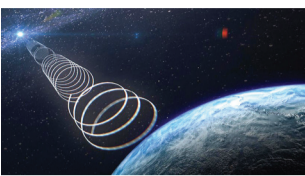




- Thursday
- April 6, 2023
- Vol. 8156

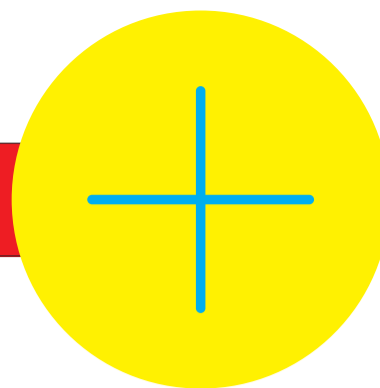
Signal from another planet



Astronomers have detected a repeating radio signal from an exoplanet and the star that it orbits, both located 12 light-years away from Earth. The signal suggests that the Earth-size planet may have a magnetic field and perhaps even an atmosphere.

IRAN
NEWSPAPER

ISSN 1027-1449
Keytitle: IRAN (Tehran)
irannewspaper.ir



IRAN

Iranian Morning Newspaper

1,700-year-old Saryazd Castle, first of its kind equipped with bank safe-deposit boxes

Arts & Culture Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Saryazd Castle is one of the strangest historical castles in Iran, designed and built 1,700 years ago by the Sassanids. It is one of the oldest and largest bank safe-deposit boxes in Iran and the world.

The fortress was constructed at the intersection of the Silk Road and the Spice Route, where merchants used to commute while thieves were waiting for them.

The very first idea of depositing valuable objects was the reason behind building such a magnificent and im-

pregnable fortress that, albeit made in ancient times, it was used by the people of Saryazd up until 80 years ago. All the castle's 468 chambers were to store valuable objects, money, gold and jewelry, as well as food supplies such as grains. There was no one living in the castle, which was strongly guarded by several soldiers. The large number of rooms was indicative of a huge trade which was going on in the region.

The castle nests concentric walls with impregnable high towers that are surrounded by a moat, six meters wide that has a depth of four meters. All the walking paths, including the main and secondary

corridors, ramparts and fences were constructed to safeguard objects during invasions.

Inside the fortress, dark tunnels are made so narrow that only one man can pass at a time. The castle has two doors, a main door and a guardian's door. The castle's three floors are made with mud bricks.

It is the only three-storey structure that still exists in Yazd Province. The fortress is built so that each floor has a narrow, hidden entrance that made it almost impossible for intruders to enter.

Access to the main tower was not easy because the enemies should not have been able to destroy the

castle. That is why the corridors are not built one after another. At the top of the tower, all the castle and surrounding lands can be seen well so that the enemy can be seen before approaching the castle and everyone can prepare for battle. The castle's structure is also highly fortified so that it has been secured from devastating earthquakes which occurred in the ages.

Thus far, nothing has been said about looting the castle. Its magnificence and glory is still visible. This castle was a safe deposit box that could not be conquered easily; only the rooms' occupiers could open the safe deposit boxes of the castle.



Kanzaq village, hidden treasure of Sarein

Iranica Desk

The historical village of Kanzaq in Sarein, Ardebil Province, with its hand-carved caves and special architecture, tells a part of the history of the beautiful region located on the slopes of Sabalan Mountains. Uncovering the countless untold secrets of the ancient site still requires more explorations and investigations, chtn.ir reported.

Three kilometers from Sarein, Kanzaq village dates back 2,500 years to the Parthian Dynasty. It has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

An earthquake which hit the region in 1996 caused the rocky village to become abandoned; thus a new village was established near the old one.

However, the handmade caves of the ancient village can be turned into museums, restaurants and accommodation centers. The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization of Ardebil Province is planning to implement several tourism projects in the region in cooperation with the private sector. Experts believe more studies should be carried out on the rock architecture of the site, formed and developed along the green eastern and southeastern valley of Kanzaq village.

The project to carry out archeological excavations in the site was launched in 2018 in order to reopen the entrances of the hand-carved caves, map their internal routes and introduce the ancient site to people all over the country.

The implementation of a comprehensive restoration project in the old Kanzaq village has helped turn it to one of the most

visited historical sites of the province.

It is said that this site, with more than 45 hand-carved caves, was an underground village dating back from the first millennium BCE to the Ilkhanid Period. Dairy products, honey, and kilims are the main souvenirs of this village.

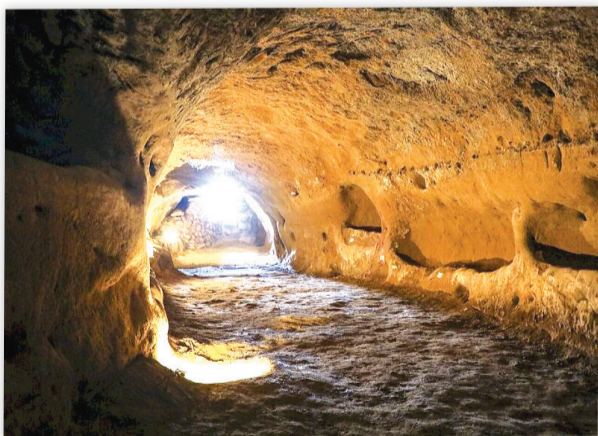
The governor of Sarein, Baqer Baqerzadeh, said that the historical site of Kanzaq village, with its unique architecture, has helped increase the attractions of the city.

He urged the media to introduce the untold beauties of the region and increase the knowledge of the people residing in Ardebil and other provinces of the country about the history of Kanzaq village, adding that this will help boost the tourism sector and generate employment in the province.

As for its historical sites, natural landmarks, and hot springs, Sarein has been a popular destination among tourists. It is known for its many hot springs all over the city. The complexes have modern equipment like roofed pools (one for men and two for women), dry and steam saunas, physiotherapy sections, individual showers and bathtubs, buffet, and a restaurant.

Alvares Ski Resort is another tourist attraction located on the slopes of Sabalan Mountains. In each season, the ski resort provides tourists with different beauties such as colorful plants.

Ardebil Province, situated in northwestern part of Iran, is one of Iran's most scenic provinces. Beautiful nature, green plains, and hot mineral springs create pleasant memories for tourists travelling to the region.



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