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**PRAYER TIME**

- ❖ Noon: 13:10
- ❖ Evening: 20:23
- ❖ Dawn (tomorrow): 4:42
- ❖ Sunrise (tomorrow): 6:17



## Iran launches world manuscripts data bank

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Iran launched its first world manuscripts data bank during a ceremony held on Monday at the venue of Iran National Library and Archives (INLA).

Yerik Utembayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Iran, INLA director Ali-Akbar Ash'ari, director of Miras-e Maktub Research Center Akbar Irani and several numbers of Iranian experts on manuscripts attended the ceremony.

Ambassador Utembayev, who had attended the ceremony as one of the representatives of ECO member countries, gave the opening address and called the establishment of the data bank a significant event.

He went on to say, "Iran and Kazakhstan enjoy bilateral cultural relations. The visit President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid last year to the Iran National Library and Archives indicates that we pay close attention to books and the national archives, and also to cultural relations with Iran."

He continued that the ECO region possesses rare and invaluable manuscripts and that more research work is required to cover the entire region, adding, "The data bank can be of great help in this area."

Akbar Irani was the next to address the attendees and expressed his happiness over seeing such an event in the country, adding, "Today is a day to celebrate manuscripts. I proclaim this day a day of recognition of the importance of Iran's contribution to civilization."

Irani expressed his gratitude to the young project executive Naser Golbaz and that he appreciated his diligent efforts in launching the project.

Following his address, Golbaz talked more about the project. He said that at present, the bank has collected data on more than 280,000 manuscripts from around the world, adding, "Iran maintains a collection of manuscripts that contains the largest number among the countries of the world. Iran has also made the most strenuous efforts in collecting the manuscripts."

The ceremony ended with the presentation of a plaque of honor to Golbaz for his nine years of activities in launching the project.

## Morgan Freeman injured in car wreck

**TUPELO, Mississippi (Reuters)** — Oscar-winning U.S. actor Morgan Freeman was hospitalized on Monday with a broken arm and other injuries after the car he was driving careened off a highway and rolled several times, authorities said.

Freeman, 71, lost control of the car late on Sunday near a home he keeps in Charleston, Mississippi. He was airlifted to a Memphis, Tennessee, hospital, 100 miles away.

"The vehicle went off the edge of the road and flipped several times," Mississippi Highway Patrol Sgt. Ben Williams said. No other car was involved in the accident.

A spokeswoman at Regional Medical Center in Memphis said Freeman was in serious condition but gave no details.

Freeman's publicist, Donna Lee, said later that the actor's injuries included a broken arm, a broken elbow and "minor shoulder damage."

# Cyrus the Great tomb needs constant monitoring of moisture

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — The Parseh and Pasargadae Research Foundation director has called for constant vigilance against soil moisture, which is threatening the tomb of Cyrus the Great in Pasargadae.

The foundation has prepared a plan to constantly monitor the soil moisture at the site in the southern province of Fars, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian told the Persian service of CHN on Tuesday.

The plan would be approved and then financed by the Research Center of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, he added.

"According to the plan, a hygrometer and recording instruments would be installed at the site to monitor the moisture level of the soil beneath the tomb's base," Talebian explained.

"The device is not cheap and it's not adequate in itself. A number of comprehensive studies also need to be carried out by international experts," he noted.

Many believe that the construction of the Sivand Dam, completed in early 2007, created the moisture problem. Unfortunately, the reservoir formed by the dam, located in the Bolaghi Valley, which begins about four kilometers from Pasargadae, is threatening about 130 important



archaeological sites.

In addition, some experts had previously said that the increased humidity caused by the large lake could cause damage to Pasargadae, which is also home to two of Cyrus' palaces and other Achaemenid era structures.

However, due to low rainfall in the area, the filling of the dam has

not been completed, thus Talebian rejects the idea.

Natural underground water table levels are generally high in the Pasargadae region. This fact has been mentioned in reports by the Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East (L'Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente - ISMEO) that had made some excavations

and restorations on the site and at Persepolis before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Talebian said.

"A state of balance has been achieved between nature and all sites at Pasargadae. However, many efforts should be made to set up a comprehensive scientific system to monitor environmental conditions 24 hours a day," Talebian stated.

# Iranian computer games and cultural sites DVD unveiled

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Computer games as well as a DVD containing data on Iranian cultural sites were unveiled by the Tebyan Art and Cultural Institute during a ceremony on Monday.

The Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization director Hojjatolislam Seyyed Mehdi Khamushi and Tebyan officials attended the ceremony.

The audience and the theme of the play in the computer games "Resistance", "Valfajr", "My Country", "Noruz" "The Special Officer" or "Rally" and "My Country" were considered for the game designation, Tebyan official Bijan Rabbani said during the ceremony.

"The Special Officer" is a rally in Iran. In the first edition, the driver's options for cars used in the competition included only those which were made in Iran but in the second edition foreign cars used in Iran will also be available, he said.

## Crouching Tiger composer to set mood for medals

**BEIJING (Reuters)** — The Oscar-winning composer whose "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" soundtrack awed cinema audiences across the West is providing the mood music at the Olympics medal ceremonies in Beijing.

Composer Tan Dun blended a historic recording of sacred bronze "chime bells" from an ancient Chinese tomb with the sound of jade musical stone to create a gentle clanging melody that will be the backdrop for tearjerker medal awards at the Games.

The Olympics are famous for producing goosebump-inducing music, and a yet-to-be released album of some 30 tracks for the Beijing Games is expected to sell heavily worldwide.

"When I was composing the music for the award ceremony, I was thinking 'what makes a champion?'" China's Tan said on Tuesday, as



The theme of the "Resistance" is an imaginative one, which set in future. The violence and the negative aspects of the game were omitted to the extent possible, he mentioned.

"Valfajr" illustrates the process of

the Valfajr operation during Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), which consisted of eight stages, he added.

Monuments and tourist attractions of the historical city Isfahan are represented in the "My Country" and

the Game "Noruz" elaborates on the concept of Noruz and the various rituals and traditions that are connected to it.

He went on to say that "Collection of Sport Games" consists of sports will be released in near future.

At the ceremony, the managing director of Tebyan, Mohammadreza Farrokhi said that the DVD of Iranian cultural sites has already been produced and will be released shortly.

The software includes data in the Geographic Information Systems format on cultural sites and locations in Iran.

The Tebyan website is visited by more than 4500000 visitors daily and has a comprehensive digital library which is available for users, he said.

The institute is affiliated with the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

## Charlie Sheen tops list of high-paid TV stars

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — It really pays to work for CBS. A pair of stars from two of the network's top-rated programs rank as the two highest-paid actors on prime-time television, raking in well over \$500,000 an episode each, according to a poll by TV Guide magazine released on Monday.

Charlie Sheen, who plays a wealthy bachelor on the top-rated sitcom "Two and a Half Men," made more than any other TV actor this year with earnings of \$825,000 per episode, including money from his ownership rights in the show.

At the rate of 23 episodes per year, the typical number of shows broadcast each season for a comedy like "Two and a Half Men," Sheen would be pocketing just under \$20 million a year for a role that also earned him three Emmy nominations.

## Iranian scholar translating Iqbal's Ph.D. thesis into Persian

**Tehran Times Culture Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — An Iranian scholar and expert on Iqbal Mohammad Baqaii Makan is currently translating Iqbal's Ph.D. thesis, "Development of Metaphysics in Persia," into Persian.

"Iqbal has reviewed the philosophy of Iran since the Zoroastrian era up to his life time and has studied all the philosophical perspectives in Iran with a glance at other countries' outlooks in his thesis," Makan told MNA.

He added that Iqbal has tried to study Iranian philosophical thought and to prove that Iranian thought developed independently without undue influence from other countries.

"The book was previously translated into Persian by Amir-Hossein Aryanpur. It contains only 150 pages but is rich in content. The book bears a wealth of Iranian philosophical thoughts and ideas that Iqbal has discussed in such a way that one would assume he was a perfect Iranian gentleman if one did not know him," he explained.

The book consists of six chapters and includes thoughts of such figures as Mazdak, Zoroaster, Mani, and Molla Sadra.

Iqbal submitted his thesis at the University of Munich in 1908. The book was published in the same year.

Makan has received the Pakistan's National Medal of Distinction, the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, from the Pakistani ambassador in Tehran in 2006.

The 24-volume treatise "In Retrospect of the Thoughts and Works of Iqbal" is among Makan's credits.

## Morvarid-e Lian band to perform at Beijing Olympics

**Tehran Times Art Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Morvarid-e Lian band from the Iranian southern city Bushehr will be dispatched to China on July 6 as Iran's representative to give performances at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

The group will perform instrumental music. Regarding the audience, the band will also give some vocal renditions, the band conductor Mohsen Sharifian told IRNA.

The band has performed regional music pieces from different parts of Iran at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany but they will perform pieces exclusively from the Iranian southern regional music in the Olympic, he said.

Iranian regional music has rich songs and melodies, which can invoke feelings of happiness, sadness and homesickness and this characteristic makes it popular among people, Sharifian mentioned.

Bushehr's music, which is represents a variety of Iranian regional music, is warmly received by many countries including Germany, France, Japan, Korea and African countries, he added.

He went on to say that the Olympics is not just a series of sports events but it also promotes cultural exchanges between the participating countries.

China has appointed a special venue for holding cultural programs on the sidelines of the Olympic games, which is located outside of the Olympic Village.