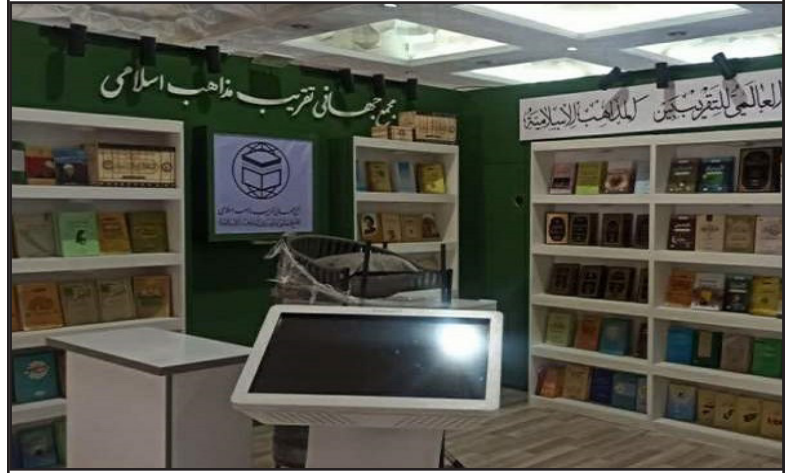


World Forum for Proximity Presents 200 Titles at Tehran Book Fair



TEHRAN – The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (WFIPT) has presented more than 200 titles in this year’s international book fair in the Iranian capital.

The 36th edition of the Tehran International Book Fair opened on May 6 at the Grand Imam Khomeini (RA) Mosalla.

The cultural event will run for 10 days under the slogan of “Let’s Read for Iran”.

The pavilion of the WFIPT has offered books in several languages, including Persian, Arabic, English, Urdu and Turkish, IQNA reported.

During the first three days of the

book fair, the pavilion has been met with a wide reception of domestic and international personalities.

The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought is a body established in October 1990 by the order of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in Tehran for reconciliation among different Islamic schools of thought and branches.

It holds international conferences every year in the Islamic Unity Week. In addition to annual conferences, many conferences are held by forum for specific ceremonies.

Hong Kong Museum to Showcase Wonders of Iranian Carpets

DOHA (Doha News) -- Wonders of Imperial Carpets aims to promote global appreciation of Islamic heritage through international collaboration and will show at the Hong Kong Palace Museum from June to October 2025.

Qatar Museums announced on Saturday that Wonders of Imperial Carpets: Masterpieces from the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, an exhibition at the Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM), will be shown from June 18 to October 6, 2025.

Co-organized by the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and HKPM, this marks the first Hong Kong exhibition dedicated to exploring artistic and cultural exchanges between Islamic and Chinese civilizations.

Featuring around 100 objects—including imperial carpets, ceramics, manuscripts, and jades—the display draws primarily from MIA’s collections, supplemented by items from the Palace Museum in Beijing and HKPM.

According to a Qatar Museums press release: “the exhibition traces artistic exchanges among the Safavid (1501–1736), Mughal (1526–1857), and Ottoman (1299–1923) dynasties, highlighting the dynamic cross-cultural connections forged through diplomacy, migration, and trade over the centuries.”

It forms part of Qatar’s Years of Culture initiative, fostering international cultural ties, and follows a memorandum of understanding signed between HKPM and Qatar Museums during the 2023 Hong Kong International Cultural Summit.

Director of MIA Shaika Nasser Al-Nasser said the exhibition highlights “the profound links that have bound Islamic and Chinese cultures for centuries.”

Many artifacts will be displayed outside Qatar for the first time. Among the highlights are impe-



rial carpets crafted between the 16th and 18th centuries and made of materials like silk, pashmina wool, and precious metal threads.

“This approach demonstrates the HKPM’s commitment to advancing dialogue among civilizations,” Dr Louis Ng, HKPM’s Museum Director said in the press release, adding that it is an “immense privilege” to “share the captivating stories of the arts of the Islamic world with our visitors.”

Key exhibits include the 450-year-old Shah Sulayman “hunting” carpet, gifted by Safavid rulers to a Venetian leader, blending Persian motifs with Chinese-inspired cloud bands and mythical creatures.

The Kevorkian Hyderabad carpet, stretching nearly 16 meters, offers a rare full display of Mughal grandeur.

The Çintamani prayer rug, adorned with symbolic circles and an abstract depiction of the Prophet’s sandals, reflects Ottoman court tastes.

A Qianlong-era carpet from China’s Xinjiang region, paired with Safavid silk, illustrates shared floral motifs across cultures.

Organized into four sections, the exhibition explores carpet production and its interplay with ceramics, metalwork, and manuscripts.

Education Ministry to Establish 1,200 Qur’an Schools in Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran’s Education Ministry plans to establish 1,200 official Qur’an memorization schools over the next five years, an official has said.

Speaking to IQNA, Mikaeil Bagheri, director general of the ministry’s Qur’an, Etrat and Prayers Department, said some of the memorization schools are already operating on a trial basis.

He noted that the schools will be founded based on the Seventh Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Stressing the importance that the Education Ministry attaches to promoting Qur’an memorization among school students, he said, “The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has long emphasized that we should have 10 million memorizers of the Qur’an.

“Therefore, the Minister of Education has been insistent that efforts must be made in the field of memorization to achieve a significant portion of the goals that have not yet been realized,” he said.

Bagheri said the Education Ministry is one of the most successful organizations in training memorizers.

“If all agencies, institutions, and organizations were as active as the Education Ministry in this field, we would make great progress on this path,” he said.

According to Bagheri, identifying and nurturing Qur’anic talents are also greatly emphasized by the education minister who believes that no student should be unaware of their talent or be unable to develop this talent due to our shortcomings, especially in the field of the Qur’an.

“Regarding talent identification, we are



currently conducting a pilot project in 16 educational regions of the country to implement this work in schools with the help of Dar-ul-Qur’an centers and internationally-acclaimed Qur’an experts, so that we can identify talented individuals with the assistance of teachers, and this process will gradually be extended to other educational regions,” he said.

He noted that the platform for the general education of the Qur’an is the school, and its specialized education is in the Dar-ul-Qur’an centers.

Sometimes, when the education sector falls behind for any reason, part of the capacity of the Dar-ul-Qur’an centers is also used for general education, he stated.

“Our mission and policy is to implement extracurricular programs, and in this regard, there are about 860 Dar-ul-Qur’an centers active across the country, covering 10 educational levels, from basic reading

of the Qur’an to teaching Sawt and Lahn, encompassing both general and specialized education.”

Bagheri said general education has three pillars: “One is the textbook, the second is the teacher, and the third is the student. It is of great importance to present this lesson in an engaging manner, although this is not as crucial for other subjects. Because (in other subjects) both the student and their parents, even if the book lacks visual appeal, feel compelled to learn it. In the case of teaching the Qur’an, in addition to its technical content, which must be sound, its appearance must also be appealing.”

He added that his colleagues at the Ministry’s Research Organization are seeking to present Qur’an textbooks with a different and attractive appearance and with a diversity suitable for children which will lead to increased interest among students.

Iranian MPs: Persian Gulf Our Homeland

TEHRAN -- Members of Iran’s parliament on Sunday issued a strong statement addressed to U.S. President Donald Trump, reaffirming the historical and geopolitical identity of the Persian Gulf amid reports of plans to rename the waterway.

The statement, read by Ahmad Naderi, a member of the parliament’s presidium, was a direct response to recent media reports suggesting Trump may propose altering the name of the Persian Gulf, a term internationally recognized and historically documented.

“The Persian Gulf and its geopolitics are God-given,” the lawmakers declared. “It was not earned through invasion or military campaigns – this is our homeland and our house.”

The statement emphasized Iran’s central location at a global crossroads, noting the country’s enviable position is owed to divine will, not to any external power.

In a sharp rebuke, the lawmakers added, “Had you spent more time reading than gambling, you might have understood that this name was not given by gold, force, deceit, or bribery – it was bestowed by history.”

Concluding their message,

they stated: “Mr. Gambler, we stand not only on the right side of history, but also in the right place on the map of the world.”

The statement follows angry reactions by Iranian officials and public during past week after the controversial report remerged, reiterating the his-



torical name of the Persian Gulf, which is recognized by

the United Nations and most international organizations.

Picture of the Day

Green tea leaves are harvested in the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran every year in three seasons of spring, summer, and autumn.

Photo by IRNA