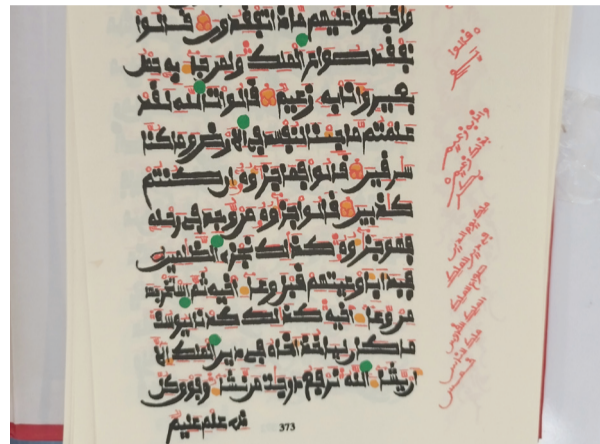


Hearing aids ward off dementia risk

A new study has suggested that hearing aids protect against dementia and should be worn by middle-aged adults as soon as they notice hearing loss. Researchers have found a 1.7% risk of dementia in people with hearing loss who are not using hearing aids, compared to 1.2% among those without hearing loss or who are experiencing hearing loss but using hearing aids.

Shi'ism in Nigeria is indebted to Islamic Revolution



Sadeq Dehqan

Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

The revival of the Islamic culture and the spread of Shi'ism in Nigeria is owed to Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution, said a Nigerian activist in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily. Muhammad Mukhtar Abdullah described the revolutionary movement of Iranians in 1979 as inspirational to the people of all countries, particularly Nigeria. "Iran's 1979 Islamic

Revolution triggered the Islamic Awakening in my country and bore great fruits for Nigerians," he added. Abdullah, who runs Nigeria's booth in the 30th International Holy Qur'an Exhibition, noted that he comes from the most densely populated country in Africa, where more than 70 percent of its people are Muslims. Shi'ism had not taken root deeply in Nigeria, he clarified, before the efforts of a Nigerian religious leader named Ibraheem Yaqoub el-Zakzaky. After meeting with the

late Imam Khomeini in Iran, El-Zakzaky returned to his country and familiarized Nigerians with the Shia Imams and the great tragedy of Ashura. "El-Zakzaky's words were so influential in opening the minds of Nigerians to various topics and issues that many of them, even the ones who practiced other religions, embraced Shi'ism, making Nigeria the country with the largest Shia population in Africa," maintained the activist. "I myself adopted Shi'ism

27 years ago because of El-Zakzaky's teachings and have been in Iran for a few years," he said, adding that he has recently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in the field of Qur'anic hermeneutics. Describing the International Holy Qur'an Exhibition held in Tehran as one of the biggest Qur'anic exhibitions in the world, Muhammad Mukhtar Abdullah expressed happiness with the opportunity that the exhibition provides for getting in contact with foreign specialists working in the field of the Qur'an. "I've seen scholars and

representatives of various countries introduce the Islamic and Qur'anic activities of their respective nations to visitors in the international section of the exhibition." Like many other countries, Nigeria's booth has put on display a number of Qur'ans and prayers masterfully written and illuminated by hand. The 30th International Holy Qur'an Exhibition opened at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Grand Prayer Grounds (Mosalla) on April 1, 2023, and welcomes visitors through April 15.

Bitter orange blossoms give unique scent to Shiraz in the spring

Iranica Desk

These days the air of Shiraz, the capital city of the southwestern province of Fars, is full of the delightful smell of bitter orange blossoms. Every person who passes by a garden can breathe the fresh air of spring and be enchanted by the delightful fragrance of bitter orange, known also as sour orange, blossoms. In addition to visiting the holy shrine of Shahcheragh (PBUH), the brother of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, and the tomb of great Persian poets, many tourists visit Shiraz early in the spring to inhale the pleasant smell of bitter orange blossoms, IRNA wrote.



Walking in the beautiful gardens of the city can be a pleasant experience for all travelers, especially nature lovers.

Delgosha Garden

Delgosha Garden, which is located next to the tomb of Sa'di, the great Persian poet of the 13th century, is covered with bitter orange trees, giving the unique scent to the whole city in the spring. The beautiful trees are planted in rows. Every year at the beginning of spring, the garden is full of the pleasant smell of bitter orange blossoms. The proximity of Delgosha Garden to the tomb of Sa'di, its multiple streams of running water and numerous bitter orange trees, as well as the ancient tomb draw a large number of the city's residents and travelers, especially during the spring. A number of people climb the mountain situated close to the garden early in the mornings, and wash their hands and faces in the fresh water flowing in its streams.

Eram Garden

Eram Garden is another world famous site of Shiraz attracting hundreds of thousands of sightseers throughout the year, especially in the spring. The scent of various flowers, mixed with the smell of bitter orange blossoms, creates a very pleasant atmosphere in the garden, which dates back to the Qajar Era (1789-1925 CE). The beauty of Eram Garden reaches its peak in the Iranian month of Ordibehesht (April 21 to May 21). You can spend time there and enjoy Iranian architecture and the art of gardening. With water streams flowing, surrounded by trees and adorned by flowers, Eram Garden is a true example of a Persian garden, built in a way as to portray paradise on earth. You can also enjoy walking around its main pool, facing a stunning palace with beautiful tile work.

Other gardens

Afifabad, Narenjestan and Nazar gardens, the monuments of which are used as museums, as well as other gardens and parks of Shiraz are also full of the scent of bitter orange blossoms in the spring. In addition, bitter orange trees have been planted in a large number of the city's boulevards and avenues, creating a lovely view and pleasant atmosphere in the spring.

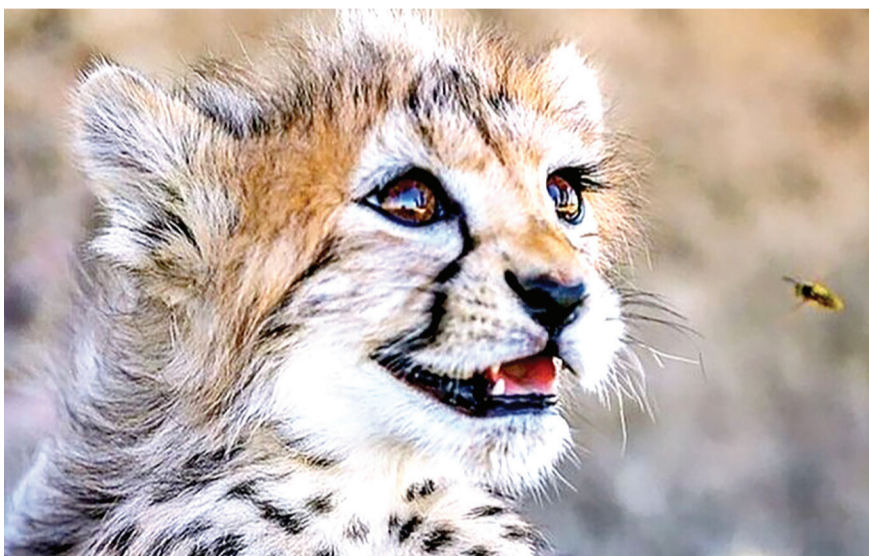
Iran's unique wildlife is a priceless heritage

Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

The brief wondrous life of Pirouz, the Asiatic cheetah cub was a blessing in disguise for Iranians and the country's wildlife. The attention that the magnificent creature garnered during his brief stay on planet Earth and the national mourning in the aftermath of his death are proof that Iranians are gradually waking up to the importance of preserving their wildlife.

The attention paid to the death of yet another cheetah in a car accident on Meyami-Sabzevar road during the Nowruz holiday proves further that all the hard work done by environment activists and the Department of the Environment are finally paying off, as more and more people buy into the idea that preserving Iran's wildlife is a priority. Iran is known to be home to a diverse range of wildlife, including several endangered species. The country's unique geography, which includes deserts, mountains, and forests, has allowed for the evolution of many distinct



species. However, during the past decades, a large number of different animals, some of them endangered species, fell victim to the negligence of authorities and people, fear of local communities, or greed of a few culprits.

Iran's wildlife

One of the most iconic animals in Iran is the Asiatic cheetah. It is one of the rarest big cats in the world, with only a few dozen individuals remaining in the wild. The cheetah's habitat has been severely

impacted by human activities such as hunting, mining, and agriculture. Sadly, according to official data, during the past 28 years, 44 cheetahs have died due to different reasons such as car accidents. Another endangered species in Iran is the Persian leopard. The population of this big cat has declined drastically due to habitat loss, poaching, and hunting. The Iranian government has taken steps to protect the leopard by establishing protected areas and increasing law enforcement efforts.

Unfortunately, despite all the efforts, during the past 10 years, 91 Persian leopards have lost their lives to the aforementioned reasons. The Caspian seal is another species facing threats in Iran. The seal's population has been declining due to overfishing and pollution in the Caspian Sea. Conservation efforts have been focused on reducing pollution and implementing sustainable fishing practices. Other endangered species in Iran include the Iranian wolf, the goitered gazelle,

Unfortunately, despite all the efforts, during the past 10 years, 91 Persian leopards have lost their lives to the aforementioned reasons.

the Pallas's cat, and the houbara bustard. These animals face threats from habitat loss, poaching, and hunting. The Iranian government has taken steps to protect these endangered species by establishing protected areas, implementing conservation programs, and enforcing laws against poaching and hunting. However, more needs to be done to ensure their survival. To sum it all up, Iran's wildlife is a vital part of the country's biodiversity and cultural heritage. Protecting these endangered species is essential for preserving Iran's natural heritage for future generations to enjoy, and arguably Iranians are now closer to understand this more than ever.