



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - In a meeting between Iranian officials and Tajikistan Ambassador to Tehran Nizamuddin Zohidi, both sides discussed the expansion of cultural and tourism ties.

On the sidelines of the "Ardabil 2023" event, Zohidi and Ardabil Governor General Seyyed Hamed Ameli held talks to develop the bilateral ties.

The Tajik envoy said that in the near future, Ardabil and one of Tajikistan's cities will sign a sisterhood agreement.

Speaking about the Sheikh Safiuddin Ardabili complex, Zohidi said that it is one of the most remarkable achievements of Iran in the field of history and tourism.

Ardabil is of great significance in terms of its picturesque nature, tourism attractions and hospitality of its citizens, the envoy noted.



The two countries have several cultural and historical commonalities, the Iranian official said, urging the need to promote economic ties and relations between the municipality of Ardabil and Tajikistan's municipalities.

Speaking on literary and cultural commonalities between the two countries, Ameli asked the provincial officials to prepare the ground for holding poetry nights with Tajik poets.

In 2019, Sari in Mazandaran Province and Ardabil were selected as the tourism capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

The event aims to introduce Ardabil's tourist attractions and promote the province on an international scale.

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● Email: irandaily@icpi.ir  
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# Spanish translation of Leader's book 'Cell Number 14' unveiled in Colombia



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The Spanish translation of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei's book 'Cell Number 14' (in Spanish "Celda n.º 14") along with its audio file were unveiled in a ceremony held

at the Colombian Congress. The unveiling ceremony, held on the sidelines of the 35th edition of the Bogota International Book Fair (FIL-Bo) in Colombia (April 18 to May 2), was attended by over 200 cultural, political and religious figures, as well as

Colombian parliamentarians and Iran's Ambassador to Colombia Ahmadreza Kheirmand, IRNA reported. The book contains Ayatollah Khamenei's memories of resistance from the periods he spent in prison and exile during his fight



against the Pahlavi regime. Mary Anne Perdomo, a representative of Congress and head of the Colombian Foreign Relations Committee, said, despite some negative news that is published in the media against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the fact is that stability and peace in the Middle East region is due to Iran's peaceful efforts. Alberto Bati, the special representative of the supreme adviser of the Colombian president on religious affairs, also stated the book introduces Iran from the perspective of a religious and political leader. The collection conveys the message that "we, revolutionary and justice-seeking nations, need to communicate with each other." Marlon Contejo, the director of the Casa Cultural

Islamica Ahlul Bayt Colombia, emphasized that Iran and Colombia should make the most of each other's capacities.

He stressed that all the successes of the Islamic Republic of Iran are owed to the guidelines of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Victor, a professor at the University of Bogota and a Colombian Middle East expert, expressed the historical and cultural background of Iran and the key role of this country in the implementation of peace and stability in the Middle East. "Iran, under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei, has been able to guarantee peace and stability in the Middle East region," he said. The Spanish book was also unveiled on March 10, 2023, in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela.



The picture shows performances of Shiraz Symphony Orchestra, held at the tomb of the Persian poet Sa'adi Shirazi in Fars Province on April 26, to commemorate the versifier.  
● AMIN BERENJKAR/MEHR



A rare stash of 1,000-year-old ironwork, which sat

## Rare, 1,000-year-old Viking Age iron hoard found in basement in Norway

for 40 years in a family's basement in Norway, is now seeing the light of day after a woman discovered the hoard during some spring cleaning.

The hoard consists of 32 iron ingots that look like small spatulas and date back to the Viking Age (A.D. 793 to 1066) or high Middle Ages (1066 to 1350). The rods are identical and weigh about 1.8 ounces (50

grams) each, prompting archeologists to think they may have been used as a form of currency and that someone probably buried them with the intention of coming back for the treasure later, Live Science reported.

"We call it a cache find because it is clear that someone has [buried it] to hide it," Kjetil Loftsgarden, an archeologist and associate

professor at the University of Oslo and the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, told NRK News. Each ingot is pierced with a hole on one end, which suggests the ingots could have been tied together in a bunch, experts added.

While similar ironwork already exists in the museum's collections, this discovery is rare because construction projects often

destroy or damage buried treasures, Loftsgarden said. In this case, Grete Margot Sørum, who came across the treasure trove while clearing out her parents' basement in Valdres, central Norway, told NRK News that she remembers her father finding the stash while he dug a well by the house in the 1980s. "But then he put them away in a corner," Sørum said.

The discovery of the iron collection in the Sørum family basement is not the first Viking find from Norway in recent months. In November 2022, a metal detectorist stumbled across a Viking treasure hoard consisting of a pair of silver rings, fragments of a silver bracelet and what look like chopped up Arabic coins, among other buried artifacts.