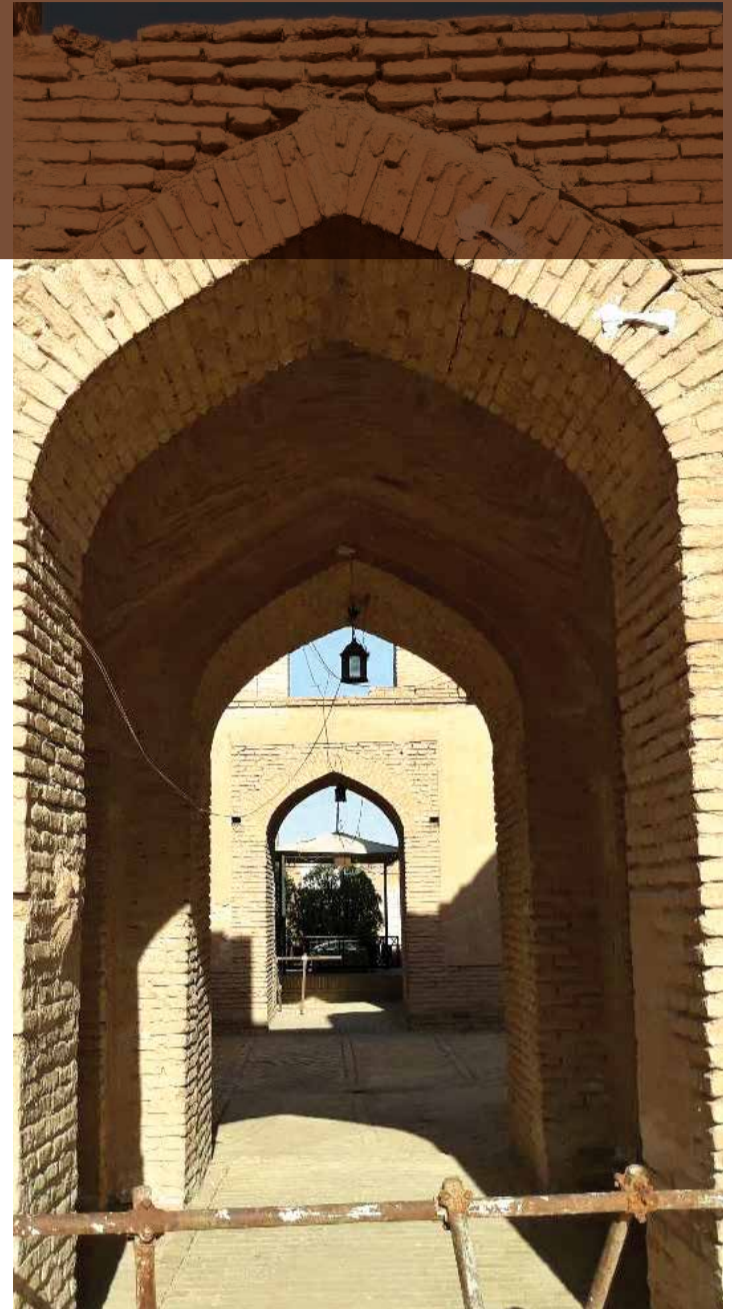
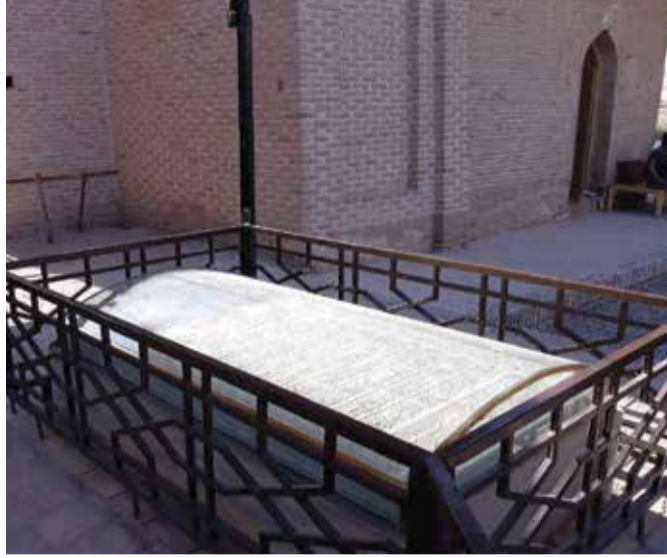


Addressing subsidence in historical buildings crucial



Ala al-Dawla Semnani's Mausoleum
IRNA



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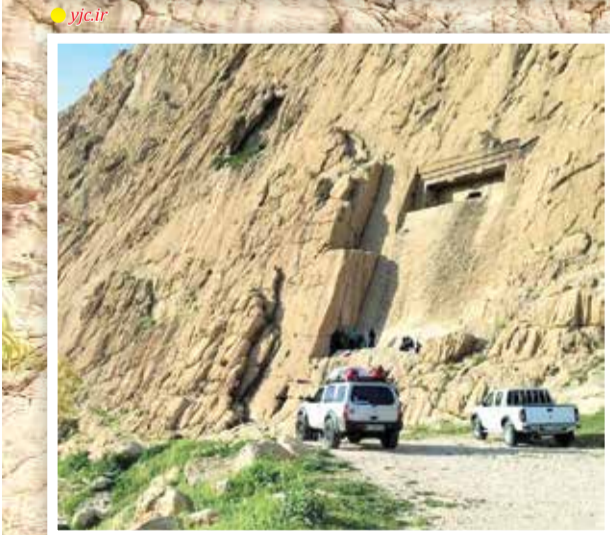
Head of the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Historic Architecture and Urban Fabrics at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts highlighted that historical buildings in the present era are encountering a range of crises and challenges due to climate change, unlike in past historical periods. Fatemeh Davari emphasized that old structures in the contempo-

rary era are facing diverse crises as a result of climate change when compared to the past. She further mentioned that addressing the issue of subsidence in historical buildings is a key initiative of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, emphasizing that a strong commitment is essential to safeguard them. She said the Seminar on the Impact of Natural Disasters on Historical Buildings With a Focus of Application of Innovative Technology was held in Semnan

recently with the collaboration between the Ministry and the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization of Semnan Province, Semnan University's Science and Technology Park, Isfahan University and the International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage (ISCARSAH) "By examining the structure of Ala al-Dawla Semnani's Mausoleum in Semnan as a case study, the latest results and achievements

of domestic and foreign experts in the field of subsidence in historical buildings were presented," Davari added. She expressed hope that this move would serve as a perfect model for preservation and restoration of other historical monuments. Ala' al-Dawla Semnani was a Persian Sufi writer and a teacher. He was born in Semnan and studied the tradition of Sufism. He also wrote many books on Sufism and Islam.

Mysteries of Dokkan-e Davud Grave in Kermanshah



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Kermanshah, a prominent city in Iran, stands as a hub of historical and cultural significance. Among the myriad historical treasures that adorn Kermanshah, the Dokkan-e Davud Grave (or Dukkan-e Daud Goor Dakhmeh) holds a special place, listed on Iran's National Heritage List in 1931 and revered as a must-visit attraction in Kermanshah.

As a significant marker of the region's past, this site beckons visitors to delve into Iran's ancient history and architectural marvels. Situated three kilometers southeast of Sarpol-e Zahab and Kal Davud village, this rock-cut tomb encapsulates a rich tapestry of historical narratives. While some link its origins to the Medes Empire, suggesting construction during the reign of the last Median king, recent evidence points to its establishment during the Achaemenid period. Additionally, a nearby relief etched on stone is believed to hail from the Seleucid era. In local parlance, the terms *dakhmeh* and *goor dakhmeh* are sometimes used interchangeably, though they hold distinct meanings. *Goor dakhmeh* refers to rock-cut tombs nestled within mountains and rocks, serving as burial sites. On the other hand, *dakhmeh* signifies elevated locations atop mountains where bodies are left for carrion birds to consume.

Nestled within a towering rock, the Dokkan Davud Grave stands 12 meters above the ground, shrouded in an air of mystery and inaccessibility. The tomb's elevated position renders it a challenging, if not near-impossible, site to reach, adding to its enigmatic allure. At the base of the rock lies a tomb housing bodies interred from two millennia past, echoing whispers of ancient rites and traditions.

Venturing inside the tomb unveils intricately carved ledges designed for the placement of religious offerings, evoking a sense of reverence and spiritual significance. Adjacent to these ledges rests an oval-shaped grave, its presence a silent testament to the passage of time and the stories etched within these ancient walls. The tomb's roof, fashioned in the elegant curvature of an arch, adds a touch of architectural grandeur to this historical site. Dokkan Davud Grave features an *ivan* with a flat roof at both its front and rear ends. This *ivan* spans 9.6 meters in length at the front and 7.32 meters at the back, with a width of 1.95 meters and a height of 2.6 meters. Adorned with intricate frameworks, the perimeter of this *ivan* exudes a sense of artistic

craftsmanship and cultural richness.

The entrance to the Dokkan Davud Grave, situated at the front, reveals remnants of two columns that once stood sentinel on either side. Weathered by time and natural calamities, the column shafts have succumbed to decay, leaving behind only the enduring square bases and capitals as silent witnesses to the passage of centuries. These distinctive features, from the lofty perch of the tomb to the ornate details within, paint a vivid picture of the Dokkan Davud Grave's historical significance and architectural splendor. For those intrigued by ancient mysteries and tales of bygone eras, this site stands as a reminder of Iran's rich cultural heritage and storied past.

There is an additional entrance discreetly nestled within the rear wall of the *ivan*, standing at 1.5 meters in height and one meter in width. This secondary passageway leads to a room

characterized by dimensions of 2.83 meters in length, 2.31 meters in width, and a height of 2.1 meters. Adorning the walls of this chamber are five ledges, once utilized for the placement of religious offerings, imbuing the space with a sense of sacred reverence. The room's ceiling, uniquely crescent-shaped, diverges from the architectural motif of the neighboring *ivan*, adding a touch of distinctive charm to the interior. Within this room, on the left-hand side, lies an oval-shaped grave with a depth of 70cm. Adjacent to the grave, a striking relief in the form of a rectangular frame emerges, situated eight meters from the burial site. The frame depicts the side profile of a standing figure draped in a flowing robe.