

**Iran publishes nearly 80,000 books per year: Executive**



**IRNA** – Every year, nearly 80,000 books are published in Iran, said the CEO of Iran's Book and Literature House, Ali Ramezani. He made the statement at a meeting on Wednesday held on the sidelines of the 31st edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair, adding that these are rich resources for the Persian-speaking population of the world. Most of these books are novels and poetry, Ramezani added. On cultural exchanges between Iran and India, he said that ties have a historical background that began nearly 1,800 years ago, with the translation of Persian texts to Hindi. The Indian book fair officially began on February 25 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, and is scheduled to run until March 5.

**Iran's leading philosophy professor Javad Tabatabai dies at 77**



**IRNA** – Javad Tabatabai, a leading Iranian philosophy professor, theorist and historian of political thought died at 77. Tabatabai was born on December 14, 1945 in Tabriz, Iran. After pursuing studies in theology, law and philosophy in Tabriz and Tehran, he earned his Ph.D. in political philosophy from Pantheon-Sorbonne University, with a dissertation on Hegel's political philosophy. Tabatabai published around 20 books on the history of political ideas in Europe and Iran. Among his books are: 'Introduction to the History of Political Thought in Iran'; 'On Iran: The Tabriz School and the Basis of Modernity'; and 'On Iran: The Theory of Constitutionalism in Iran'. On July 14, 1995, in France, he was decorated as a Chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

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# Iran's architecture, from ancient times to present, serving both practical and artistic goals

**Hamideh Hosseini**  
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**EXCLUSIVE**

Iran is home to a rich architectural heritage that spans centuries. Its history of architecture is marked by a unique blend of influences from other countries such as Greece, Turkey, and India, and, most importantly, its own indigenous culture. Throughout its long history, Iran has produced some of the world's most iconic architectural wonders, from the remains of the Achaemenid Empire found at Persepolis to the modern contemporary designs of today. Iran's architecture has been heavily influenced by its geographical location in the Middle East, particularly along the Silk Road. This

has resulted in the incorporation of many different architectural styles from the surrounding countries, such as the use of domes and arches from the Islamic world, and ornate decorations from the Persian and Indian cultures. The influence of the Silk Road on Iranian architecture is evident in the city planning of many Iranian cities. Cities such as Isfahan, Yazd and Kerman are renowned for their symmetrical city plans, which are believed to have been influenced by the Silk Road. The Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BCE) is widely considered to be the first great Persian Empire and its

cultural and architectural influences can still be seen throughout Iran today. The most famous example of this is the remains of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenids, which features impressive palace complexes, grand gates, and intricate sculptures. The Sassanid Empire (224-651 CE) was the second great Persian Empire, which left a lasting legacy on Iranian architecture. During this time, Iran was heavily influenced by the Byzantine Empire, resulting in the adoption of many of its architectural styles, such as the use of mosaics, arches, and domes. The

architecture of this era epitomizes Persian values of balance and symmetry, which would influence later works in the region and elsewhere. The Sassanid drew on both the Parthian and Roman dome and arch designs to create arch-supported structures. The most famous example is the palace at Ctesiphon, known as Taq Kasra (currently in Iraq), which features the largest single-span vaulted arch of unreinforced brickwork in the world, unequalled anywhere even to the present day. From the 7th to 18th centuries, Iranian architecture was heavily influenced by the Islamic world. This re-

sulted in the development of a distinct Islamic style, which is characterized by the use of domes, arches, and intricate decorations. One of the famous examples of this style is Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, which took nearly 20 years to be completed. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Iranian architecture underwent a period of modernization and Westernization. This resulted in the adoption of many modern architectural styles, such as Art Deco, in which buildings have a sleek, linear appearance, with stylized, often geometric ornamentation. The primary façade of Art Deco buildings often features a series of setbacks that create a stepped outline. Iran's modern architecture is a reflection of the country's rich history and culture. Over the years, Iran has developed unique architectural styles that combine traditional Islamic elements with modern influences. This style included the use of traditional materials such as stone, brick, and wood, as well as modern materials such as steel and concrete. Perhaps the most famous example of Iran's modern architecture is Azadi Tower, which was designed by Hossein Amanat, and completed in 1971. Iran boasts a rich and varied architectural heritage that has been influenced by a variety of cultures. From the grand palaces of the Achaemenid Empire to the modern designs of today, Iranian architecture has something to offer everyone. Whether you're looking for ancient structures, grand mosques, or modern contemporary designs, Iran is sure to have something that will captivate and inspire you.

## Mysterious tomb unearthed in Armenia



For the past 10 years Polish and Armenian archaeologists have been excavating the site of Metsamor, a once important religious and economic center in ancient Armenia. Recently, researchers uncovered a well-preserved tomb that contains remains of a couple. "The death of these people is a mystery to us, we do not know the cause, but everything indicates that

they died simultaneously, because there are no traces of the reopening of the tomb," Metsamor expedition director Krzysztof Jakubiak said in a press release, Art News reported. The discovery is a rare one, not for the couple interred there but because most of the tombs of Metsamor have been looted. This one is untouched. Along with the couple, researchers also found pre-

cious artifacts, including hundreds of beads and gold and carnelian pendants that made up three necklaces, ceramic vessels that came from the Syrian-Mesopotamian borderlands, and the remains of a wooden burial bed. The tomb dates from the late Late Bronze Age (1300-1200 BC), making it some 3,200 years old. Metsamor belonged to the empire of Urartu, which

spanned parts of modern Türkiye, Iraq, Iran, and Armenia. Metsamor was continuously inhabited from the 4th to 17th centuries, until it was destroyed by Scythian or Cimmerian nomads. Though the artifacts left behind in Metsamor suggest a thriving society, little is known of the people who lived there, as they seem to have had no written language and, as a result, left no texts behind.

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