



## Stunning finale leads Messi to immortality

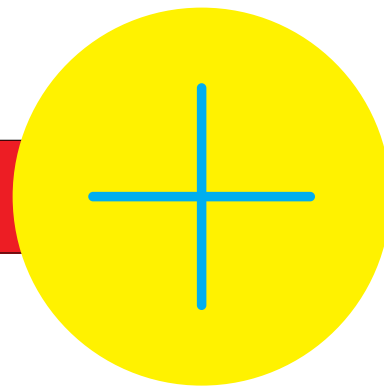
Argentina's Lionel Messi kisses the World Cup trophy after the shootout victory over France at the Lusail Stadium, Lusail, Qatar, on December 18, 2022.



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# 7,000 years of Iranian history on display in Azarbaijan Museum



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## EXCLUSIVE

Azarbaijan Museum in Tabriz, the capital city of the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, is a great place in which you can see artifacts belonging to various historical periods of Iran. It is the second museum of the country, after the National Museum of Iran in Tehran, in terms of the antiquity and number of displayed items. The objects, which are being showcased in the museum, belong to various parts of Iran, from Neyshabur, Jiroft

and Shiraz to Shahr-e Rey, Qazvin, Tabriz and Maragheh. Who could believe that about 7,000 years ago, when there was no pottery wheel, Iranian artists who lived in Ismaeil Abad of Qazvin Province, made such fine pottery vessels decorated with symmetrical lines. The 60-year-old museum, one of the oldest the country, was designed by Andre Godard, a French archaeologist and architect. It is a simple and magnificent three-floor building with four large halls. The mausoleum of Hafez in Shiraz, National Iranian Museum in Tehran, and

Iranshahr School in Yazd are other monuments which were designed by Godard. Seyyed Ali Razavi, an expert working in the museum, said that the dyes that were used to paint dishes 7,000 years ago were made from vegetables. He pointed out mineral dyes were also used for the purpose in the following century, adding a number of vessels found in Shahr-e Sukhteh (Burnt City), an ancient archeological site in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, were painted in this way. A thousand years later, Iranians could control the temperature of kilns and

increase carbon density to make the gray pottery items, a number of which are being showcased in the museum as well. A 4,000-year-old bronze dagger, discovered in the city of Khoda Afarin in East Azarbaijan Province, and several 3,000-year-old pottery vessels found in Hasanlu Hill in West Azarbaijan Province, show that Iranian civilization has continued to develop since prehistoric periods. It can be said that a beautiful clay jug discovered in Hasanlu Hill is similar to those found in Jiroft in Kerman Province and Neyshabur in Khorasan Razavi

Province. A collection of 2,000-year-old historical objects, unearthed in Lorestan Province, are being displayed in a showcase put in another corner of the hall. Armor and helmet and a number of war tools, made during Elam Period, attract the attention of every visitor. The ancient objects date back to 1,150 BCE, the reign of Shilhak Inshushaki, whose kingdom was extended from today's provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan to the southern parts of Iraq. However, the most beautiful objects are those which were discovered in Ardebil

and West Azarbaijan provinces, dating back to the Achaemenid Period. They are pottery items with horse designs, found in Meshgin Shahr in Ardebil Province and the old graves located near Lake Urmia. Another showcase is filled with objects, dating back to the Parthian Era, excavated in East Azarbaijan Province, including a clay replica of a temple or a bow decorated with Pahlavi script, both of which are so impressive that they can keep a researcher busy for a long time. Two beautiful plaster busts, dating back to the Parthian Period, are kept in the mu-

seum; they were discovered in Hashtrud in East Azarbaijan Province. On the upper floor, artifacts from the Islamic period are on display. Here, you can stare for hours at the simple and monochromatic porcelain items made in Kerman, the colorful and decorated porcelain vessels manufactured by the craftspeople of Ardebil, and the plain and glazed dishes found in Gorgan and Neyshabur. A number of eye-catching gifts, presented by Chinese, French and Russian kings to Iran, are being showcased in the middle of the large hall. Each item has an interesting story.

## Tehran hosts cartoon expo on World Cup 2022

IRNA - An exhibition of cartoon and caricature with the theme of World Cup 2022 opened at Tehran's Art Bureau on December 18. The online exhibition features 32 artworks with the subjects of portraits of football players and technical staff of 32 football teams. The works on display are selected from 1,736 artworks (508 artworks in the caricature section, and 1,228 works in the cartoon section) by 579 artists from 72 countries. The exhibition showcases the selected works of the International World Cup Cartoon & Caricature Contest. The exhibition is a simulation of a stadium, which is the first of its kind in Iran.



▲ A woman picks tangerine in a garden in Iran's northeastern Golestan Province, on December 18, 2022.  
● MOSTAFA HASSANZADEH/TASNIM NEWS AGENCY