



IRAN

Every Morning

• Thursday
• April 20, 2023
• Vol. 8166

ISSN 1027-1449
Keytitle: IRAN (Tehran)
irannewspaper.ir



Mysterious creature

The most thorough study yet of a mysterious creature that lived 300 million years ago has ruled that it had no bones after all. Since its discovery nearly 70 years ago, the true nature of *Tullymonstrum gregarium* – AKA the Tully monster – has confounded scientists. Studies have variously found it was a vertebrate, or an invertebrate, with a back-and-forth that has gone on for years.

Big cats of Iran and their status

 **Saeed Azimi**
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Iran, located in the Middle East, is a country known for its rich history, culture, and natural beauty. With its diverse landscapes ranging from deserts to mountains, Iran is also home to some of the world's most fascinating wildlife including the majestic Persian cat.

The geography of Iran is unique and varied. The country is largely dominated by two major mountain ranges, the Zagros Mountains in the west and the Alborz Mountains in the north. These mountains not only provide breathtaking scenery but also play a vital role in shaping the country's climate and ecosystems.

The Zagros Mountains are home to some of Iran's most important rivers, including the Karun and Karkheh. These rivers support a variety of wildlife including the Persian leopard, one of the largest and most elusive big cats in the world. The Persian leopard is an endangered species, with only a few hundred individuals remaining in the wild. Despite conservation efforts, habitat loss and poaching continue to threaten their survival. In contrast, the Alborz Mountains are home to the Caspian tiger, which was once widespread throughout Iran but is now considered extinct in the country. However, there is still hope for the Caspian tiger as efforts are underway to reintroduce the species to its former range.

While the Persian leopard and Caspian tiger are both iconic big cats of Iran, it is the Persian cat that has gained worldwide fame. Bred in Iran for centuries, these beau-



tiful felines are known for their long hair, round faces, and gentle personalities. They were originally kept as pets by Persian nobles and were highly valued for their beauty and companionship.

Today, Persian cats are popular all over the world and are recognized as one of the most iconic feline breeds. They have become a symbol of Iran's rich cultural heritage and are a testament to the country's long-standing love and appreciation for animals.

Iran is also home to the Asiatic cheetah, aka the Iranian cheetah, one of the most endangered big cats in the world. It is estimated that there are less than 50 individuals remaining in the wild, all of which are found in Iran. The cheetah's habitat has been greatly impacted by human activities such as poaching, habitat loss, and

fragmentation. In addition, the cheetah's prey base has also been depleted due to overhunting and competition with livestock.

Efforts are underway to conserve and protect the Asiatic cheetah in Iran. The Iranian government has established protected areas for the cheetah including the Kavir National Park and Touran Biosphere Reserve. The Iranian Cheetah Society, a non-governmental organization, is also working to raise awareness and support for the conservation of the species. Despite these efforts, the Asiatic cheetah remains critically endangered, and more needs to be done to ensure its survival in the wild.

The Iranian lion, also known as the Asiatic lion, was once widespread throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. However, due to various human activities such as hunt-

ing and habitat loss, the population of the Iranian lion has drastically declined. By the mid-20th century, the Iranian lion was extinct in most of its former range, with only a small population remaining in the Gir Forest National Park in India. Efforts are underway to reintroduce the Iranian lion back into its former range in Iran. The Iranian government has established protected areas and wildlife corridors for the lion, and captive breeding programs have been established to increase the population. However, the success of these efforts remains uncertain as the Iranian lion faces many threats including poaching, habitat loss, and conflicts with humans. The conservation of the Iranian lion is crucial not only for the survival of the species but also for the preservation of the unique biodiversity of the region.

International Festival of Nomadic Migration, a beginning for 'Ardebil 2023' event

Iranica Desk

The 'Ardebil 2023' event will introduce the city of Ardebil as the tourism capital of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries in the current year.

The International Festival of Nomadic Migration, to be held from April 26 to 28 in Jafarabad, which lies on the Moghan Plain, can be regarded as the beginning of this important event, according to IRNA.

With the approval of the tourism ministers of the ECO member countries in 2019, Ardebil, the capital city of the northwestern province of Ardebil, was selected as the tourism capital of the organization in 2023.

Meanwhile, a number of committees have been formed to organize the "Ardebil 2023" event.

The Festival of Nomadic Migration has been held annually in the green Moghan Plain for the past nine years, in cooperation with the locals and nomads, who will establish a number of pavilions to display their traditional handicrafts and other products.

The festival plays an important part in introducing and reviving the traditional customs and arts of the local villagers and nomads living in the region. This year's festival, which is to be held at an international level, will help familiarize people living inside and outside of the country with the cultural values, customs and traditions of the target community.

A number of ministers from ECO countries, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatullah Zarghami and some provincial and local officials are expected to participate in the festival.

Although the city of Ardebil has been selected as the tourism capital of ECO countries, during the event, the provincial officials will attempt to make the best use of this opportunity to introduce the tourism capacities and anthropological features of the other cities of the province.

Regarding the extent of the cultural, social, economic and political impact of the festival, it can help draw the attention of the public to the economic and cultural importance of the region.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardebil is well-known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its tradition of trade in silk and carpets.

The province is freezing in the winter and mild in the summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardebil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in the winter.

The province attracts a very large number of visitors from across the country as well as other countries including the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan and Iraq.

Iranian arts on display at Qur'an exhibition in Pakistan

Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition of Qur'an manuscripts opened in Pakistan's parliament on Tuesday, with Iranian works on display.

With the cooperation of the Iranian Embassy, the exhibition's opening ceremony was enthusiastically welcomed by the representatives of the country's parliaments, political and cultural figures, as well as the ambassadors of Islamic countries, IRNA reported.

According to the National Assembly of Pakistan in Islamabad, the exhibition's opening coincided with the last days of the month of Ramadan, on the eve of Eid al-Fitr.

Those attending the ceremony were: Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Raja Pervez



Ashraf, the head of the Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group, Naveed Qamar, Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, and Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy Ehsan Khazaei. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Qamar expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Iranian

Embassy and the efforts made to hold the two-day Qur'anic exhibition.

"The people of Pakistan have the opportunity to serve Islam and, today, along with our Iranian brothers, we are blessed to see valuable Qur'an manuscripts and other magnificent Islamic arts in this exhibition," he said. He added that the pres-

ence of the 850-year-old manuscript of the Holy Qur'an in this show indicates the boundless love of the followers of Islam to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

The Iranian envoy said, "The message of this precious copy reflects the deep and lasting love and interest of the designers of these historical and

unique work that is indicative of how they used whatever art they had in writing the Qur'an."

He added, "As Muslims, all of us must highlight the role of the Qur'an in our lives; holding this exhibition in Ramadan is to this end."

The works on display include 200 original manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an, some of which were written with a Persian translation, over 800 years old, in various Persian scripts of nasta'liq, thuluth and naskh. Some others are decorated and gilded with gold water, and colorful patterns of flowers and bushes. In addition, a significant number of original calligraphic works of the Holy Qur'an are presented by the Persian Research Center of Iran and Pakistan.

