



Heartbreak for Morocco as Croatia secures 3rd spot in World Cup



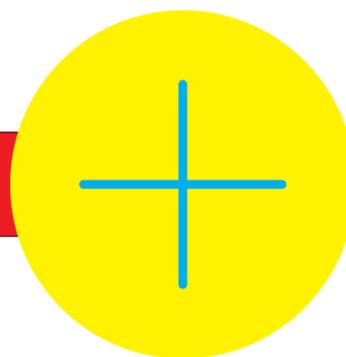
Moroccan national footballer Youssef En-Nesyri looking depressed after losing to Croatia.

The brave Atlas Lions who made the FIFA World Cup 2022 miracle by becoming the first Arab-African team to reach the tournament's semi-finals lost 2-1 to Croatia. However, they won the hearts of millions of fans around the world.

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Maqbarat-o-Shoara in Tabriz: Ancient cemetery of great Iranian poets

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Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Maqbarat-o-Shoara (Mausoleum of Poets), a home to the graves of more than 400 Iranian poets, is located in the Surkhhab district of Tabriz, the capital city of East Azarbaijan Province. The 1,000-year-old cemetery proves that East Azarbaijan Province, along with Khorasan, has always been one of the two centers of Persian literature throughout history.

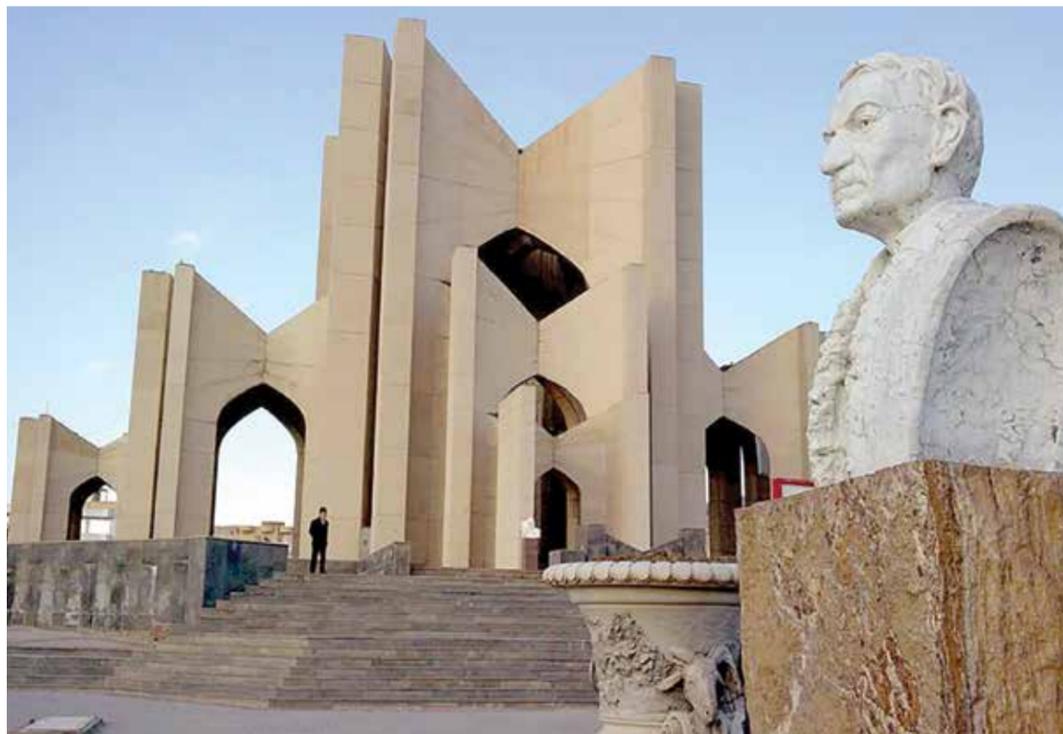
Khosrow Surkhabi, owning a shop in the district, said that a river used to flow from Eynali Mountain in the north of Tabriz to Surkhhab, bringing down the red soil of the region ('surkh' means red in Persian). When it rained, the red mud was spread everywhere. That is why the area is known as Surkhhab (literarily meaning red water). Originally from Surkhhab, he is proud that his house and shop are situated next to Maqbarat-o-Shoara. However, he complained that this

neighborhood and cemetery are not taken care of adequately. He believes that the district should be full of Iranian and foreign tourists throughout the year.

There is no guide to introduce the site to visitors and tell them why a number of great poets from Toos, Neyshabur and Khujand are buried there.

Rasoul Aminzadeh, another shopkeeper working in the region, said, "I remember a huge number of people who participated in the funeral of the famous Iranian poet Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known as Shahriar, held in Surkhhab district in 1997." Shahriar, who died on Sept. 18, 1997, is a popular and famous poet who was buried in the cemetery. Iranians honor his memory on this day every year, which has been named 'National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature'.

He added that foreign tourists, mainly from Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, travel to the region to visit the cemetery, especially in the spring season but, un-



● AZIN HAQIQI/IRAN DAILY

fortunately, enough attention has not been paid to the ancient site.

He observed that many tourists ask where the grave of Shahriar is because they

are not informed that some other Iranian poets are buried there. Qatran Tabrizi (1009-1072 CE), Asadi Tusi (999-1072 CE), Khaghani Shervani (1120-1190), Ham-

mam-e Tabrizi (1238-1314 CE) and Salman Savoji (1309-1376 CE) are among the poets who are buried in Maqbarat-o-Shoara.

In the old times, Tabriz had

nine gates, one of which, known as Surkhhab Gate, was located in the region.

Sajjad Aydenloo, a literature researcher, said earlier that when the first Persian gov-

ernment came to power, a number of Iranian poets emerged in Khorasan, including Ferdowsi (940-1020 CE), one the first who wrote poetry in Persian.

He added that according to historical documents, Azari poets immediately started to get involved as well. However, when the political order collapsed in Khorasan, Tabriz became the only center of literature in Iran.

Subsequently, some new literary centers were formed in Kerman, Isfahan and Shiraz and a number of great poets including Sa'di and Hafez created their own specific styles. But when the lyrical style started to decline, Azari people entered the field again; numerous great poets emerged in the region including Baba Faghani Shirazi (died in 1516) and Saeb Tabrizi (1592-1676) have left memorable literary works.

Thus efforts should be made to make Maqbarat-o-Shoara a popular site. This would help introduce the Persian language and literature to people all over the country and the world.

Asian Cadet, Junior & U21 Karate Championship:

Iranians grab 15 more medals on Day 2



● IKF

Sports Desk

Iranians stole the show on the second day of the Asian Cadet, Junior & U21 Karate Championship, collecting 15 medals in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

A day after the trio of Yekta Davari, Tina Fattahi, and Melika Soltani had won the ultimate prize at the girls' junior team kata contests, Zahra Ebrahimi, Fatemeh-Zahra Saeed-Abadi, Mohammad-Javad Safari, and Mahmoud Nemati added four more golds to Iran's medal count.

Meanwhile, Hafez Hafezikia walked away with a kata gold at the first edition of the Asian Para Karate Championship, also

taking place in Uzbekistan's capital.

Representing Iran in the girls' junior kumite contests, Ebrahimi came out on top against Japan's Maki Kubota in the -48kg final showpiece, while Saeed-Abadi defeated Chan Hsin-yu of the Chinese Taipei 1-0 for the -53kg gold.

In the boys' contests of the age category, Safari came out victorious against opponents from Jordan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan before beating Kuwait's Mohammad al-Roumi 6-1 in the -68kg final.

Nemati, meanwhile, marched to the under-21 +84kg gold without conceding a single point, outclassing Kazakhstan's

Dias Anarbekov 4-0 in the final.

Also on Saturday, Sepideh Amini, Zahra Alizadeh, and Kimia Yousefi settled for three silvers in the girls' under-21 competitions while Morteza Karimi fell to a 6-5 defeat against Olzhas Altynbek of Kazakhstan in the boys' U21 -60kg kumite final.

Amini scored 24.54 points in the kata final to finish behind Mirisa Ohuchi of Japan, and Alizadeh suffered a 7-0 setback against Kazakhstani contestant Nikol Tsengel in the -61kg final.

A 3-0 defeat against Japan's Sara Terazawa also saw Yousefi finish her campaign with the +68kg silver.

There were further medals for Iran across different age groups as Elina Safajoo, Sepehr Darabi, Mohammad-Mehdi Mohajeri, Mohammad Goodarzian, Hananeh Salehi, Alireza Heidari, and Hadi Kiani all collected bronzes.

In the juniors' event, Safajoo beat Jordan's Nourallah Naser to share the third podium of the girls' -59kg class with Himeka Doi of Japan, with Darabi overpowering host's Islombek Ismatullayev 8-1 in the boys' +76kg repechage final.

Mohajeri (boys +84kg), Goodarzian (boys -55kg), Salehi (girls -68kg), Heidari (boys -75kg), and Kiani (boys -67kg) also left Tashkent with consolation kumite medals in the under-21 event.

The 20th edition of Asian karate age-group competitions will be followed by the seniors' event in Tashkent, where more than 700 athletes from 28 countries will be battling it out for the continental glory until Tuesday.



◀ A Jubeir deer, one of the three species of deer living in Iran's wildlife, is pictured in one of the country's deserts on December 17, 2022.
● AMIRHOSEIN KHORGOOI/ISNA