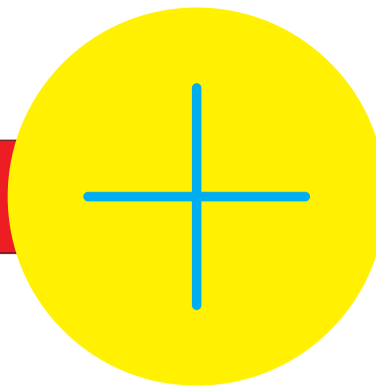




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Runaway black hole

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NASA says a runaway black hole is tearing through the universe, leaving a trail of stars in its wake that's never been seen before. The black hole is likely the result of three black holes colliding.



Iranian artists making crafts in live workshops at Tehran Int'l Qur'an Exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

EXCLUSIVE

This year, the 30th Tehran International Qur'an Exhibition is hosting live traditional art workshops by 20 artists, said the director-general of the Handicrafts Marketing Department of the Ministry of

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. "In this round of the exhibition, our goal is not merely putting handicrafts on display; rather, it aims to familiarize visitors with Iranian traditional arts and handicrafts," Seyyed Hossein Alavi said. Speaking about the results of the change in this year's

edition, he said, during the first four days of the event, the number of visitors was twice that of the same period last year. Most of Iran's traditional arts are rooted on religious bases, he said, adding that the exhibition is targeting people, not only to have an income through making crafts, but also to learn

more about the national, religious and traditional arts of the country. Spirituality and being religious are manifested through color, pattern and design; it even depends on the mood of the creator, he said. They are rooted in the depth and soul of the work and the artist. Iran enjoys 299 registered and recognized fields of

handicrafts; the country is one of the most distinguished producers of handiworks in the world. Although other countries also have art handicrafts, Iranian art is by far greater in terms of design and variety, Alavi highlighted. The exhibition opened on April 1st and will run through April 15.

City of cisterns



Ab Anbar of Qazvin Grand Mosque
Jahannews.com

Iranica Desk

The Iranian city of Qazvin is famous for its traditional reservoirs or cisterns of drinking water, known as "ab anbars". In the past, they were built underground to store freshwater for domestic use. Due to its geographical situation, Qazvin has always faced water shortages. To tackle this problem, more than 100 ab anbars had been built in the city. In an interview with Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA), architecture expert Sanaz Safaei touched upon the significance of the underground structures. "Ab anbars are among traditional architectural masterpieces of Qazvin, which have had an acceptable status in the culture of its people," she said. Safaei added that the existence of the cisterns led to the prosperity of Qazvin, and the areas which had several ab anbars were more developed than other regions of the city. She said the Grand Mosque Ab Anbar, built in 1682, is the oldest cistern in Qazvin.

Structure of ab anbar

An ab anbar is made of various brick vaults in different forms. The main structure of an ab anbar consists of an underground storage tank and a dome to cover it. In some areas, a wind catcher is added to this structure. Wind catchers are tall, chimney-like structures that harness cool breezes and redirect them downwards to keep the water cool in the summer. The construction material used for ab anbars was a special mortar called Sarooj, which was made of sand, clay, lime, goat hair, egg white, and ash in specific proportions, depending on the location and climate of the place. Some ab anbars had rectangular storage tanks, while some tanks had a cylindrical shape.



Amazing nature and urban planning of

Hir attractive to tourists

Iranica Desk

Hir is a historical town located in the northwestern province of Ardebil, 23 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city of Ardebil. With a population of over 2,000, and as one of the most important tourist destinations of the province, Hir has numerous natural and manmade attractions, ISNA wrote. In terms of urban planning, the central, ancient section of the town is one of the most amazing sites in the country. 'Hir' literally means fire; it is said that the town was of great significance for Zoroastrian people who lived in

the region in ancient times. The town's weather is cold in autumn and winter, but moderate and sometimes hot in the spring and summer. Hir is home to many fruit gardens, especially cherry and sour cherry orchards, so it is called "the town of heavenly gardens" and "the town of cherry blossoms". The town, in which the world's first all-glass, suspension bridge was built, hosts a large number of tourists from various parts of the country and the world every year. This suspension bridge is about 200 meters long and about 100 meters above the ground. The width of



Hir Suspension Bridge
Tishneh.com

the bridge is 120 centimeters, and the thickness of the glass is three centimeters. The tourism sector of Hir entered a new chapter following the inauguration of the bridge in January 2020. A large number of luxury villas and homes have been built in Hir, which is full of cherry orchards. Neor Lake, in the heart of Baghro Mountain, with an eye-catching nature, is another attraction of the town. The lake, having clear and cold water, freezes in the winter. The mountains surrounding Hir, with several fresh water springs and natural waterfalls, are full of rare medicinal

plants. An ancient castle, dating back 3,000 years, a grand mosque, a husseinieh (a place in which Shia Muslims gather to hold religious ceremonies) and an old bazaar are among Hir's historical sites. Beekeeping and farming are the main occupations of the town's people, who are very kind and hospitable. Ardebil Province is very cold in the winter and mild in the summer, attracting thousands every year. Each of the natural and historical attractions of Ardebil Province has the potential to turn a province into a tourism hub in the country and the world.