Iranian literature "triumph" in Turkmenistan

President Niyazov, a self-styled "Turkmen hero," has launched a "year of Hafez" in a bid to boost the image of the Shahnameh poet, as a counterpoint to the "century of Islam." He has launched a "year of Hafez" in a bid to boost the image of the Shahnameh poet, as a counterpoint to the "century of Islam."

He said the poems of Hafez, a poet who lived from 1315 to 1385, were full of "humanism" and "wisdom." He said that "Hafez is the most important poet of all time."

The Poetry Club, the main of all the Hafez poems, was founded in 1955. It is made up of members of the Persian intelligentsia, including writers, poets, and artists.

The club holds an annual "Hafez Day," to which poets, writers, and other literary figures are invited.

A total of 12 poets were present at the ceremony, which was held in a hall in the city of Ashgabat.