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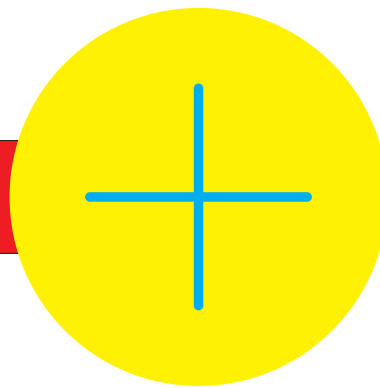
Iranian writer Khatibi dies at 62



Iranian writer, expert on 'Shahnameh' studies, and researcher of Persian language and literature, Abolfazl Khatibi, died on Wednesday at the age of 62, a member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Ja'far Shoja-Keihani announced.

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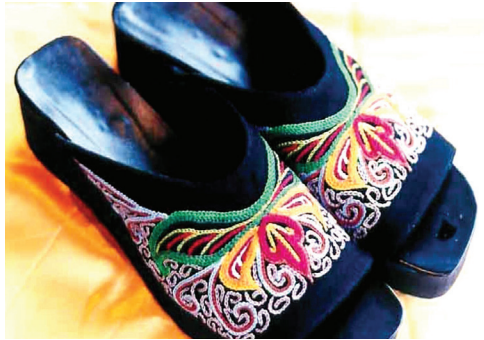
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Rashti-duzi, a beautiful handicraft with a long history



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Rashti-duzi is the art of traditional crocheting and sewing, which is considered one of the richest and most beautiful handicrafts of Gilan Province. Like many other handicrafts, it has a very long history. Specialists say it dates back to 550 to 330 BCE. This handicraft is produced by the use of a type of special hook that makes colorful patterns with silk yarn on mahut fabric, which is a kind of wool-worsted fabric, irangashtour.com reported. In the fifth century, at the

time of the Sassanid Dynasty, Iranian textiles were exported all over the world. These products were so popular in Europe that the cover of tombstones of European kings and elders were mostly chosen from Iranian textiles and carpets. A piece of the most excellent Sassanid fabric decorated with crochet work is kept in the Hermitage Museum. This handicraft flourished in the years after the Islamic era, during the Safavid, Afsharid, Zand, and Qajar dynas-

ties, when the artists made all kinds of products. These years are known for their high number of products. After sketching and drawing the patterns with various social, political, cultural, religious, and economic subjects, the crocheting was done by craftsmen. The masters combined the art of crocheting and needlework to enhance the beauty of the products which resulted in very elegant patterns. In Gilan Province, most of the motifs were made from the memory

and imagination of their makers and were passed from each generation to the next. The motifs that are more popular and more on-demand are old motifs of "kaj butehee," paisley and circle. Rashti-duzi is divided into three groups: (1) Simple crocheting; this method includes crocheting of all fabrics with colorful silk yarn that takes place after drawing of the pattern; (2) Crocheting combined with the "tekeh duzi" method. In this method, after the artist applies the patterns on the

mahut fabric, he cuts away a specific part and replaces it with a piece from another color and then does the crocheting; (3) Crocheting combined with the "moaragh" method. This kind is the most elaborate of all. The artist places colorful mahut pieces on the basic fabric and patches them together by crocheting the edges. Products such as table cloths, drapery, bedding, cushions, coasters, bags, baggage, and floor coverings have been made by this technique.

Giant Viking hall, possibly connected to Harald Bluetooth, unearthed in Denmark

LIVE SCIENCE – Archaeologists in Denmark unearthed a portion of a massive Viking hall that may be connected to King Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson, who reigned from A.D. 958 to 986, during the Viking Age. The structure, which is located in North Jutland, a region that encompasses Denmark's northernmost tip, is "the largest Viking Age find of this nature" in the past decade, and measures 131 feet (40 meters long). So far, only half of the building has been excavated, and archaeologists think it was built sometime between A.D. 950 and 1050, according to a statement. "It came [as] a shock that we unearthed a building of such magnitude," Thomas Rune Knudsen, an archaeologist with North Jutland Museums who led the November excavation, told Live Science in an email. "The roof-carrying posts are enormous." The hall's design is similar to those of other structures in the area likely built during the reign of Bluetooth (after whom today's Bluetooth technology is named). Also known as Harald Blåtand, Bluetooth introduced Christianity to Denmark and helped unify Denmark and Norway. There are several structures associated with



his reign, including the ring fortresses of Fyrkat, located along the banks of the Onsild River, and Aggersborg, in the village of Aggersund. Today, all that remains of the two circular fortresses are their turf-covered embankments.

Little is known from the region during that time period, Knudsen said.

While archaeologists aren't entirely certain of the hall's purpose, they do know that "it isn't related to daily life, but a place where the social elite met, negotiated and had guilds ... [and was where] important decisions that would shape the region [were] decided," Knudsen said.

Most of the hall has yet to be excavated. "It seems very likely that further buildings could exist at the site," Knudsen said. "So far, we have only uncovered half [of the] hall, but it would be strange if nothing else existed in the near vicinity."

The land on which the Viking hall sits might be connected to Runulv den Rådsnilde, a nobleman whose family operated a farm on the site. This determination is based on a 5-foot-tall (1.5 m) rune stone found nearby from dating to sometime between A.D. 970 to 1020 that is engraved with the words "Hove, Thorkild, Thorbjørn set their father Runulv den Rådsnilde's stone."

"Both the rune stone and the hall are elements that belong to the political and social elite," Knudsen said.

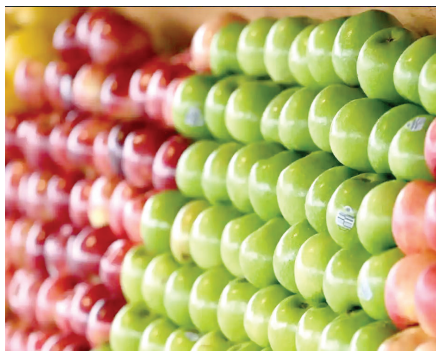
The rune stone is now on display at the nearby Hune Romanesque church.

Soaring food, energy prices could persist' for next two years'

THE GUARDIAN –

Soaring prices for energy and food could persist for the next two years, hurting global efforts to combat poverty and the climate crisis, a report prepared for next week's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, has warned.

The WEF's annual global risks report found the international cost of living crisis unleashed by the COVID pandemic and the Ukraine war topped the list of concerns in a survey of more than 1,200 global experts, policymakers and business leaders. Sounding the alarm in the run-up to the annual gathering of world leaders in the Swiss mountain resort, it said the energy and food supply crunch was likely to persist for the next two years as the biggest risk to the world economy. Highlighting how the pandemic and the war in Europe have



JOEL CARRET/AAP

triggered a series of deeply interconnected global risks, it said the fallout could undermine collaboration between countries to tackle longer-term problems including the climate crisis, protecting biodiversity, and efforts to reduce poverty. "These create follow-on risks that will dominate the next two years: The risk of recession; growing debt distress; a continued cost of living crisis; polarised societies enabled by disinformation and misinformation; a hiatus on rapid climate action; and zero-sum geo-economic warfare," the report said.



Young Iranian schoolgirls take part in a ceremony to celebrate their coming of age for performing their Islamic duties in northwestern city Tabriz on January 11, 2023.

ALI HAMED HAGHDOST/IRNA