



World Cup talent Gakpo joins Liverpool

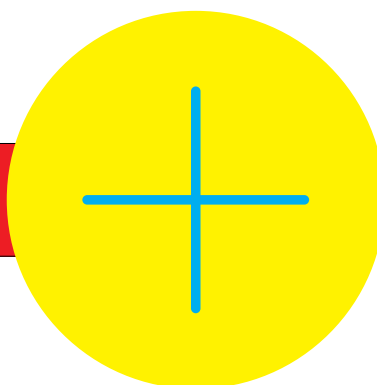
GOAL- Liverpool have beaten out top rivals to the World Cup star with the Netherlands, further fortifying an attack that can go toe-to-toe with anyone in Europe.



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Korsi: Childhood nostalgia for Iranians



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EXCLUSIVE

It was around dusk when I got home. The weather was extremely cold and I was in a hurry to stand next to the heater to get warm. A few minutes later, my childhood memories started to return. I remembered the moment when I sat under a *korsi* at my grandfather's house, holding a cup of tea. There was a bowl full of fruit on the *korsi* and the delicious smell of aash-e reshteh (a type of traditional Iranian noodle soup) cooked by my grandmother, spread throughout the house. Grandpa sat under the *korsi*, telling stories.

Small children of my family ran around the *korsi* and sometimes climbed on it. With the sound of the phone ringing, I came back to my senses and realized that the heater had burned a small part of my shirt. I remembered that, unfortunately, I couldn't find an opportunity to enjoy the pleasant warmth of the *korsi* as I did years ago. *Korsi* is a heating device which has traditionally been used by Iranians to warm their homes during winter in both rural and urban areas. It should be noted that the *korsi* was

not just a piece of furniture; it played a significant role in the Persian culture throughout history. *Korsi* is a low wooden table, covered with colorful quilts, with a heater underneath. Soft mattresses are spread on the ground on four sides of the low table so that family members and guests could sit around it and lean back on the colorful backrests. The history of *korsi* dates back to the time when the first living quarters were built in the Iranian Plateau. After the discovery of fire, building houses and man-

ufacturing basic tools by human beings, ancient Persians found that the use of *korsi*, as a heating device, can be a cost-effective way, especially for middle and low-income households. However, the use of *korsi* is not exclusive to Iran. For example, the Japanese have had a similar heating system, called kotatsu, since the 14th century. On the other hand, sitting around the *korsi* was not just for getting warm, but it caused the members of the family to gather together and strengthen their ties. During winter nights, when

the villagers were not so busy with work, relatives used to gather in a house under the *korsi*, talk to each other, and read stories and poems. Since Iranians are hospitable people, they asked their guests to sit under the *korsi* in the highest part of the room. There were two *korsis* in the houses of rich people, one in the living room for members of the family, and the other in the reception room for guests. This traditional heating device, which has gradually undergone changes, has different types. In the dis-

tance past, hot coals were placed under the *korsi* to provide warmth, but they were gradually replaced by oil and electric heating devices. Some believe that, in addition to providing warmth, *korsi* has many health benefits. For example, keeping hands and feet warm can help improve digestion. Even now, if you go to the houses of some Iranians, especially those living in cold areas of the country, in the winter you can sit under the *korsi*, covered with beautiful quilts, and drink a cup of tea.

Prayer rug exhibition at the US Textile Museum



Jozan – The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum will host a prayer rug exhibition titled 'Prayer and Transcendence' from 18 February to 1 July 2023 in Washington D.C. Spanning the 16th through 19th centuries, the prayer rugs on display will be drawn from five collections; The Textile Museum Collection, Harvard Art Museums, Cincinnati Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Markarian Collection. Examples on display from western Anatolia, the Caucasus and Iran all share a central arch surrounded by vegetation and flowers. Held in conjunction with the exhibition 'Prayer and Transcendence' there will be a two-day virtual event 'Prayer Carpets Colloquium' 21-22 March 2023.



A man sits on the nose of a boat in a river in Shadgan wetland in Khuzestan Province, Iran, on December 25, 2022. The wetland is registered in the UNESCO natural heritage list.
FATEMEH RAHMAYAN/MIZAN