

## Iran's veteran architect Iraj Kalantari dies at 85



**HONAR ONLINE** - Iranian architect and planner Iraj Kalantari, famous for his contribution to the modernization of Iranian architecture, died at the age of 85.

On September 26, 2005, Kalantari was picked as Architect of the Year by the Society of Iranian Architects and Planners, honaronline.ir wrote.

Kalantari is an architect with nearly 20 years of teaching experience in Iran as a member of the faculties of University of Tehran, different branches of Azad University, and Iran University of Science and Technology.

He had also been actively involved in architecture and planning in Iran, most notably as Bavand Consultants' founder and head of its board of directors (since 1974).

His major projects include the Imam Khomeini International University in Qazvin and the Imam Khomeini International Airport in Tehran.

He also contributed to the architecture of the ambassador's residence in Tbilisi in Georgia and Yerevan in Armenia as well as Meygun Tourist Hotel in Tehran, and Sefid Kenar Hotel in Bandar Anzali.

He participated in various architectural competitions and was the winner of the contract for the building of National Iranian Oil Company.

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 ● Managing Director: Abas Aslani  
 ● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453  
 ● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684  
 ● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5  
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617 - irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
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 newspaper.irandaily.ir  
 irandaily@icpi.ir  
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# Iranian handicrafts bridge of cultural communication in Mideast: WCC chief



World Crafts Council (wcc) Director Saad Hani al-Qaddumi

World Crafts Council (wcc) Director Saad Hani al-Qaddumi described Iran's handicrafts as a bridge of cultural communication in the Middle East.

He wrote in a message to the 7th Fajr International Handicrafts and Tradition-

al Arts Festival, adding that the event provides the necessary infrastructure for the quantitative growth and qualitative development of Iranian handiworks.

The WCC chief said that paying attention to handicrafts as immortal treasure

trove is not only beneficial, but also necessary in any form and at any time, according to ILNA.

He noted that handicrafts are the beating heart of human life, which has passed through the ages and millennia, boosted its strength

and minimized its weaknesses, adding that these arts are one of the most notable cultural features of all nations.

The 7th edition of the festival, under the auspice of Seyyed Morteza Emadi, opened on February 15 at

the National Museum of Iran in Tehran and will run through February 23.

The six previous editions of the crafts festival were held at national level and this year is the first year the event is being held at international level.

## Egypt unveils renovated wing of oldest museum, new papyrus



Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities unveiled a renovated wing of its oldest museum Monday, home to a 16-metre-long scroll unearthed last year.

The refurbishment marks the first stage of broader renovations for the 120-year-old salmon-coloured palatial complex in downtown Cairo opposite the capital's famed Tahrir Square, Arab Weekly reported.

Waziry Papyrus, the centerpiece of Monday's unveiling, contains around 113 spells from the Book of the Dead. The museum also has added modern glass protection and new interior lighting. For well over a decade, Egypt has been building a state-of-the-art museum near the pyramids which is set to house tens of thousands of ancient artefacts. The Grand Egyptian Museum has so far cost over \$1 billion and its opening date has been repeatedly delayed. Egypt often publicly touts ancient discoveries to attract more tourists, a major source of foreign currency for the cash-strapped North African country. The sector suffered a long downturn after the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising.

## Chinese archaeologists find building ruins in ancient city



Archaeologists discovered the ruins of a large building foundation in an imperial city dating back to the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The building relics were found in late 2022 in a courtyard of the imperial city in the ruins of Shangjing, the ancient capital of the Liao Dynasty, according to the regional institute of cul-

tural relics and archaeology, Xinhua reported.

The Shangjing site, which was divided into two parts, including an imperial city, is located in Lindong Township of Bairin Left Banner, Inner Mongolia.

An array of artifacts including building components, ceramics, clay sculptures, and copper coins, have also been unearthed.

The nomadic Khitan founded the Liao Dynasty. Archaeologists said the Khitan people believed the east is where the sun rises and can bring auspiciousness and light, so the imperial city and palaces faced east.

The discovery of the large south-facing building has deepened archaeologists' understanding of the layout and history of the ancient Liao capital.

## A collection of rare centuries-old jewelry returns to Cambodia



A spectacular collection of centuries-old Cambodian jewelry has been returned to the Southeast Asian country, the latest treasures to be retrieved from the estate of well-known antiquities collector and dealer Douglas Latchford, who was accused of buying and selling looted artifacts.

Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts announced Monday that 77 pieces of Cambodian

jewelry from the Latchford family collection arrived back in their homeland on Friday. It said the collection included items "such as gold and other precious metal pieces from the Pre-Angkorian and Angkorian period including crowns, necklaces, bracelets, belts, earrings and amulets." Angkor in the 9th to the 15th centuries was a powerful kingdom in the area of present-day Cambodia, and tourists can see its legacy at the famous Angkor Wat temple complex in the country's northwest, AP wrote.

The return of the items followed a September 2020 agreement with Latchford's family under which all Cambodian artifacts in their possession would be returned to Cambodia. Other stone and bronze artifacts were returned in September 2021.



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