

Bazaars in Iran

TEHRAN – Iran is home to some of the world’s oldest bazaars, which formerly connected China and Europe along the legendary Silk Road.

Trade and cultural interchange took occurred daily at Iran’s grand bazaars, which attracted traders from cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Istanbul, and Turkestan.

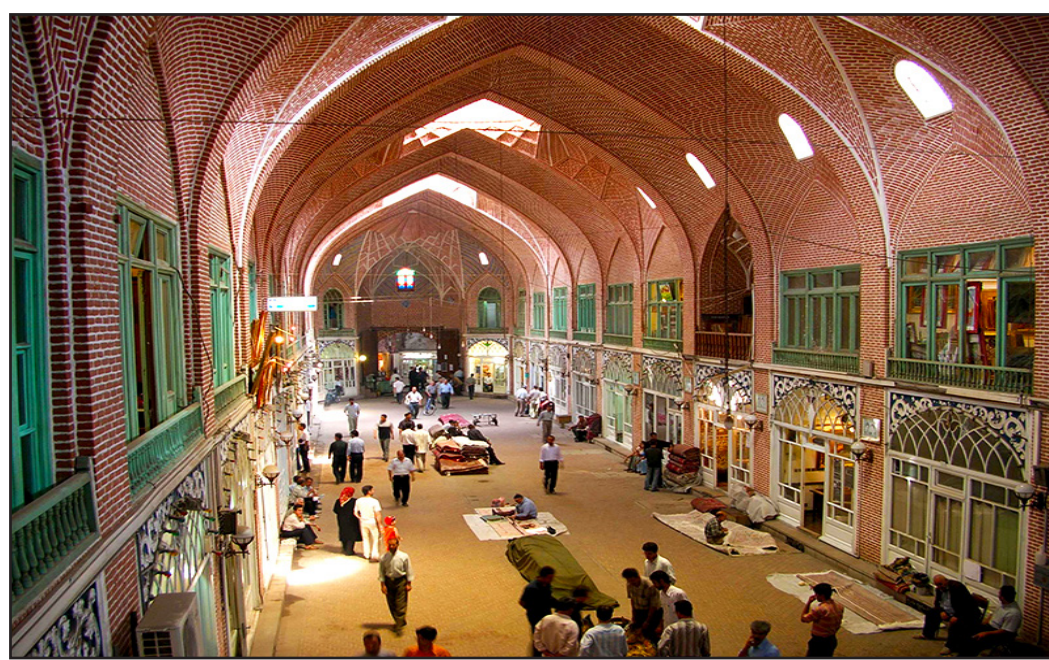
People from all walks of life gathered at the market, and it also united the various regions of the city.

Iran’s bazaars are among the top tourist destinations in the world just based on their ancient architecture. The covered marketplaces resembled a small city all to themselves.

The Safavid period represents the pinnacle of Iran’s traditional bazaars and markets.

The word “bazaar” comes from the Persian word “bāzār”. Visiting bazaars is an important part of Iranian people’s life.

Besides the undeniable social influences of Iranian bazaars, they are categorized based on their functionality and architec-



Grand Bazaar of Tabriz

tural characteristics.

The top ten famous Persian bazaars include Tehran Grand Bazaar, Ardebil Old Bazaar, Shiraz Vakil Bazaar, Tabriz Old

Bazaar, Kashan Old Bazaar, Bazaar of Borujerd, Bazaar of Saqqez, Bazaar of Sanandaj, Bazaar of Isfahan and Bazaar of Shahroud.

Official: 2,000 Artifacts Have Been Stolen From British Museum

LONDON (AFP) -- The number of artifacts that have disappeared from the British Museum is estimated at 2,000, chairman of trustees George Osborne said on Saturday, admitting the collection did not have a complete catalogue.

The UK’s former chancellor described the missing pieces as “small items of jewelry, gems, bits of gold that were not on public display”.

He told BBC radio it was still not clear exactly how many items had gone astray.

“I will give you an estimate of around 2,000. But I have to say that’s a very provisional figure,” Osborne said.

“We have started to recover some of the stolen items, which is a silver lining to a dark cloud.”



An employee poses as he views examples of the Parthenon sculptures, sometimes referred to in the UK as the Elgin Marbles, on display at the British Museum in London, Jan. 25, 2023.

Museum director Hartwig Fischer resigned on Friday, admitting the institution did not act “as it should have” on warnings that items had gone missing.

The central London museum said last week it had dismissed a staff member and alerted the police after artifacts were found to be “missing, stolen or damaged”.

One of the British capital’s biggest tourist draws, the mu-

seum is best known for housing collections that include the Rosetta Stone and the Parthenon Marbles.

Osborne attributed management’s failure to act on warnings to “groupthink” that “just couldn’t believe that an insider was stealing things, couldn’t believe that one of the members of staff were doing this”.

“We believe we’ve been the victim of thefts over a long

period of time and, frankly, more could have been done to prevent them,” he said, adding that security at the museum had been tightened.

The antiquarian community was cooperating with the museum to help return some of the missing pieces, he said.

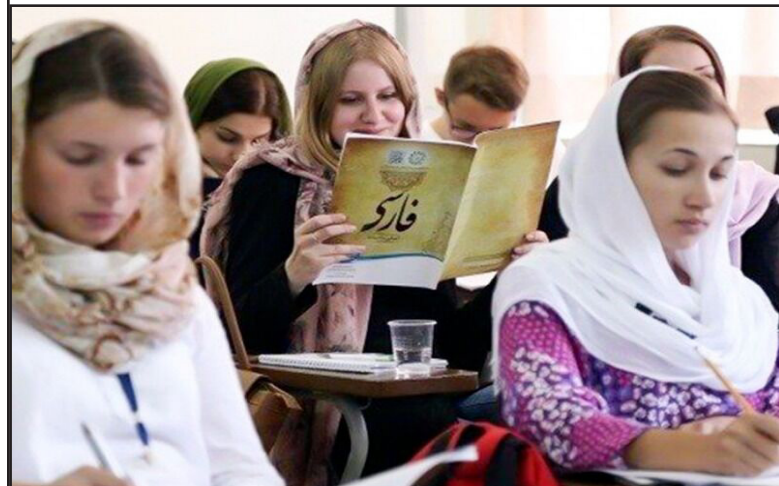
The Metropolitan Police confirmed on Thursday that a man had been interviewed in connection with alleged thefts.

The force said no arrests had been made and it would continue to work “closely” with the British Museum as inquiries continue.

Fischer, a German art historian, said he would step down with immediate effect because of lapses in procedures that allowed the items to be taken.

“It is evident that the British Museum did not respond as comprehensively as it should have in response to the warnings in 2021, and to the problem that has now fully emerged,” he said.

Tehran Holds Persian Language Training Course



TEHRAN -- A Persian language training course of teachers for foreigners residing in Iran and interested in Persian language has started in Tehran.

Teachers from Lebanon, Turkmenistan, Ahvaz, Shiraz, Dezful, Kerman, Mazandaran, Kashan and Tehran are taking part in the course.

The one-week training course will be held by instruc-

tors of prominent universities of the country.

The educational chapters of the new course include titles such as “Teaching and Learning Planning”, “Teacher’s Professional Growth”, “Communication Language and Culture”, “Learning Measurement” and “Teaching and Learning Support” and are followed in the course of eight workshops.

A Look at Akbar Abdi’s Artistic Career



TEHRAN -- From his humble beginnings to becoming Iran’s man of a thousand faces, Akbar Abdi has made an enduring impact on Iranian entertainment with his multi-faceted acting and remarkable talent.

At the age of 63, Abdi’s limitless versatility shines through, boasting an impressive repertoire of more than 120 movies and series, iFilm reported.

After completing high school in 1980, Abdi embarked on his acting journey by participating in amateur plays.

His exceptional skill quickly caught the attention of the industry, and he soared to fame through his roles in iconic TV series like ‘Boro Bia Neighborhood’ (1982) and ‘I’m Late for School Again’ (1986).

In his filmography, Abdi’s appearances in movies like ‘Doll Thief’ (1989), ‘Nassereddin Shah Film Actor’ (1991), ‘The Devoted’ (1991), ‘Angel Day’ (1993), and ‘A Gift From India’

(1994) have left an unforgettable mark on Iranian cinema.

Abdi’s talent shines in several TV series as well, including ‘Imam Ali (AS)’ (1991), ‘Night of the Fox’ (1999), ‘Godfather’ (1999), and ‘In the Eye of the Storm’ (2003-2009).

His ability to tackle diverse roles, from playing a child and middle-aged man in ‘The Magical Journey’ (1986) to portraying a mentality-disabled boy in ‘Mother’ (1989), shows his acting ability.

Awards and accolades have rightly recognized Abdi’s brilliance. Notably, his roles in ‘Mother’ (1989) and ‘I’m Sleepy’ (2012) earned him the Crystal Simorgh for Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the Fajr International Film Festival.

On August 26, as he graces our screen in ‘The Backstreets of Shemroon’, his artistry and dedication continue to awe and inspire audiences.

With his unmatched talent, Abdi proves that he is not just an actor but a true master of his craft.

Keeyow Lake in Khorramabad

TEHRAN -- Keeyow Lake is a natural lake in the northwest of the city of Khorramabad in Iran’s Lorestan province.

The lake covers an area of seven hectares and it is three to seven meters deep. There are an amusement park and other recreational facilities next to Keeyow Lake.

This is the only natural lake inside Iran and is a habitat of native and migrant birds and aquatic animals.

The lake is not a mere tourist attraction: it is deeply associated with the history and culture of Khorramabad. The lake’s bond to this land is comparable to that of Karoon’s with Ahwaz or Zayandeh Rood’s with Isfahan.

Keeyow means indigo, clear and deep water in Lori, a local dialect of the Persian language.

It is particularly important as it creates a good promenade for Khorramabad residents and tourists.

The water of Keeyow Lake originates from the springs in Makhmal Kooch, a nearby mountain.

Picture of the Day



The Blue Mosque in Tabriz, constructed in 1465 upon the order of Jahan Shah, the ruler of Kara Koyunlu, was severely damaged in an earthquake in 1780. Reconstruction began in 1973, but it is still incomplete.

Photo by IRNA