



A cheerful South Korean girl, smiling.

**THE GUARDIAN** – South Korea is to scrap its traditional method of counting ages and adopt the international standard – a change that that will knock one or two years off people’s ages on official documents but could take time to seep into daily life.

Nizami's  
ancestral house  
in Tafresh  
renovated to  
attract tourists

EXCLUSIVE



MASOUD ASGARI/IRAN DAILY

**Mahdieh Qazvinian & Leila Imeni**  
Staff writers

Nizami Ganjavi was a great Iranian poet who made an invaluable contribution to the history of not only Persian poetry, but world literature. He was born in 1,141 CE in Ganja, the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he remained until his death in about 1,209. That's why he is known as Nizami Ganjavi. At the time of Nizami Ganjavi the Republic of Azerbaijan was part of the Persian Empire. However, according to historical documents, the birthplace and house of his ancestors is located in Tad village, near the city of Tafresh, in the central province of Markazi. The mon-

ument was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2008. Meanwhile, thanks to the extensive efforts made by the members of the Islamic Council of the village, the plaque of the house was unveiled in a ceremony attended by Hojatollah Ayoubi, secretary general of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and a number of local officials on March 12, 2022. Speaking in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Masoud Asgari, head of Tad village's Islamic Council, also serving as the custodian of the old structure, said that the three-room house has five doors. He noted that the well-designed windows and doors of the house were positioned on the east side of the building, allowing the early morning's sunlight

to pass through. "The entrance doors of the rooms are short; that's why those entering the room must bend over; it was also considered a form of respect," he said. "Kheirabad Qanat, flowing in the village, crosses the old house, which has a 250-year-old mulberry tree," he said. He continued that a corridor was constructed under the monument leading to the house next door, noting that such structures, which were used as passage ways in ancient times, can be found under a large number of the rural houses of the region. "They are presently used as storage rooms, or yakhchals, natural ice houses and places to keep livestock," he added, Asgari said that about 20 peo-

ple visit the house on weekdays, and about 100 on weekends, noting the number is expected to increase significantly in the near future. He noted that efforts are underway to turn Tad village into a tourist attraction and prepare conditions for people from all over the country to visit the ancient house and become more familiar with the great Iranian poet. He noted that a large number of documents and books are presently available, proving that Nizami was originally from Tad village. Nizami Ganjavi was a great Iranian poet who made an invaluable contribution to the history of not only Persian poetry, but world literature. He was born in 1,141 CE in Ganja, the Republic of Azerbai-

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Russians could compete at Paris Olympics  
even if Ukraine war continues

**THE GUARDIAN** – Russian athletes have been offered a path to compete at the Paris 2024 Games even if the war in Ukraine continues to rage for another 18 months. It comes after a proposal was made by the Olympic Council of Asia to allow Russian and Belaru-

sian athletes to take part in its qualifying competitions for 2024 – even though they are still banned by most sports. The International Olympic Committee will now explore the OCA's plan in the coming weeks, although it is widely expected to be

approved. The decision is likely to be controversial, however the IOC has also made it clear that the sporting sanctions against Russia and Belarus as countries will remain in place. It means neither is able to host international events – while Russian and Belarusian athletes are banned from wearing the colours of their country, or having their anthems played, when they compete in international competitions. Russian athletes who show overt support for the war in Ukraine will also be denied a chance to compete. In a statement the IOC accepted there had been an "intense debate" at its 11th Olympic summit in

Lausanne about the participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus in international competitions. However it stressed that it wanted sport to continue to be a place where athletes from many different countries and political systems could come together. That view was reflected by France's president, Emmanuel Macron, who said: "Sport should not be politicised. These major events are meant to allow athletes from all countries, sometimes including countries at war, to bring sport to life. Also, to find, through sport, ways of discussing where people can no longer talk to each other – I think that should be preserved."



CHRISTIAN HARTMANN/REUTERS

PIC OF THE DAY



The photo, taken on December 8, 2022, shows people walking on Health Road, as one of the attractions of the Enqelab Sports Complex in northern Tehran.

ZEINAB HAMZEHLLOEI/FARS NEWS AGENCY