



Germany and Turkey have removed their COVID-19 restrictions on international passenger flights from Iran, Iran's flag carrier, IranAir, announced on Saturday. Passengers, like before, can travel to the mentioned countries without observing the restriction as a result of the pandemic, the airliner said, Mehr reported.

Over the past two years, the majority of flights to Europe have been carried out by observing health protocols after the onset of the coronavirus outbreak. Faced with the new phase of the pandemic characterized, in most countries, by the predominance of the Omicron variant and a high level of vaccination, the Governments has decided to lighten this health control system at the borders, particularly for vaccinated travellers.

### Germany, Turkey End COVID Curbs on Flights from Iran

# Nomadic Sangsari Carpets to go on Show in Italy

**ISNA:** A collection of Sangsari carpets, handwoven by nomad people, is set to go on show in Italy. "We are planning to hold an exhibition of Sangsari carpets in Italy from March 18 to April 6," ISNA quoted a local official as saying on Saturday. Sangsari rugs and carpets are made by nomadic people in Mehdishahr, Semnan province, north-central Iran. Experts believe that Persian carpets are among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world. Weavers spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads. Some practice established patterns, some make their own. When the weaving is finally done, the carpet is cut, washed, and put out in the sun to dry. For millennia, invaders, politicians, and even enemies have left their impact on Iran's carpets. As mentioned by Britannica Encyclopedia, little is known about Persian carpet making before the 15th century, when art was already approaching a peak. The Mongol invasion of the 13th century had

depressed Persia's artistic life, only partially restored by the renaissance under the Mongol Il-Khan dynasty (1256-1353). Although the conquests of Timur (died 1405) were in most respects disastrous to Persia, he favored artisans and spared them to work on his great palaces in Samarkand.

Later in the 17th century, there was a growing demand for the production of so many gold-and-silver-threaded carpets that were ultimately exported to Europe. Some were made in Kashan, but many of the finest came from Isfahan. With their high-keyed fresh colors and opulence, they have affinities with European Renaissance and Baroque idioms. From the early 8th century onwards, nomads and town dwellers were still making carpets using dyes developed over centuries, each group maintaining an authentic tradition. Not made for an impatient Western market, these humbler rugs of the "low school" are frequently beautifully designed and are of good material and technique.



## Cultural Elements in Qazvin made National Heritage



**CHTN:** A selection of seven new cultural elements, traditionally practiced in Qazvin province, have been registered on the national intangible cultural heritage list. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in separate letters to the governor-general of the west-central province, CHTN reported. The skill of making Qolchaq dolls, the talent of making Kham-Ashi and the skill of making Qolab-Sang were among the items added to the prestigious list. Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley. Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070-1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins". Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais in the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of Iran.

## Sardar Bozorg Ancient Water Reservoir in Iran's Qazvin

**Tasnim:** Ab Anbar Sardar Bozorg (Big Commander Water Reservoir) was built in 1812 by one of the Qajar commanders hailing from the city of Qazvin, north of Iran. The Ab Anbar is the biggest single-dome water reservoir in Iran. The brick dome has light wells and one wind tower. Fifty steps lead to its base. The inside of the Ab Anbar's dome has elaborate tilework. There are two platforms outside the reservoir where passersby could sit and rest.



## Bardeh Historical Castle in Iran's Shahr-e-Kord

Life in Bardeh historical castle is ongoing just as in the past, contrary to most other historical structures, which are either abandoned or turned into museums after restoration. This historical castle was built by Bakhtiari khans (feudal lords) at the end of the Qajar period. The castle has both defensive fortifications (towers and curtain walls) and living quarters. These include two separate courtyards each with an andaruni (inner quarter) and a biruni (outer quarter) as well as a stable and storeroom. Bardeh Castle



is located on a natural hill overlooking the village of Bardeh and it lives on despite having suffered damage over the past years. The village is located in Ben County, 45 kilometers away from the city of Shahr-e-Kord in the western province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari. A number of the descendants of the founders of the castle still live in the building, which also hosts fans and tourists, who would like to pay a visit. Residents of Bardeh village still call the residents of the castle with the title of "Khan" and accompany them in different affairs. Currently, each courtyard of the castle is owned by several descendants of its founders, who use the castle as temporary residence. Two household, however, live in the castle permanently. Bardeh Castle is a personal property of these individuals, but is administered in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Organization, due to the structure's listing as a national heritage site.

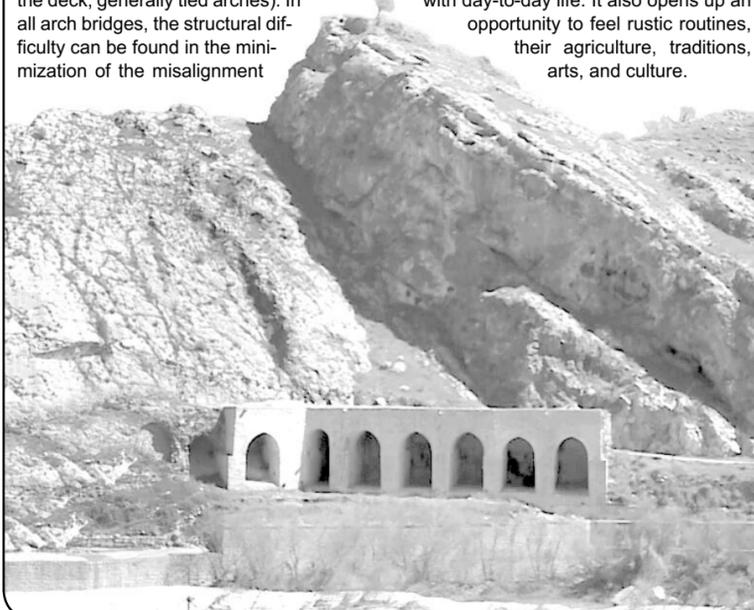
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## Ruined Sassanid Bridge to be Reinforced

**Tehrantimes:** The eighth round of a restoration project will commence on the Sassanid-era Barim arch bridge in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, a local tourism official has said. A budget of two billion rials (\$6,700) has been allocated to the project, Sadeq Mandanzadeh explained. The project aims at preserving the valuable structure, which has undergone several rehabilitation works in different eras, the official added. An arch bridge carries loads primarily by compression, which exerts on the foundation both vertical and horizontal forces. Arch foundations must therefore prevent both vertical settling and horizontal sliding. Despite the more complicated foundation design, the structure itself normally requires less material than a beam bridge of the same span. Arch bridges can be classified into deck arch bridges (featuring arches below the deck) and through arch bridges (those with arches above the deck, generally tied arches). In all arch bridges, the structural difficulty can be found in the minimization of the misalignment

of the arch axis and the line of thrust, as well as a sufficient bending and buckling resistance. General design recommendations focus principally on the arch-to-span ratio, the arch and deck slenderness, and the number of hangers or piers.

Recent innovative arch bridges include high-speed railway (HSR) bridges, concrete-filled steel tubular and precast concrete arches, high-performance concrete or ultra-high performance concrete arches, and steel-concrete composite arches, and feature innovative erection methods. Recent research has been dedicated to the shape and magnitude of equivalent geometric imperfections, fatigue detailing, erection methods, reduction of the arch's self-weight, and new materials for arches, hangers, and ties. Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.



### Perspective



## Drought Causes \$107m Damage to Environment

Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million) to the environment, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, has said.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented. Perhaps the first and most important damage of drought is the weakening of vegetation, which seriously disrupts the wildlife food chain. This is while this year in parts of the central plateau of Iran, there were few seasonal vegetation growths in Alborz and Zagros regions, which makes wildlife breeding a serious problem. According to the World Meteorological Organization, Iran's average rainfall will decline by around 75 percent in the next five years compared to the long-term average. Akbari pointed to the increase of pests in forest areas, intensification of wildfires, wildlife diseases, and increase of wildlife damage to farms and main livestock as other consequences of drought. Iran faces a range of environmental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an "unprecedented drought" and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages. From the beginning of the current crop year (September 23, 2021) until April 18, precipitation has dropped



by 29 percent compared to a year ago, Sadeq Ziaeeian, director of the national center for drought and crisis management, affiliated with the Meteorological Organization, said. The precipitation rate during autumn (September 23-December 21, 2021) was not very favorable, as the Meteorological Organization has considered this autumn one of the driest seasons in the past 50 years. Overall, the rainfall rate during the current water year is not yet favorable, as it is 15.5 percent lower than normal averages. According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

### 4.8 million people at medium to high risk of drought

The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven - South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi - have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.