

Qaenat hosts harvest festivals celebrating barberries, pomegranates



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With the end of summer and the arrival of colorful autumn, the season of harvesting strategic crops begins in Qaenat, South Khorasan Province — a land known as the cradle of gold and the red ruby. Although consecutive droughts have brought the breath of the desert soil to the verge of exhaustion, autumn still unfolds its magical hues, captivating the eyes of onlookers. In Qaenat, this beauty reveals itself through branches adorned with the crimson of barberries and pomegranates, followed by the golden bloom of saffron — sights that enchant both the eye and the soul, chtn.ir wrote. This year, festivals and ceremonies celebrating the harvest of pomegranates and barberries have been held across various

parts of the town. Some villages have already hosted these traditional events, while others are still planning to do so, ensuring that this chain of gratitude continues — an expression of humility and thankfulness for what God has ordained and nature has bestowed. These ceremonies, often observed as festive gatherings, serve several important purposes and offer meaningful benefits. They provide opportunities for families, friends, and enthusiasts to come together and share joyful moments around a common theme. At the same time, the participation of tour groups from other parts of the province and the country helps showcase the region's overlooked and undiscovered potential. As part of the nation's rich cultural and historical her-

itage, such festivals play a vital role in preserving and passing down local traditions and customs from one generation to the next. In addition, many participants in these events engage in helping one another — acts that strengthen the spirit of empathy and cooperation within the community. Festivals and ceremonies generally create a lively and positive atmosphere that can reduce stress and enhance collective happiness. These factors highlight the importance and necessity of holding thanksgiving ceremonies in society. The aforementioned festivals and rituals have been organized over several weeks through the efforts of many dedicated individuals, and they will continue in the coming days. These organizers are skilled professionals with expertise in their respec-

tive fields, striving to generate innovative ideas using modern methods and to bring them to fruition — learning from each experience and continually improving quality. They pay close attention to detail, precision, and organization. Teamwork and open dialogue are highly valued, as they believe collaboration enhances both creativity and performance. Fully aware of their social responsibility, they are determined to fulfill it and take pride in the outcomes of their work — qualities that make their efforts trustworthy and commendable. The meaningful presence of campers and travel caravans in the town for the third time was another valuable opportunity — thoughtfully arranged by the community-minded organizer of the event for this very season. More than 200 camper

units and caravans participated across the town and province, their picturesque presence often lining several kilometers of streets and alleys, adding a charming touch to the landscape. Numerous community-based programs were held as part of these festivals and thanksgiving ceremonies — a testament to the planning, creativity, and

dedication of the organizers, particularly the Islamic Councils, rural administrations, and local volunteer teams, in fostering social vitality through these celebrations of gratitude. They even encouraged sports clubs to join the effort by organizing village tours and offering their services, further enriching the festivities with new energy and engagement.

Introduction to the book:

Alas, Iran Should Not Be Destroyed A nation's spirit endures



"Alas, Iran Should Not Be Destroyed" is one of the most ambitious work of Dr. Faramarz Rafi'pour, one of Iran's most influential sociologists. This book was published in 2024 by Sahami Enteshar Publishing Company. More than a study, it is a passionate conversation between a thinker and his homeland — a meditation on Iran's struggles, its resilience, and its untapped strengths. The title, borrowed from the legendary Persian poet Ferdowsi, evokes both lament and hope: a warning against decay and a celebration of endurance. The book is the result of fifteen years of independent research, carried out without institutional funding. Rafi'pour observes Iran not as a failed society but as a nation in transition — one negotiating its passage from traditional to modern forms of identity, authority, and thought. His analysis is sweeping yet compassionate, grounded in a deep belief that Iran's social spirit remains vi-

brant beneath the surface of crisis. At the core of his argument lies the concept of the informal society — the vast network of moral, cultural, and communal forces that have long sustained Iran beyond the reach of formal power. This invisible backbone, composed of scholars, teachers, merchants, artists, and ordinary citizens, has often preserved social cohesion when political structures faltered. For Rafi'pour, the true strength of Iran does not reside in its state apparatus, but in the enduring ethics and solidarity of its people. Throughout the book, he moves across the major institutions of Iranian life — education, religion, politics, economy, and culture — balancing critique with affirmation. He acknowledged the persistence of inequality and imitation, yet insists on the cultural intelligence that has allowed Iranians to adapt, resist, and recreate meaning through cen-

turies of upheaval. Time and again, Iran has drawn on its rich moral traditions and collective wisdom to rebuild itself from within. Rafi'pour's language, while analytical, often borders on poetic. He draws on Persian poetry, Qur'anic verses, historical anecdotes, and personal reflections, creating a text that feels as alive as the society it describes. His voice is that of both a scientist and a humanist — a scholar diagnosing a nation's ills, yet also a believer in its power to heal. Among his central themes is the renewal of thought. Rafi'pour argues that Iran's future depends less on material wealth or political reform than on intellectual and moral revival. He envisions a society guided by honesty, merit, and collective responsibility — a society that transforms its traditions into sources of creativity rather than constraints. For him, faith and reason, heritage and progress, need not be enemies

but partners in a distinctly Iranian path to modernity. In the book's later chapters, optimism shines through his caution. Rafi'pour sees Iran as a repairable society — one endowed with cultural depth, historical continuity, and spiritual vitality. The nation's trials, he suggests, have been tests of endurance, shaping a people who know how to survive and rebuild. "As long as thought and conscience remain alive among Iranians," he writes, "Iran will never be destroyed." Ultimately, Alas, Iran Should Not Be Destroyed is not merely a diagnosis of decline but a declaration of faith — in the resilience of a civilization, in the integrity of its people, and in the enduring promise of renewal. It is a work that turns sociology into a form of cultural testimony, reminding readers everywhere that the strength of a nation lies not in its power, but in its spirit.