelligence is currently used in the process of building experience parks, he said, "Apart from the architectural and hardware parts of the parks, the company's IT specialists program all the games and plans inside the experience park."

"Also, artificial intelligence technology is used in certain parts of simulation, deep learn-



ing and processors," Vakili said.

"At present, we are building an experience park in an African country and another one in Iraq," he added.

In March, Iranian specialists at a knowledge-based company had succeeded in designing and producing 2D and 3D

adventure graphic games by using Unity and Blockchain technologies.

2D and 3D graphic games produced in the knowledge-based JAPCO company are mainly designed with the theme of entertainment and education and have the essence of adventure and competition.

## 71,000 People Visit Astan Quds Museums in Farvardin



TEHRAN -- The Astan Quds Razavi Museums, located next to the Imam Reza (AS) Shrine, wel-

comed nearly 71,000 visitors in the Iranian month of Farvardin which ended on April 19, an offi-

cial says.

Abdul-Hussein Malek Jafarian, one of the directors of the museum, said the central museum alone received 63,065 visitors.

The Qur'an Museum and the Anthropology Museum also saw 5,791 and 864 visits respectively.

Jafarian highlighted the international appeal of the museums, noting that over 1,000 visitors from various continents toured the sites.

Reflecting on the year-on-year growth, Jafarian said that the monthly figure showed an increase of 11,000 from the previous year.

## Picture of the Day



The tradition of rose water distillation at Dowlatabad Garden of Yazd for use in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) and other holy shrines has been revived in a ceremony held for the first time in two decades.

Photo by Mehr News