

AJUMSIA

AJUMS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SPRING 2024





As spring arrives, we reflect on the profound changes shaping our nation. Nowruz, Iran's New Year, brings a sense of renewal and hope, reminding us of our enduring spirit and rich cultural heritage.

This spring, we solemnly remember the martyrdom of our esteemed President, Dr. Raisi, and his companions. Dr. Raisi's unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and profound commitment to our nation have left an indelible mark on our hearts and history. His legacy of service and sacrifice continues to inspire us as we strive to fulfill the dreams he passionately pursued.

As we embrace this new season, let us draw strength from our shared history and collective aspirations. Together, we can build a future that honors the memory of those we have lost and celebrates the vibrant spirit of our nation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Somayeh Biparva

Director of AJUMS International Affairs

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14 JULY 2024 . S P R I N G . JOURNAL OF AJUMS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



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AJUMS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS) has named Dr. Somayeh Biparva Haghighi as the new director of its International Affairs division, effective April 16, 2024. Dr. Biparva, a School of Medicine faculty member who most recently served as the head of the Department of Language and prior to that as the head of the AJUMS International College, succeeds Prof. Seyed Ali Mard, who now leads the Shushtar School of Medical Sciences.

In her new role, Dr. Biparva will oversee AJUMS's global partnerships, exchange programs, and research collaborations. AJUMISA praised Prof. Mard's dedicated service and wishes both new appointees the best, recognizing AJUMS's commitment to strengthening its international profile in medical education and innovation.



ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

We are pleased to announce that the Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences has been granted approval to accept international students into its Master's program in Anesthesiology. This decision comes as a result of a letter from Dr. Abolfazl Baqeri Fard, Deputy Minister of Education and Secretary of the Medical and Specialized Education Council of the Ministry of Health, to Dr. Mohammad Hossein Sarmest, President of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences.

This is a significant development for the university and for the field of anesthesiology in Iran. It will allow the university to attract talented students from around the world and to contribute to the global advancement of anesthesiology research and practice.



SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN AL-TURATH UNIVERSITY AND AJUMS

Ahvaz Jundishapur University (AJUMS) of Medical Sciences and Al-Turath University of Baghdad signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOU) on April 3, 2024. The MOU facilitates the admission of Master of Science (MSc) students in various medical science fields. The signing ceremony featured Prof. Mohammad Hossein Sarmast, president of AJUMS, and Dr. Jafar Jaber Javad, President of Al-Turath University.

Prof. Sarmast emphasized the importance of expanding scientific collaboration with universities worldwide, recognizing it as a valuable way to elevate the scientific level of both Universities. Professor Seyed Ali Mard, the director of AJUMS International Affairs, echoed this sentiment, stating that scientific knowledge should transcend borders. Collaboration between universities, he said, fosters innovation through knowledge exchange. Al turath university, established in Baghdad in 1988, is a distinctive university as it is recognized as the first private university in Iraq.



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON FAMILY HEALTH, CHILDBEARING AND POPULATION PROTECTION

This report summarizes the First International Congress on Family Health, Childbearing, and Population Protection, held from February 13-15, 2024, at Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences. The congress featured 35 oral presentations and over 70 poster presentations. International participation included up to 15 participants from countries like Canada, Switzerland, the United States, Ghana, and Iraq. Notably, three delegates from Basrah University (Iraq) attended in person. A wide range of topics was addressed during the congress, including the consequences of population aging, the impact of single-child families, infertility and childbearing challenges, prenatal care, the role of midwives in natural childbirth, and challenges associated with physiological delivery. Childbirth Health Deputy of the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education delivered a presentation highlighting the importance of childbearing and the dangers of population aging. The congress also featured three panel discussions held each afternoon.

PREPARED BY PROF. PARVIN ABEDI



GLOBAL LEARNING HUB

SUCCESSFUL PERSIAN PROFICIENCY TEST ADMINISTERED TWICE IN 2023

Successfully Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS) administered the Persian Proficiency Test twice during the academic year 1402 (equivalent to 2023-2024), focusing on enhancing language skills among its vibrant community of international students.

In an effort to bridge cultural gaps and facilitate a richer academic experience, AJUMS organized the Persian Proficiency Test on [01/15/2024 & 03/05/2024].

In an heartening inspiring development, students who demonstrated exceptional proficiency by scoring 90 and above out of 100 were specially recognized and appreciated for their outstanding achievement in mastering the Persian language.

The initiative, led by Dr. Tazik, the Head of AJUMS International College, aimed to assess and elevate the Persian language proficiency of international students at AJUMS. "We are thrilled with the level of engagement and commitment demonstrated by our international students during the Persian Proficiency Test. It is encouraging to witness the enthusiasm for embracing the Persian language and culture," stated Dr. Tazik.



Comprising both written and oral components, the test challenged participants to exhibit their mastery grasp of Persian grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills. The results will serve as valuable insights for the university in tailoring language programs and support services to meet the unique needs of international students .

AJUMS takes pride in nurturing a globalized learning initiatives like the Persian Proficiency Test which underscore the university's commitment to providing a holistic educational experience for its diverse student population.

AJUMS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS USERN OFFICE ORGANIZES JOURNAL CLUBS

To facilitate communication between students and faculty across different disciplines, the USERN office of AJUMS international affairs has organized journal clubs in various fields. These sessions take place in the open space of the AJUMS International College, located on the third floor of the old medical building.

The first journal club, held on January 8, 2024, was presented by Dr. Ashkan Emami on the topic "Motivation in the human brain: A neuroscientific perspective on depression." The second session, "Why scientists do their experiments on animals: Basic concepts for interested students to start research," was organized by Dr. Seyed Ali Mard on January 15th. Ms. Mino Shafei Nia led the third session, "A Herbal Material that Will Surprise You," on February 26th, 2024.

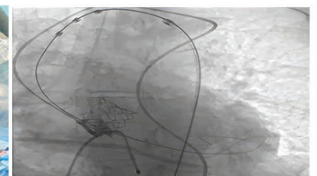


TAVI

A LESS INVASIVE OPTION FOR
INOPERABLE HEART VALVE STENOSIS

Heart valve stenosis is a common heart disease characterized by the narrowing of the aortic valve opening. This condition hinders normal blood flow out of the heart, leading to heart dysfunction, significant health issues, and potentially death. Traditionally, heart valve stenosis is treated with open-heart surgery, involving a sternotomy to replace the damaged valves. However, many patients are not healthy enough for such invasive surgery and have to rely solely on medication.

Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Haybar now utilizes a minimally invasive, catheter-based treatment known as transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). This procedure can be performed on patients at high or moderate risk of complications from traditional surgery. Currently, this innovative treatment is available in Khuzestan province and at Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences. To our best knowledge, only a few countries have the capability to perform this procedure.



AJUMS

DARA RASSOUL

IBRAHIM MOHAMMED OTHMAN

OMER JAMAL AHMED ALJIALI

KEREN HAPPUCH TWUMASIWAA BOATENG

TANZEEL FAROOQ

FAIZAN NISA MANZOOOR

TOOBA KHAN

INTERNATIONAL TOP STUDENTS

SYRIA



MEDICINE

IRAQ



DENTISTRY

IRAQ



ANESTHESIOLOGY

GHANA



MIDWIFERY
(PhD)

INDIA



MEDICINE

INDIA



MEDICINE

PAKISTAN



MEDICINE

AJUMSIA SPORTS

The inaugural participation of international students from Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS) in the Second Olympiad of International Students of Medical Universities marks a significant milestone for the university. This event provided a platform for these students to demonstrate their talents in a competitive setting, resulting in notable achievements that have brought recognition and honor to AJUMS.



Among the accomplishments, Hana from Iraq secured third place in the dart match, Hoger Kamil Osman achieved second place in dominoes, while Sardar Huzaifa and Samran Haider achieved third place in frisbee, and Moghadas Hussein attained third place in badminton. The International Affairs Office of AJUMS extends its heartfelt thanks to the Deputy Chancellor of Student-Cultural Affairs, the Director of Sports, and the internationally ranked coaches Ms. Sohrabi and Ms. Behdad for their invaluable support and contributions. Their dedication and efforts in training the international students were instrumental in this success. These achievements underscore AJUMS's commitment to fostering talent and excellence among its diverse student body, setting a precedent for future participation and success in similar events.



AJUMS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS UNMASK THE DANGERS OF SMOKING

To mark World No-Tobacco Day, the International Affairs of AJUMS partnered with active international students in the USERN office to host a seminar titled "Unmasking the dangers: preventing smoking for a healthier future." Held on May 29th, 2024, the event aimed to motivate smoking cessation through informative presentations on topics like WHO statistics on smoking, its harmful effects, and the link between smoking and infertility, mental health, and cancer risk. The seminar concluded with appreciation for participants and presenters, with certificates and gifts awarded to the student speakers. This successful initiative highlighted the dangers of smoking and encouraged a healthier lifestyle for the wider community, showcasing the valuable role of international students in promoting public health awareness.



NOWRUZ

THE IRANIAN NEW YEAR

Nowruz, which falls on March 21st, marks the first day of the Iranian solar calendar and the celebration of the Iranian New Year. It is one of the oldest surviving festivals from ancient Iran, celebrated across much of Asia and various parts of the world.

Nowruz is a time for renewal, reflection, and the celebration of nature's rebirth. Families and friends come together to celebrate, engaging in many traditional customs.



Haft-Sin Table

One of the key traditions of Nowruz is the Haft-Sin table, which is decorated with seven symbolic items, each beginning with the letter "S" in Persian:

- Sabzeh (green sprouts): Symbolizes life and vitality.
- Samanu: (sweet pudding made from wheat germ): Represents blessings and abundance.
- Senjed (dried fruit): Symbolizes love and infatuation or rationality.
- Sib (apples): Signifies health and well-being.
- Serkeh (vinegar): Represents immortality.
- Sekkeh (coins): Denotes livelihood.
- Sumac: Stands for happiness, patience, and perseverance.

Additional items often placed on the Haft-Sin table include:

- Eggs: Symbolize birth and rebirth, representing the cycle of life.
- Quran: For Muslims, it represents the presence and remembrance of God.
- Mirror: Symbolizes clarity and purity.
- Candle: Represents light and brightness, symbolizing hope for the future.
- Fish: Symbolizes freshness and vitality.

Other Traditions

Leading up to Nowruz, people engage in housecleaning, buying new clothes, and visiting the graves of deceased loved ones. Traditional dishes like "Samanu" and "Sabzi Polo Ba Mahi" (a rice dish with herbs and fish) are prepared and served, symbolizing prosperity and new beginnings.

Did va Bazdid, or visiting family and friends, is a fundamental custom during Nowruz, starting on the day of the New Year and continuing for several days. Many people also travel and enjoy nature during the holidays, taking time to relax and appreciate the beauty around them.

Nowruz is a time of joy, reflection, and togetherness, embodying the hope for a prosperous and healthy future.



The background is a deep blue gradient. On the left, there is a vertical arrangement of three ornate, glowing lanterns. The top and bottom lanterns are in sharp focus, showing intricate golden filigree patterns. The middle lantern is slightly out of focus. To the right of the lanterns, there are several out-of-focus circular bokeh lights in warm orange and yellow tones. The overall aesthetic is serene and celebratory, typical of Ramadan-themed art.

RAMADAN

A MONTH OF REFLECTION
AND POTENTIAL HEALTH
BENEFITS

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community for Muslims worldwide. It lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, beginning with the sighting of a crescent moon. Fasting from dawn to sunset is obligatory for most adult Muslims, with exceptions for those who are acutely or chronically ill, traveling, elderly, breastfeeding, diabetic, pregnant, or menstruating. The pre-dawn meal is called suhur, and the nightly feast that breaks the fast is called iftar. Ramadan is a period of spiritual growth, self-improvement, and heightened devotion. Muslims dedicate themselves more fully to Islamic teachings.

The fast (sawm) begins at dawn and ends at sunset. In addition to abstaining from food and drink, Muslims strive to avoid sinful speech and behavior. This fasting is believed to redirect focus away from worldly matters and cleanse the soul. Muslims believe Ramadan fosters self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for the less fortunate. It encourages acts of generosity and obligatory charity (zakat).

Recent scientific research has shown that fasting may offer several health benefits, including weight loss, improved blood sugar control, and potential protection against certain medical conditions:

- **Blood Sugar Control:** Studies suggest that fasting may improve blood sugar control, potentially aiding those at risk of developing diabetes. Research indicates that fasting can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes by increasing insulin sensitivity, allowing it to transport glucose from the bloodstream to cells more efficiently. This helps maintain steady blood sugar levels.

- **Inflammation:** Some studies suggest that fasting can decrease inflammation levels and promote better health. Fasting may significantly reduce C-reactive protein, a marker of inflammation.

- **Heart Health:** Fasting could potentially lower total cholesterol and several risk factors for heart disease in overweight individuals compared to a control group. Studies suggest that fasting may significantly decrease blood pressure, as well as levels of blood triglycerides, total cholesterol, and LDL (bad) cholesterol.

- **Brain Health:** Fasting may potentially protect brain health and increase the generation of nerve cells, enhancing cognitive function. Since fasting may also reduce inflammation, it could potentially aid in preventing neurodegenerative disorders. Animal studies suggest that fasting may protect against and improve outcomes for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.

- **Weight Loss:** Theoretically, abstaining from food and beverages should decrease overall calorie intake and increase metabolism, leading to weight loss over time. Studies show that fasting can increase levels of human growth hormone (HGH), an important protein hormone that plays a role in growth, metabolism, weight loss, and muscle strength.

Sources:

1. Barbados Today - [Of Fasting and Water](<https://www.barbados-today.com/2019/05/15/of-fasting-and-water/>)
2. Get Wildfit - [The Truth About Fasting](<https://www.getwildfit.com/the-truth-about-fasting/>)
3. Healthline - [Fasting: Benefits and Risks](<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/fasting-benefits>)

KHUZESTAN'S ENDURING CRAFT KAPU BAFI



Handicrafts are more than just beautiful objects; they embody a country's cultural heritage and traditions. In Khuzestan province, Iran, Kapu Bafi, a 500-year-old art of mat weaving, exemplifies this perfectly. Skillful women, using time-honored techniques, weave palm leaflets around Kertak, a local swamp plant known for its strength and flexibility. This unique combination creates functional items like bread containers and stunning decorative pieces that grace homes across the region.

The heart of Kapu Bafi lies in Dezful and its surrounding villages, particularly Shahyun. The history of this craft stretches back centuries, with the word "Kapu" itself referring to any sphere-shaped object in the Dezfuli dialect. Traditionally, Kapu served a practical purpose, with only two main types being woven: one for storing bread dough and another for storing baked bread. However, the artistry of Kapu Bafi has flourished in recent years. Today, weavers create a diverse range of beautiful objects, including fruit bowls, kettles, saucers, vases, plates, sugar bowls, rice cookers, boxes, baskets, and even decorative pots.

The recognition of Dezful as a global city of handicrafts by the World Crafts Council is a testament to the enduring legacy of Kapu Bafi. It highlights not only the beauty and functionality of these woven creations but also the skill and dedication of the women who keep this ancient tradition alive. With its vibrant colors, natural materials, and timeless techniques, Kapu Bafi stands as a symbol of Khuzestan's rich cultural heritage.

Reference: [visitiran.ir](https://www.visitiran.ir/en/handicraft/kapu-khuzestan)



THE 13th OF FARVARDIN

A CELEBRATION OF NATURE AND RENEWAL

Sizdah Bedar is a cherished Iranian tradition celebrated on the 13th day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian New Year. On this day, people gather with their families and friends in nature to partake in joyous festivities and merrymaking.

Celebratory Customs of Sizdah Bedar:

- Tying Greenery Knots: A popular ritual involves tying knots on sprouted greens while making wishes. These knotted greens are then released into flowing water.
- Nature Picnics: Families spread colorful tablecloths laden with delectable dishes and snacks, savoring the shared experience of eating and drinking amidst the beauty of nature.
- Group Games: Fun-filled activities like "وسطی" (a ball-passing game), hide-and-seek, and tug-of-war add excitement to the celebration.



Significance of Sizdah Bedar:

- Appreciating Nature: Sizdah Bedar serves as an opportunity to cherish and express gratitude for the wonders of nature.
- Strengthening Social Bonds: This day fosters interaction and connection with loved ones, solidifying social bonds.
- Rejuvenating Spirit: After the twelve-day New Year festivities, Sizdah Bedar allows for revitalization and a fresh start to work and daily routines.

Nature Day:

Recognizing its significance, the official Iranian calendar marks Sizdah Bedar as "Nature Day," emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation and respect.


In essence, Sizdah Bedar is a joyous and uplifting celebration that provides a chance to refresh the spirit and strengthen social connections.

THE PERSIAN GULF

Why the Persian Gulf?

The Persian Gulf is part of the Iranian continental plateau, with origins dating back to the Tertiary geological period. Millions of years ago, the expansion of the Atlantic Ocean caused South America to separate from Africa and Australia from Antarctica. This separation created a gap between India and Africa, leading to the formation of the Arabian Sea.

Approximately ten million years after the formation of the Oman Rift during the Tertiary geological period, the rift expanded further, causing water to encroach upon the adjacent landmasses. This expansion led to the formation of the Persian Gulf. This region encompasses the Persian Gulf, its islands, and eight bordering countries: Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.



The Persian Gulf region holds immense value due to its abundant oil resources. Since the discovery and extraction of the first oil wells in Iran on May 27, 1908 (June 5, 1287, in the Iranian calendar), the region's oil has remained of paramount importance to the world, particularly to the West. Despite significant transformations in oil production methods, consumption patterns, transportation, and exploration in various geographical zones worldwide, and despite fundamental shifts in energy procurement methods from oil to alternative sources like nuclear, solar, hydro, and wind power, the Persian Gulf's oil reserves have not diminished in value. Instead, their importance and worth have only grown over time.

The Persian Gulf is home to approximately 130 recognized islands of varying sizes. The Iranian islands situated in the northern part of the Gulf are predominantly inhabited. Among these Iranian islands, seven hold strategic importance as they form the key to the Strait of Hormuz. These islands include Hormuz, Qeshm, Lark, Hengam, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa.

The Persian Gulf stands as one of the world's most renowned seas. It has served as a hub for cultural exchange in the East and is considered a cornerstone of Iranian civilization. The recognition of this Gulf and its strategic political and economic position, particularly due to its vast oil reserves, has drawn increased global attention.

The Persian Gulf bears a name so ancient that some believe it to be the cradle of human civilization or the birthplace of humankind. The name "Persian Gulf" has been consistently used throughout history, appearing in various languages and cultures. This widespread recognition of the name speaks to the region's profound historical and cultural significance. The name "Persian Gulf" has been documented in numerous historical sources, including ancient Greek, Roman, and Persian texts. The usage of the name by non-Iranian civilizations further underscores its historical validity and lack of any racial connotations. Over the centuries, the name has been translated and adapted into various languages, reflecting its global recognition:

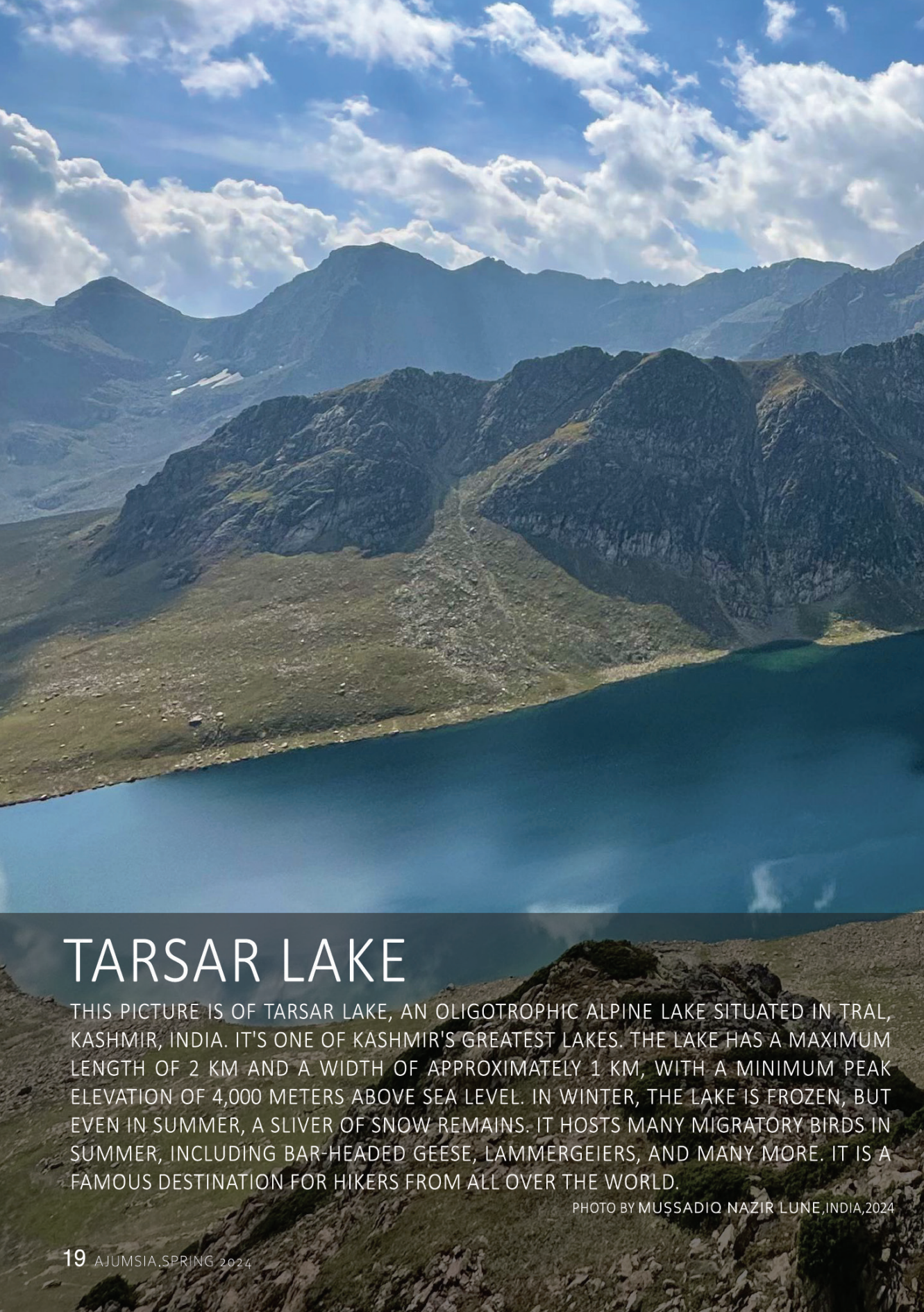
- English: Persian Gulf
- French: Golfe Persique
- Russian: Persidski Zaliv
- Turkish: Fars Körfezi
- Japanese: Pesusha Wan

The ancient book "Hudud al-Alam," compiled around a thousand years ago and considered the oldest extant work of Persian geographical literature, provides a clear and unequivocal reference to the Persian Gulf. The text states: "The Persian Gulf extends from the borders of Persia, with a narrow width, until it reaches the borders of Sindh."

In the annals of ancient nomenclature, the southern sea of Iran bore the name "Narmertu," meaning "bitter river." This appellation, however, gave way to a more enduring and globally recognized moniker following the migration of the Aryan people and their southward expansion. As the Persian tribe established their dominion over the region, they bestowed their own name upon the adjacent gulf, marking the genesis of the enduring designation "Persian Gulf." The Persian Gulf has consistently held its name in official documents and communications of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The 10th of Ordibehesht, coinciding with the expulsion of the Portuguese from the southern coasts of Iran, has been designated as "National Persian Gulf Day." This day is referred to as "Bahr-e Fars" in hadiths and narrations

PREPARED BY ZIBA ZAMANI



TARSAR LAKE

THIS PICTURE IS OF TARSAR LAKE, AN OLIGOTROPHIC ALPINE LAKE SITUATED IN TRAL, KASHMIR, INDIA. IT'S ONE OF KASHMIR'S GREATEST LAKES. THE LAKE HAS A MAXIMUM LENGTH OF 2 KM AND A WIDTH OF APPROXIMATELY 1 KM, WITH A MINIMUM PEAK ELEVATION OF 4,000 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL. IN WINTER, THE LAKE IS FROZEN, BUT EVEN IN SUMMER, A SLIVER OF SNOW REMAINS. IT HOSTS MANY MIGRATORY BIRDS IN SUMMER, INCLUDING BAR-HEADED GEESE, LAMMERGEIERS, AND MANY MORE. IT IS A FAMOUS DESTINATION FOR HIKERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

PHOTO BY MUSSADIQ NAZIR LUNE, INDIA, 2024



AJUMSIA
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION
WINNERS



SAMUNDAR KATHA LAKE

SAMUNDAR KATHA LAKE IS LOCATED ON THE DISTANCE OF 97KM FROM ISLAMABAD AND 35KM FROM ABBOTTABAD IN PAKISTAN. SAMUNDAR KATHA LAKE ITSELF IS A SMALL, BEAUTIFUL EMERALD GREEN ARTIFICIAL LAKE THAT LIES BETWEEN TWO LUSH HILLS, AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE PICTURESQUE MURREE VALLEY. ACTIVITIES AROUND THE LAKE INCLUDING BOATING, ZIP LINING, HORSE RIDING AND CAMPING. ITS A PERFECT SPOT FOR ONE DAY TRIP FOR FAMILIES

PHOTO BY TUBA KHAN, PAKISTAN, 2024



AJUMSIA
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION
WINNERS



AJUMS Office of International Affairs is deeply saddened by the martyrdom of our esteemed President Dr. Raisi and his companions. Dr. Raisi's unwavering dedication, supervision, and profound commitment to our nation have left an indelible mark on our hearts and history. As a popular head of government, he inspired us with his integrity and tireless efforts to better our society.



Dr. Raisi's influence extended beyond his presidential duties, marked by his dedication to justice, development, and progress. His compassion and sense of responsibility drove significant positive changes in our nation. In this time of sorrow, we reflect on his remarkable achievements and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his legacy continue to guide and inspire us all, and may we honor his memory by upholding the values and vision he championed.

HONORING FERDOWSI AND PERSIAN LANGUAGE DAY: A CELEBRATION AT THE COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

College of International Affairs celebrated May 15, a significant cultural event for Iranians that commemorates Ferdowsi and celebrates Persian Language Day. This day honors Ferdowsi, the great Persian poet who composed the epic “Shahnameh” (“The Book of Kings”), which is a cornerstone of Persian literature and has had a profound impact on the preservation and appreciation of the Persian language and cultural identity. Persian Language Day, observed on the same date, highlights the rich linguistic heritage of the Persian language and its importance in Iranian culture and history, emphasizing its enduring legacy and influence.



The celebration included a variety of events such as poetry readings, lectures, and cultural presentations that underscored the significance of Ferdowsi's contributions and the Persian language's role in shaping Iranian civilization. Attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich traditions of Persian literature and to appreciate the depth and beauty of the language.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the students, college head, Dr. Tazik, and personnel, and Persian professors for their enthusiastic participation and collaborations. Their dedication and efforts were instrumental in making this event a memorable and enlightening experience for all involved, fostering a deeper understanding and respect for Persian culture and its literary heritage.





A portrait of Saadi Shirazi, a Persian poet, with a beard and a turban, set against a warm, golden background.

ABU-MOHAMMAD MUSLIH AL-DIN SHIRAZI

SAADI SHIRAZI

Abu-Mohammad Muslih al-Din Shirazi, also known by his pen name Saadi Shirazi, was one of the greatest Persian poets. Born in Shiraz in the 13th century (1210-1291), he is revered as the "Master of Speech" in Iran and considered a giant of classical Persian literature. His two major works, *Golestan* and *Bostan*, are literary masterpieces. Notably, Saadi Shirazi is the first Iranian poet whose works were translated into European languages. In the Iranian calendar, the first day of Ordibehesht is designated as the national memorial day of Saadi Shirazi.

A black and white portrait of Parvin Etesami, an Iranian poetess, wearing a headscarf and a dark garment.

IRANIAN INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

PARVIN ETESAMI

1907-1941

Rakhshandeh Etesami, better known by her pen name Parvin Etesami, is considered one of the most influential and popular female poets in Iran. Born on March 17, 1907, in Tabriz, she began writing poetry at a young age. Etesami's poems encompass a wide range of themes, including moral lessons, education, religion, politics, and social issues.

The *monazare* (debate) is a prominent feature in Etesami's collection of poems, the *Divan*. She composed roughly sixty-five poems in this style, along with seventy-five anecdotes, fables, and allegories. March 16th is celebrated as Parvin Etesami Day in the Iranian calendar, honoring the legacy of this esteemed poetess.

AJUMSIA

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Publication Number: 2

Publication Year: 2024

Publication Frequency: Seasonal

Language: English

Address: International Affairs Department (IAD)

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The White Bridge (Pol-e Sefid) in Ahvaz, Iran, is a notable architectural landmark completed in 1936 after being constructed from 1933 to 1936. It is one of the oldest bridges in Ahvaz and spans the Karun River. The bridge is renowned for its elegant arch design and white color, which gave it its name. Serving as both a functional transportation link and a popular tourist attraction, it symbolizes the city's connection to its past and its development over time. The bridge underwent a significant renovation in 2011 to ensure its structural integrity and preserve its historical and architectural significance, making it an important feature of Ahvaz's urban landscape

