

## Iranian composers prized at Global Music Awards



ISNA – Four Iranian composers, Mohammadreza Ajdari, Behdad Babaei, Ahmad Chegini, and Amir-reza Ojaghi won silver and bronze medals at the Global Music Awards.

In the World Music Section, Ajdari received a silver medal for 'Autumn Girl', and in the World Music Section, Babaei received a silver medal for 'Insanity Route'. Ajdari had earlier attended the Hollywood Music Awards 2022 and is among the nominees for the Hollywood Independent Music Awards 2023.

'Stand Up' by Chegini was the winner of the bronze medal in the Experimental Rock Section.

Another Iranian winner of the competition was Ojaghi, who grabbed a bronze medal with his work, 'Fall in Love', which competed in the Sonata Section.

According to its official website, "Established in 2011, by Thomas Eugene Baker, Ph.D, the Global Music Awards is a well-known international music competition which celebrates independent musicians." "Global Music Awards is widely recognized by industry insiders as giving legitimacy to highly talented artists. It is recognized as music's golden seal of approval."

## Immersive Van Gogh show in Shanghai for first time



GLOBAL TIMES – Immersive light and shadow exhibition 'Meet Van Gogh' is featuring 149 paintings including the renowned 'Starry Night Over the Rhône' and the 'Sunflowers' series by master Vincent Van Gogh. The show, exhibited in China for the first time, will last till July 9 at Meet You Museum.

A Van Gogh immersive experience is any of a number of real-life or virtual reality exhibits of the artist's paintings. The for-profit events range across venues, organizers, and cities around the world, though the majority have been held in North America in 2021 and 2022.

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# 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 impregnable 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.

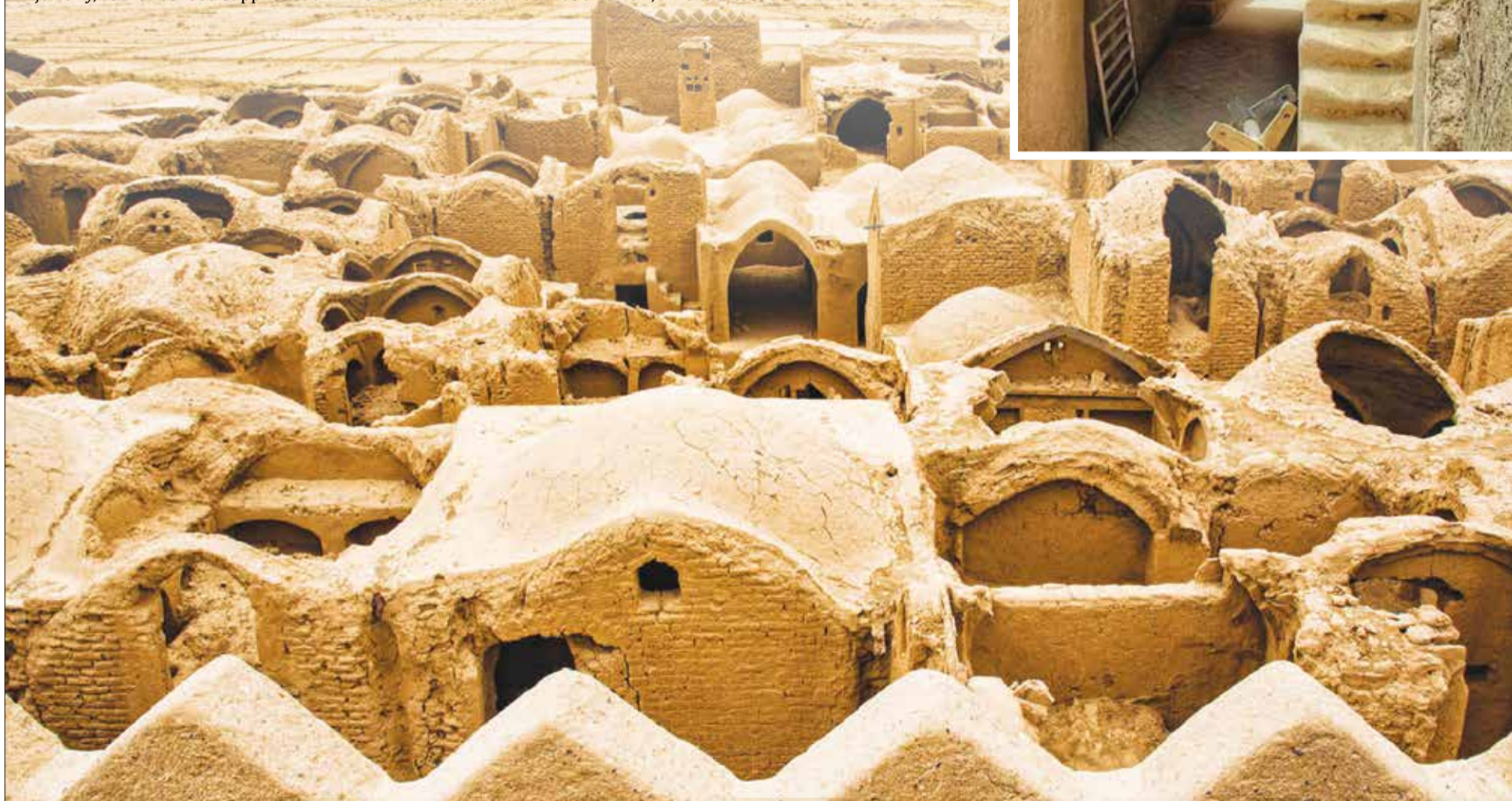
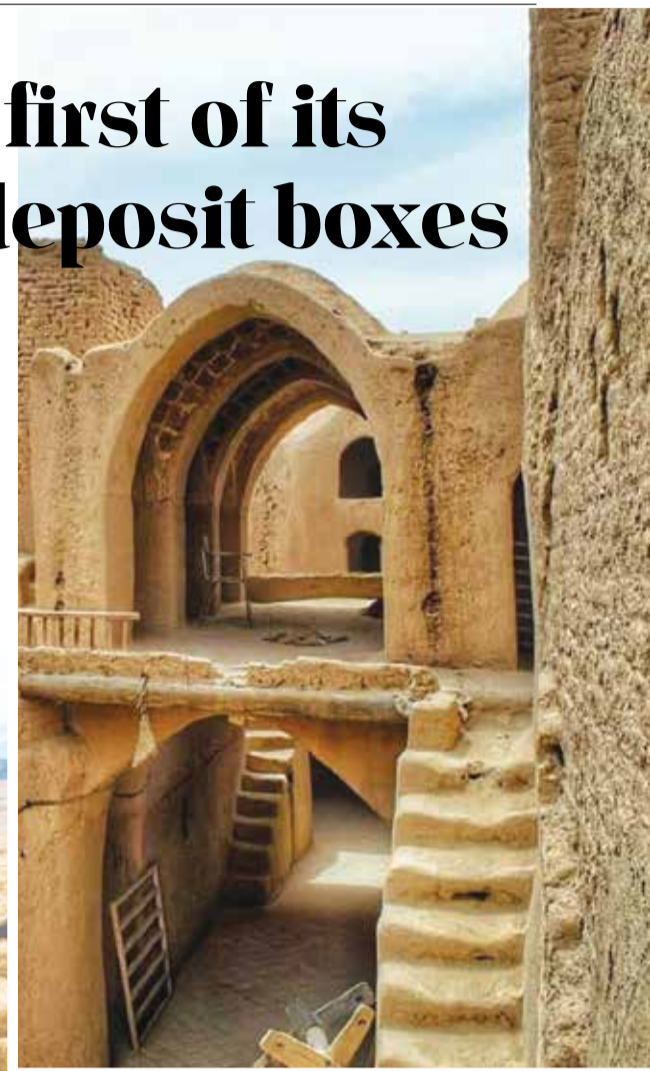
It is the only three-storey structure that still exists in Yazd Province. The fortress is built so that each floor has a narrow,

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.



## Amazon to close Book Depository online shop

The online shop Book Depository is due to close at the end of April, vendors and publishing partners have been told. This comes after the bookseller's parent company Amazon announced it had decided to "eliminate" a number of positions across its Devices and Books businesses.

The Gloucester-based bookseller was founded in 2004 by Stuart Felton and Andrew Crawford, a former Amazon employee, with the mantra of "selling 'less of more' rather than 'more of less'". It aimed to sell 6m titles covering a wide variety of genres and topics, as opposed to focusing solely on bestsellers. While originally a rival to Amazon, it was acquired by the retail giant in 2011, causing some in the publishing in-

dustry to worry about the tightening of the American company's "stranglehold" on the UK book trade, the Guardian reported.

According to the trade magazine the Bookseller, an email sent out to vendors and publishing partners explained that Book Depository will be closing, and that the last date customers will be able to place orders is 26 April. "Over the coming weeks we will complete a winding down of the business, including discontinuing our listings as a marketplace seller and closing our website," Andy Chart, head of vendor management, wrote.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you, from everyone at Book Depository and our book-loving customers, for your supportive partner-

ship over the years in helping us to make printed books more accessible to readers around the world," he concluded.

This move is part of wider cutbacks at Amazon outlined in a blog post in January. "In November, we communicated the hard decision to eliminate a number of positions across our Devices and Books businesses," as a result of the "uncertain economy," CEO Andy Jassy wrote. "I also shared that we weren't done with our annual planning process and that I expected there would be more role reductions in early 2023." In total, the company was planning to make just over 18,000 people redundant, Jassy added. Amazon has not shared how many jobs will be lost specifically at Book Depository.

