



## Pension Fund to be Formed in Mashhad Branch

Due to the efforts of previous faculty members and staff of Mashhad branch of the Islamic Azad University, and supports shown by Dr. Abbas Sheikh-ol-Islami, director of Mashhad branch, the license of pension fund council of this branch was issued. Following this event, the first meeting of Mashhad branch's council of civil servants was held for North, South, and Razavi Khorasan provinces.

In this meeting, Dr. Hasan Ahmadi, Dr. Mohammad-Taghi Khojasteh, Mohammad-Hadi Khodashenas, Hasan Kalantar, and Morteza Zarabi-Rad were elected as the permanent members of the board of managers. Mohammad Jebeli, Mohammad Sadeghi, and Masoumeh Mohajeri were also elected as the vice-executives of the permanent members. Alireza Dezbaniyan was also chosen as the main auditor, and Mohammad-Reza Rafigh-Toroghi was introduced as the vice-auditor.

According to the report of this meeting, Dr. Mohammad Khojasteh is going to be the director of the board and Mohammad-Hadi Khodashenas would work as his assistant. Morteza Zarabi was also selected as the board's treasurer. Further committees were also formed for other issues such as healthcare, welfare, etc. and they started to perform their official duties.

## POINT OF VIEW



## Zahedan Branch, Winner of Macaroni Structures

The first national competition of Macaroni Structures of Gilan University was held and 40 teams from 35 branches of the Islamic Azad University and also state universities participated in it. These competitions were held in two divisions: 45-centimeter apertures and one-meter apertures. The competitions were close and it is worth mentioning that the team of Zahedan branch was able to further the national record of 45-centimeter division. The winning teams were granted worthy rewards and after two days of competitions, with the final vote of the judging committee, team Karkia from Zahedan branch won the first rank in the 45-division with an efficiency of 1709.4. The second and third places in this division were, respectively, team Parse from Bouyin-Zahra branch of the Islamic Azad University with an efficiency of 1655.9 and team Ghias ol-Din, from the University of Ghias ol-Din Jamshid Kashani, with an efficiency of 1617.4. Team Karkia also won the first position in the meter division, with an efficiency of 677.3. On the second place, team Ghias ol-Din stood winner with an efficiency of 512.9, and the third position was won by team Yapilar from Gilan University, with an efficiency of 439.5.

## CONTACT US

We welcome your views and memos on the related topics. You can contact us through: [english@fdn.ir](mailto:english@fdn.ir).

Closing Ceremony of Ethnic and Cultural Heritage Festival

## Iranian Culture: Diversified, yet Unified



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Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh, chairman of the Islamic Azad University, accompanying Iran's president to Kerman province, attended the closing ceremony of national festival of the ethnic and cultural heritage, held in Kerman branch of the Islamic Azad University. Referring to Iran's wealth of culture and customs, Dr. Mirzadeh said: "Iran is an accumulation of old, rich cultures which despite their differences create a unified nation based on common values and similar outlooks."

Dr. Mirzadeh, talking about the cultural elements of different localities in Iran, maintained that religiosity has always been the unifying factor which gathered people together as one nation. He went on: "Certain customs and ceremonies, such as mourning rites of Ashura, are held in different forms all around the country and although their details may differ, their core values and objectives are the same. This is the drive which unifies Iranian people despite their different back-

grounds." Addressing the officials active in the system of higher education, chairman of the Islamic Azad University asked for further study and research in the field of local cultures, adding: "Strategic council of culture and society in the Islamic Azad University has been established for the same reason and taking advantage of the expertise and skills of the scholars and great figures in the country, it functions as a think tank generating cultural policies. This council is abiding by the regulations of the High Council of Cultural Revolution and has produced around 300 cultural packages and programs which different branches of the Islamic Azad University could choose from them based on the characteristics of their local culture."

### IAU and Development of Culture

Dr. Mirzadeh mentioned IAU's capacity for pursuing cultural and social programs and developing cultural values, adding: "As an example, Kerman branch of the Islamic Azad

University was the host of this national festival, celebrating ethnic values and customs; it also has been the pioneer in holding the conferences of 'peace and hail' series and in this way, it could be a good example for other universities to follow. Right now, IAU in provinces of Kerman and Fars could cooperate in celebrating and introducing the great poet, Khwaju Kermani. We also should pay more attention to the traditional music of different localities, since they contain the cultural values of the country."

He further said that science, arts and culture are the building blocks of human societies, claiming that the Islamic Azad University is a great tool in developing the scientific, cultural and economic activities of the country. He also appreciated the hard work of the staff in IAU's Kerman branch, especially Dr. Babak Al-Taha –director of the branch- and Dr. Taha Hashemi –deputy of culture and student affairs of the university-, for holding this national festival.

## Iran's News

## Anti-explosion Device for Urban Gas Flow



Core builder team in incubator center of Hamedan branch of the Islamic Azad University has built an anti-explosion device for urban gas flow, for which it won the second position in the 6th National Persian Gulf Knowledge Festival. Director of Hamedan branch's incubator center said: "After sending out the call for designs, the secretariat of the 6th National Persian Gulf Knowledge Festival received 181 innovative designs and programs from 24 different provinces. The festival's science committee, in five different workgroups of Oil and Gas, Electrics and Electronics and Instruments, Mechanics, Processes and IT, analyzed the received designs. In the end, 18 innovative designs were chosen and were invited to the festival's final round. The committee of judges included 71 Iranian and foreign specialists." Majid Laleh-Chini, graduate

student of mechanics in Hamedan branch, and Fahimeh Niaz-Pour, from Ekbatan's Gas Control Corporations, attended this festival on behalf of Hamedan branch's incubator center. They presented 8 innovative designs and thus won the second position for their device. Majid Laleh-Chini, the design's executive producer, stated: "This device is called Urban Gas Flow Calibration Test Device. This device will regulate and calibrate urban gas flow and it could prevent gas leakage in the houses." Regarding the device's capacities, he said: "The device's output flow measuring precision equals 0.0001 milli-bars and its precision of measuring the input flow equals 95% of the rated current. The test device and the calibration of gas regulators were created with an output flow of 5, 10, and 25 m3/h, in the incubator center of IAU's Hamedan branch."

## Producing Nano-coating for simultaneous Anti-corrosion



Researchers of the University of Zanjan, in collaboration with the researchers of Kashan's universities, Naraq and South Tehran branch of the Islamic Azad University, have succeeded in producing a nano-coating with simultaneous anti-corrosion and thermal-barrier properties. These nano-particles could be used for coating the blades of gas turbines against corrosion. Dr. Maryam Shaterian referred to the purpose of this project, saying: "The purpose of this project is to introduce a new method for producing nano-coatings resistive against corrosion, which would also be able to act as a thermal barrier at the same time." She mentioned the importance of the corrosion issue in various industries and its aversive effect on the industrial equipment, and named lowering costs and also reducing the environmental pollution as the

advantages of this new product. She added: "In this project, mild steel alloy has undergone surface operation through nano-particles of iron chromate. Due to the heating from the surface of the steel, these nano-particles penetrate into the steel. Hence, they protect the surface of the steel against corrosion." Shaterian talked about the stages and findings and went on: "First, iron chromate nano-particles were synthesized through the sol-gel process, followed by microscopy and spectroscopy methods for studying the structure. Then, the iron chromate nano-particles were deposited on the surface of the mild steel, and finally the anti-corrosion property was evaluated through electrochemical and microscopic methods. The findings indicate that the nano-ceramic coating has a high level of resistance against corrosion in acidic environments."



## CLOSURE OF NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF UNIVERSITY THEATRE

THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF UNIVERSITY THEATRE, HELD IN MASHHAD BRANCH OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, HONORED THE TOP PARTICIPANTS IN ITS CLOSING CEREMONY.

## NEWS PHOTOS

## IRAN UPDATES

## Pasargad Wants to Become 'Global Bank'

Pasargad Financial Group, which owns Iran's second largest bank, is considering selling its shares of energy in a sign of improving business environment. Iranian banks made inroads into a number of non-banking fields, when the most stringent sanctions in 2012 shriveled the economy. With those sanctions lifted, CEO of Pasargad Bank, Majid Gassemi, says some of their companies will be offered for sale on the over-the-counter securities market, Fara Bourse. The initial public offering (IPO) can take place in the current Iranian year ending in March 2017- or the next and it is expected to raise about \$330 million. One the of companies set for IPO is Pasargad Energy Development Co. (PEDC) which is involved in oil and gas exploration as well as refining.

## Iran Tankers Free to Dock at Any Port

A top Iranian oil official says that sanctions on Iranian shipping lines have been completely removed, adding that Iranian tankers presently have no problem to travel to ports around the world. Ali-Akbar Safaei, managing director of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), has been quoted by the media as saying that his company has been able to obtain the required certificates from international insurance agencies for its tankers to travel in international waters. "Considering that the insurance problem has been removed, Iranian tankers are now internationally insured and can dock at all the ports across the world," Safaei added. He added that the remaining proceedings to obtain the most competitive insurance policies are underway and will be completed soon.

## Iran, EEU Move Closer to Free Trade Deal

Iran says that it has started to look into the possibility of launching free trade with Eurasia Economic Union (EEU). The issue has been reportedly discussed in a meeting between Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj and EEU Trade Minister, Veronica Nikishina, in Moscow. Iran's local media have reported that the two have discussed the formation of a working group to study Iran-EEU free trade. The working group will also prepare a free trade agreement that will be put before Iran and the EEU to be signed in June. Khosrow-Taj, who is in Moscow for a major exhibition on Iran's trade potentials, has further discussed facilitating customs regulations with EEU member states in his meeting with Nikishina. The EEU in May 2015 gave the initial go-ahead to signing a free trade agreement with Iran.

## SPECIAL REPORTS

## Inside IAU

## Yazd Branch: SHAFA Project to Be Inaugurated Soon



Dr. Ahmad Zareh-poor, development deputy of Yazd branch of the Islamic Azad University, reported the inauguration of the SHAFA project of this branch, saying: "According to the approval of the board of trustees and the decision made by the head office, the Azad technology park would be established in the capital of the province, and the site number 2 -with an area of 73 hectares- has been dedicated to Yazd province." He mentioned the advantages of the site no.2 and added: "Accessibility to the city center, closeness to the science and Technology Park, permanent location for the exhibitions, and most importantly, being located in the map of the special economic region of Yazd province, has given this site an undeniably significant position." Zareh-poor continued: "One of our proposals concerns the educational complex of the site no.2, which was previously constructed by the Science and Research branch. We suggest that half of the complex be turned into a hotel and the other half would be specialized for accommodating the guests of conventions and the sports competitions of the university. This repurposing process would be considered as a step towards gaining revenue for the university and reducing reliance on tuition, because this city plays a significant role in the tourism system and has great potential for attracting numerous tourists." He claimed the purpose of the science and technology parks to be the establishment of IT companies, research centers and turning the university to an entrepreneur. He went on: "IAU's Yazd branch is working in line with the ideas and goals of the university's chairman. Thus, we hope to set the right circumstances for creating jobs, innovation, creativity and producing wealth, through the establishment of these parks. Today's successful universities raise revenue and without relying on tuition, solve the industries' problems and public issues."