

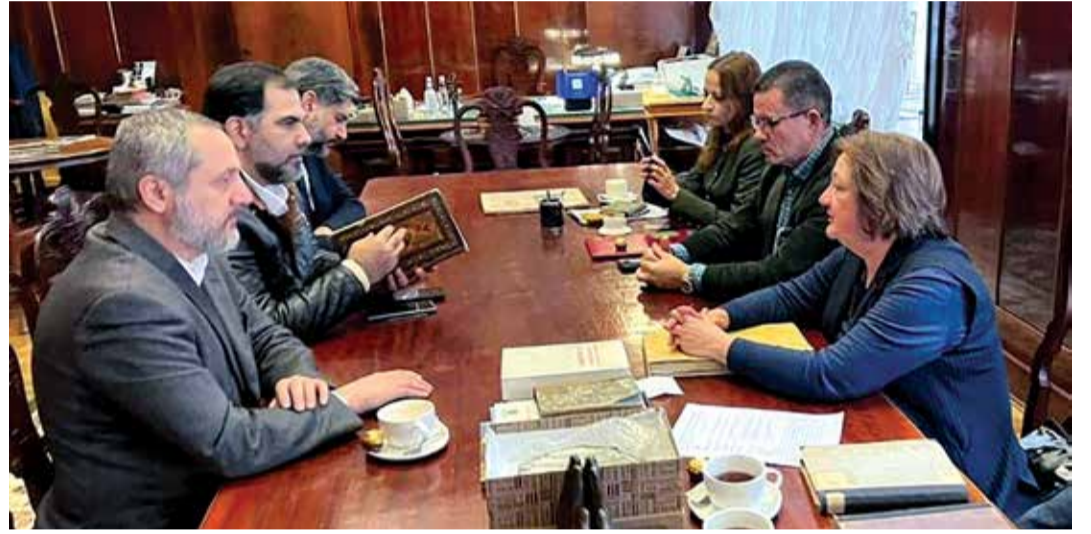
Iran, Russia sign agreement to boost library cooperation

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Library, Museum and Document Center of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Russian State Library signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in research, knowledge sharing, and exchange of works, marking a significant milestone in bilateral relations between the two countries. The agreement was signed during a meeting between the heads of the two libraries in Moscow, where Masoud Moinipour, the Director of the Library, Museum and Document Center of the Islamic Consul-

tative Assembly, met with the Director of the Russian State Library Vadim Duda. During the meeting, several rare Persian manuscripts, including the works of Saadi a, were showcased to the Iranian delegation. The Russian side also requested support and training in the field of manuscript restoration and preservation of old printed works. The two sides agreed to hold joint conferences on Iranian studies, Oriental studies, and Islamic studies, and discussed the flow of scientific knowledge and the impact of classification theories on the field.

Moinipour provided an overview of the rare manuscripts held by the Iranian library, while Duda expressed his knowledge of the valuable collections and expressed hope for the development of cooperation between the two libraries. The MoU signed between the two libraries outlines cooperation in the fields of research, joint conferences, training courses, joint projects, manuscript restoration, and exchange of works. At the end of the meeting, the Iranian delegation was invited to attend the BRICS library directors' conference.



● MEHR

Iran's cheetah population on brink of extinction, only 17 remain: Official



Social Desk

The population of Asiatic cheetah in Iran is teetering on the edge of extinction, with only 17 individuals, including seven adults and 10 cubs, identified in the latest census, according to Hamid Zohrabi, Deputy Manager for Natural Environment of the Department of the Environment of Iran. "We are facing a critical situation and urgent action is needed to protect the species," Zohrabi warned, emphasizing that the population is extremely fragile, ISNA wrote.

The seven adult cheetahs have been identified as "Faraz", "Feqeh", "Hiva", "Mahshad", "Helya", "Harb", and "Khorshid" (also known as Talkhab), with Mahshad having four cubs and Helya, Harb, and Talkhab each having two cubs. To combat the crisis, the Department of the Environment is updating its conservation program and forming a committee of experts to review and implement the plan. The committee will work to identify the best course of action to protect the cheetah and its habitat. "We will work with local communities,

NGOs, and international organizations to protect the cheetah and its habitat," Zohrabi said, highlighting the importance of collaboration. A breeding center is being established in the Khar Turan National Park in Semnan Province, which will provide a safe and natural environment for the cheetahs. The department hopes to eventually release the offspring into the wild. In an effort to reduce the risk of cheetahs being killed by cars on highways, a project to install fencing along the Abbasabad-Miami highway has been launched. The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development has provided funding for the project. Furthermore, the speed limit on the Abbasabad highway has been reduced to 90 km/h, and the department is working to ensure that the speed limit is enforced. A semi-natural reserve is being created to provide a safe space for the cheetahs to roam and hunt, and to serve as a breeding ground for the species. Plus, efforts are underway to increase the population of prey animals in the cheetah's habitat, which will help to increase the cheetah population.

Fakhteh ensemble to perform at three int'l music festivals

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Fakhteh ensemble, led by composer and director Khashayar Parsa, is set to take the stage at three international music festivals, showcasing traditional Iranian music and the Systematist School. According to ISNA, the ensemble will perform at the Wuxi International Ethnic Music Festival in China on November 19, followed by the Marco Polo International Ethnic Music Festival in China on November 21, and finally at the Daira International Music Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia on December 3, ISNA reported. The ensemble's performances will feature pieces by Abdolqader Maraghei and other Iranian composers from the Ottoman court, as well as original compositions by the group. The music will be performed in two of the most important and well-known modes in Iranian classical music, helping to promote this aspect of Iran's cultural heritage on a global scale. The ensemble's members, including singers Ahmad Shakouri and Fereshteh Shamsi, tar player Mohammad Mehdi Sheikh, oud player Abouzar Hosseini, kamancheh player Arman Heydarian, and Parsa on *tonbak* and *daf*, will come together to create a unique harmony for the performance of ancient Iranian and Ottoman music. This international appearance is a significant step towards showcasing Iran's musical capabilities on the global stage and strengthening cultural ties with other countries. By performing at these reputable festivals, the Fakhteh ensemble aims to further solidify Iran's position in the world of music.



In an about-face...

But the October 7, 2023 retaliatory attack by Palestinians turned the indirect threat equation into a direct threat. A few months after this conflict, Israel attacked Iran's territory in Syria — Iranian Embassy in Damascus — and martyred five commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force. In response to this crime, Iran carried out Operation True Promise One and directly targeted Israel with its drones. Israel claimed responsibility for the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on the day of the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to start a new round of military clashes between Tehran and Tel Aviv. The subsequent assassination of Nasrallah and his successor Hashem Safieddine in Lebanon led to Iran's strong military response and the conflict between the two sides was exacerbated.

As the probability of Trump's victory in the US elections increased, Netanyahu, who is known as a child killer, made two important changes in his cabinet. He fired Yoav Gallant, his military affairs minister, who was supported by Biden, and replaced him with radical Israel Katz. Gideon Sa'ar succeeded Katz in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sa'ar, who was Netanyahu's rival in the previous elections, joined the "New Hope" party, which is even more extreme than the ruling Likud party. Regardless of these changes, the first announcement of the position of the new foreign minister of Netanyahu's extremist cabinet was very important and controversial, which showed that Israel is entering a new offensive strategy. The coincidence of his statements with Netanyahu's video message to the Iranian people is not a coincidence and indi-

cates a strategic turn in Israel's plans. Regardless of the crimes he committed and the hatred he has among the Iranians, Netanyahu addressed the people. "Don't lose hope. And know that Israel and others in the free world stand with you," Netanyahu said. In his message, he referred to Iran's October 1 ballistic missile attack on Israel, claiming that it cost about \$2.3 billion of "your precious money" but caused marginal damage to Israel. The regime hit back on Iran on October 26. Netanyahu has made previous appeals to the Iranian people directly, as well as to civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. He said life in Iran could be different if the country were free and that funds could be used for education, roads, water and hospitals instead of war. "But that's what Khamenei...denies you every single day. They obsess about de-

stroying Israel, rather than about building Iran," he claimed. "I know that you don't want this war. I don't want this war either. The people of Israel don't want this war." Israel's new foreign minister has also said Tel Aviv should look to Kurds, Druze and other minorities in neighboring countries, in addition to Saudi Arabia, for support. "The Kurdish people are a great nation, one of the great nations without political independence," Sa'ar said at his ministerial exchange and inauguration ceremony on Sunday, describing Kurds as "our natural ally." "It is a national minority in four different countries, in two of which it enjoys autonomy: de facto in Syria and de jure in the Iraqi constitution." Sa'ar claimed that Kurds are "a victim of oppression and aggression from Iran

and Turkey," and that Israel needed to strengthen ties with them. "This has both political and security aspects," he added. His statements, which have a taint of conspiracy against Iran, are considered a direct threat to Iran. To sum up, as I said before, the confrontation between Iran and Israel has always been indirect and through proxies until last October. But since then, direct military confrontations between the two have started. The important point is that Israel is trying to directly activate all possible fronts for war with Iran. It means that they are changing their defensive and covert strategy to and inva-