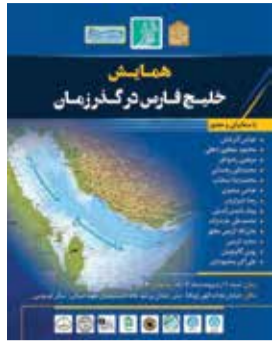


Iran to launch conference on Persian Gulf



ISNA - On the eve of the National Day of the Persian Gulf (April 30), a conference entitled 'Persian Gulf through Time' will be held on April 29 in Tehran. Organized by the Iranian Studies Association and Sahab Institute of Geography and Cartography, the event will be held in the presence of Iranian scientific and cultural figures. Abbas Azerakhsh, Morteza Rezvanfar, Mohammadreza Sahab, and Abbas Saeeidi are among the lecturers of the conference.

Iran to prepare for 34th TIBF



IRNA - Iran is preparing for the 34th Tehran International Book Fair, which will be held from May 10 to 20, said the deputy director of the event. Ali Ramezani added that hours after the Eid al-Fitr prayers on April 22 at Imam Khomeini's Grand Mosalla, organizers transferred the necessary equipment for holding the book fair to the site. The publishers' special equipment and side pavilions will be moved later. Last year, 170 publishers from 32 countries, including Switzerland, India, Hong Kong, Germany, the U.S., Italy, China and Russia, participated in the book fair, which hosted Qatar as its special guest. The 2020 edition of the book fair, Iran's most important cultural event, was scheduled to be held in April with Türkiye as the guest of honor. However, Iran's Culture Ministry canceled the fair due to a massive rise in the death toll from coronavirus in the country.

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Manuscripts of Sa'adi on display in Golestan Palace



Arts & Culture Desk

An art exhibition entitled, 'Bustan in Golestan,' featuring the most invaluable manuscripts of the great Persian poet Sa'adi, is being held in Tehran's Golestan Palace, said the director of the UNESCO-registered museum in Tehran. Afarin Emami added that the show opened on April 21, which marks the birth anniversary of the Persian poet, according to IRNA. Emami noted that one of the most important programs of the cultural complex is introducing Iran's literary figures, which started in March 2022 with a program commemorating the completion of Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh' and will continue in the current year. Among the works on display is one 'Bustan' manuscript, written by Mir Ali Soltani, which includes five miniature paintings, she added. In the exhibition, 14 paintings featuring the poet's works have also been exhibited. The show is underway until April 29.

Iranian books on view at Bogota International Book Fair



The Islamic Republic of Iran is showcasing its books in the 35th edition of Bogota International Book Fair (FILBO) in Colombia, slated to run through April 15. Iran's pavilion in the 35th edition of the book fair has displayed books published in the country in Spanish language, especially in the children and young adults' section as well as Islamic and Qur'anic stories, Tasnim wrote. A series of other cultural activities will also be showcased at the pavilion of Iran, including *nasta'liq* calligraphy. Moreover, memoirs of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, translated into Spanish, will be unveiled on the sidelines of the cultural event in the presence of outstanding Colombian literary figures. In addition to the Colombian publishers, publishers from Iran, Türkiye, France, Spain, Palestine, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina have showcased their latest cultural products in the exhibition.

Iran's 'The Dragon's Treasure' to be screened in German festival

Iranian animation 'The Dragon's Treasure,' directed by Ashkan Rahgozar, will participate in the Work in Progress Section of the Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart in Germany. The 2023 edition of the event, with the motto "Animation connects!", will be held from April 25 to 30, IRNA wrote. The film has already taken part at the Mifa Pitches Section of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival in France. The animation is about an eight-year-old girl named Sayeh, who

goes on an adventure in search of the dragon's treasure to save her grandmother's village from drought. But she doesn't know that the real treasure is water and she must fill up all the aqueducts. It is a co-production of Hoorakhsh, Rahgozar's animation studio in Tehran, and Mystic House Production Ltd. based in the Canadian city of Toronto. Rahgozar's previous movie 'The Last Fiction' was screened in a non-competitive section of the Annecy festival in 2018.



UNESCO continues preservation of Afghanistan's heritage sites



UNESCO stopped its initiative to preserve heritage sites in Bamiyan

in 2021. Overall, this event was unstoppable because of the Taliban who took over. The UNESCO initiative is a project with funding from Italy. The goal is to preserve the Bamiyan Valley. The Bamiyan Valley has a position on UNESCO's World Heritage Danger list from 2003. The valley contains mostly religiously focused art from the common era (3rd to 5th century C.E.). The project's objectives include enhancing the site's infrastructure and creating a long-term conservation strategy. What will increase in the process is the number of workforce from local communities. The focus will espe-

cially be on the Bamiyan cliffs. It is a stronghold that existed since somewhat between the sixth and tenth century CE. There are also various Buddhist objects, engraved into the rocks, the collector.com reported. However, the Taliban destroyed Buddha statues in 2021. UNESCO spoke about the meaning of previously mentioned Buddha statues. "The Bamiyan Valley is the most monumental expression of the western Buddhism. It was an important center of pilgrimage over many centuries. Due to their symbolic values, the monuments have suffered at different times of their existence, including the deliberate

destruction in 2001, which shook the whole world", UNESCO stated. Since the Taliban took over, Afghanistan has been left alone. Afghans have been abandoned by the entire international community. With that, of course, comes the cessation of humanitarian, monetary and any other type of aid. How did this affect Afghanistan? With the withdrawal of all humanitarian and international organizations, Afghanistan was left at the mercy of the Taliban. Looting and destruction of cultural heritage was a constant circumstance. Given the "well-documented" cultural devastation of the region's historical objects, UNESCO pleaded for

steps to protect them from the group in a number of declarations. UNESCO operates in the country within the perimeters of the Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF), a strategic planning document for its assistance in the country implemented in 2022. The plan prioritizes humanitarian aid and the preservation of local heritage but restricts any legitimization of the Taliban regime. In addition to Bamiyan, UNESCO is currently engaged in the preservation of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam, a World Heritage site in western Afghanistan; and sites in Zabul, Kandahar, Kabul and Ghazni.