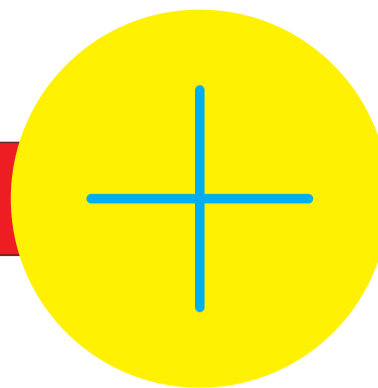




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Iran, UAE to develop ties on environment

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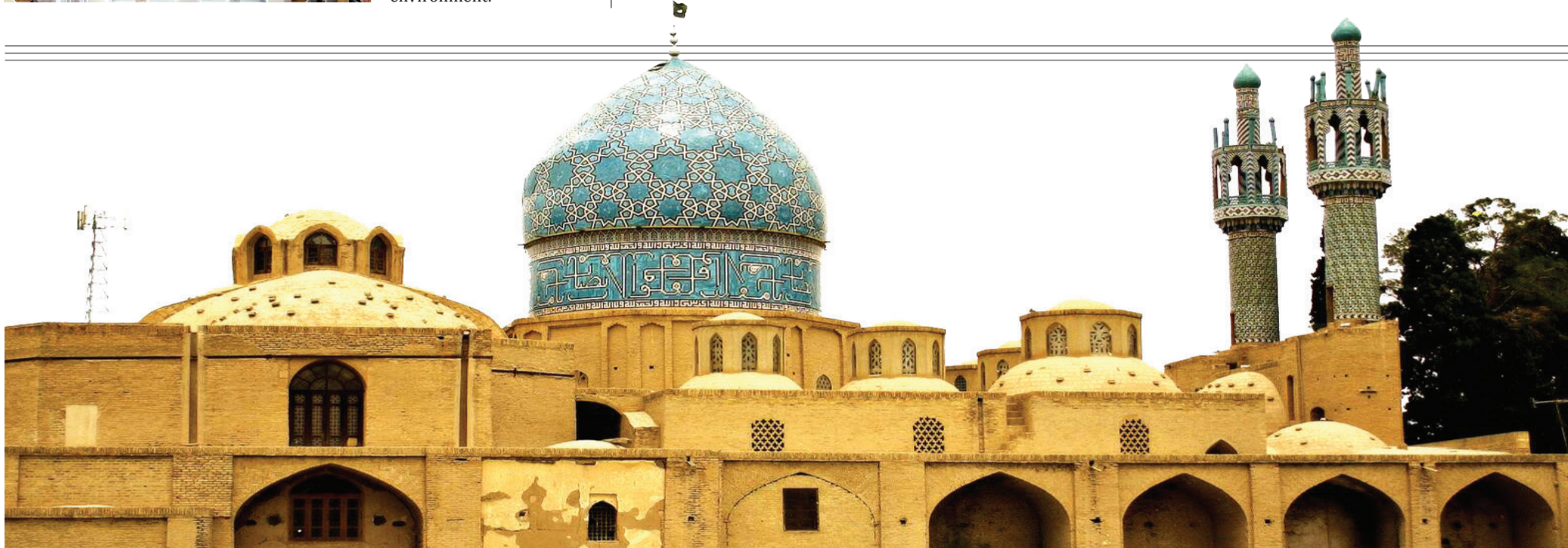
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MEHR – Iran and the United Arab Emirates are to further bolster the bilateral relations in the field of environment.

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Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine: A perfect place to learn about Persian mysticism and architecture

Peaceful spirituality, mind-blowing mystery, Persian architecture, and Sufi symbolism! You can have them all together in the mausoleum of the Persian Sufi master, poet, seer, and founder of a yet active order of dervishes: Shah Nematollah Vali.

Thirty-five kilometers to the southeast of Kerman, the capital of the southeastern province of Kerman, a town known as Mahan features Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine.

This is the perfect place to learn about Persian mysticism, Persian architecture, and unbelievable predictions about the future of the world, iranontour.com wrote.

Who was Shah Nematollah Vali?

Shah Nematollah Vali was born in Aleppo, Syria early in the 14th century. Aleppo was then the center of Sufi metaphysics of Ibn Arabi (a well-known Muslim philosopher). Nematollah's father took him to Sufi gatherings from his

childhood. Thereafter, he kept reading the works of Ibn Arabi, learning from the greatest masters of his time, and traveling widely through the Muslim world.

Nematollah finally found the master he had been looking for in Mecca and spent seven years studying beside him. This period made him spiritually transformed. So, he set out for his second round of travels, this time as an enlightened teacher. By the time he died, his fame had spread throughout the Muslim world as well as India.

Shah Nematollah spent the last years of his life in Mahan, Kerman. After he passed away, he was buried in a garden in Mahan. The first person who ordered the construction of a courtyard and the central domed structure over his tomb was one of his followers, Ahmad Shah I Vali, the ruler of Deccan, India. After this 15th-century dedication, rulers of Safavid and Qajar periods also contributed to the shrine, adding different parts to it. After six centuries

of architectural transformations, the shrine is now the physical and spiritual heart of Mahan and a national heritage of Iran.

The appearance of the shrine

The shrine is in fact a large complex with different buildings and courtyards. Entering the complex, you will reach the first courtyard. There you'll see porticos around and a large pond in the middle. Then moving on and passing a hashti (traditional entrance hall) will bring you to another pond-filled courtyard. There, you can find Shah Nematollah Museum, a bookshop, two minarets, and tombs of renowned figures. After this part, it is the shrine room that will impress you. Over the shining zarih (a decorated structure over a grave), the dome-shaped arch is decorated with intricate paintings.

To the west of the portico, you can find a tiny chamber where Shah Nematollah used to pray, meditate and write

poems. The roof of this room looks like a Sufi hat; verses of the Holy Qur'an and Persian poems cover the walls in a spiral pattern.

Elegant Islamic decorations

The elegant Islamic decorations are the real charm of the shrine and you can see them on every corner. Turquoise tiles cover the façade and the two minarets while arabesque motifs cover the eastern gateway, 11 angels cover the dome, and calligraphic inscriptions cover the tombstone. Also, carpets covered with pentagram symbols and elements of backward mirror writing surround the main tomb.

Secret of Number 11

Abjad Numerals, Number "11" can be an equivalent to the Sufi mantra "Hu". Hu stands for Allah, or God. In Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine, the architect used the Number 11 in the most subtle way, mostly in the dome. Eleven triangles come together to form the overall

shape of the dome. Also, the paintings of eleven angels decorate this dome. Plus, stars with eleven points are of the symbolic motifs in the shrine. An eleven-point star is rare in Islamic geometrical shapes.

Nostradamus of the Islamic world

Shah Nematollah Vali left the world with a Persian book of poems. But the book is no ordinary book. It is a book of predictions and prophecies. The accuracy with which the poems name historical figures and events that emerged centuries later is just mind blowing. Contrary to Nostradamus, who claimed that his revelations have astrological bases, Shah Nematollah claimed that his revelations had spiritual bases.

In the library and museum you can find precious copies of the Holy Qur'an, armors, swords, and a unique piece of fabric that once covered Shah Nematollah's tomb.



Foreign publishers register for Tehran Int'l Book Fair

IRNA – As of January 9, registration platform has been open to foreign publishers interested in participating in the 34th Tehran International Book Fair. The registration will continue until March 6. Publishers could participate in Arabic or English sections of the book fair. Iranian representatives of foreign publishers, in

addition to presenting a letter of representation or a valid sales permit from foreign publishers, must have a publishing license from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Due to limitations imposed by COVID-19, the 34th edition of the book fair will be held in both physical and online formats



The girl wraps a scarf around the snowman's neck beside the Cheleh Gah Road, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province, western Iran, covered by snow on January 9, 2023.
AMIR SADEQIAN/TASNIM