

## Parthian-Era Pot Unearthed in Kerman



TEHRAN -- A Parthian-era clay pot has been discovered in the Rayen district of Kerman province in southern Iran, a local official in charge of cultural heritage preservation said Saturday.

The artifact was found thanks to a combination of intelligence efforts and engagement initiatives aimed at promoting social participation among local and indigenous communities, Moslem Iranmanesh said.

The discovery was made by honorary heritage guardians who subsequently handed the artifact over to the Rayen protection unit.

"The antique artifact is a clay pot adorned with grooved and wavy decorations," he said.

Experts have determined the artifact to have historical value, dating back to the Parthian period, Iranmanesh said.

He said historical artifacts serve

as cultural identifiers for each region, reflecting their historical and national identity.

The preservation of the artifacts, he said, offers a wide range of cultural, economic, and social benefits to local communities.

Rayen is a historical town located in the southeastern part of Iran, within Kerman province.

Known for its rich cultural heritage, it is home to the impressive Rayen Castle (Arg-e Rayen), one of the best-preserved mudbrick citadels in the world. The castle dates back to the Sassanian era and resembles the famous Bam Citadel, though it is smaller in scale.

The region around Rayen is known for its historical significance and archaeological wealth, with numerous ancient sites and artifacts that offer insights into Iran's past civilizations.

# First Watercolor Exhibit of Iran Underway With 200 Works

TEHRAN -- The first annual international watercolor exhibition of Iran showcasing 200 paintings from 24 countries has opened for 10 days at the Laleh Art Gallery and the Iranian Art Museum Garden.

The exhibition has been organized by Sareh Art cafe Gallery in Moscow and Laleh Art Gallery and the Iranian Art Museum Garden.

The exhibition opened at the Iranian Art Museum Garden on Thursday and Laleh Art Gallery on Friday. Enthusiasts can visit the exhibitions from Saturdays to Wednesdays between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm and on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, except for holidays.

Director of Laleh Art Gallery Muhammad Ali Saeedi stated that the exhibition is a step towards the realization of cultural diplomacy in the wide sphere of world art.

He said art is a bridge for the exchange of values and achievements, which leads the artists of nations towards human commonality.

According to Saeedi, every painting contains a speech without words which bears the experience and technique of its artist with conceptual and transcendental commonalities.

He touched on the features of the water-



color painting technique, saying among the various artistic painting techniques, the watercolor technique it has countless fans among painters and art lovers all over the world due to its spirituality and special softness and the number of people interested in this artistic technique is increasing.

"Accordingly, holding this event, in addition to displaying the watercolor works of the world's leading artists, provides for local artists to get to know the handwriting and technical ability of artists around

the world."

Saeedi said the need to hold and support such exhibitions will also provide a suitable platform for exchange of capabilities and skills and improving the technical quality of Iranian artists' works.

Artists from Albania, the U.S., Uruguay, Australia, Italy, Iran, Belgium, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Portugal, Thailand, Turkey, China, Russia, Switzerland, Ghana, Costa Rica, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mexico, New Zealand, India and Greece have participated in the exhibition.

## UNESCO Finds Daesh Bombs in Mosul Mosque Walls

BAGHDAD (AP) — The UN cultural agency has discovered five bombs hidden within the walls of the historic al-Nouri Mosque in the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, a remnant of the Daesh terrorist group's rule over the area, UNESCO said in a statement Saturday.

The mosque, famous for its 12th-century leaning minaret, was destroyed by Daesh in 2017 and has been a focal point of UNESCO's restoration efforts since 2020.

The UN agency said that five large-scale explosive devices, designed for significant destruction, were found inside the southern wall of the Prayer Hall on Tuesday.

"These explosive devices were concealed within a specially rebuilt section of the wall," the statement said. "Iraqi authorities were promptly notified, secured the area, and the situation is now fully under control."

It added that "one bomb has been defused and removed, while the remaining four are interconnected and will be safely disposed of in the coming days."

Iraqi authorities have requested that UNESCO halt all reconstruction operations at al-Nouri mosque and evacuate the entire complex until the devices are disarmed.

Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate from the mosque a decade ago on June 29, 2014, leading to its destruction when extremists blew it up during the battle to liberate Mosul in 2017.

The discovery of these bombs underscores ongoing challenges in clearing Mosul of explosives and revitalizing its devastated urban areas.



In this July 4, 2017, file photo, fleeing Iraqi civilians walk past the heavily damaged al-Nuri mosque as Iraqi forces continue their advance against Daesh in Iraq's Old City of Mosul.

International efforts, supported by the United Nations, focus on mine clearance and aiding in the city's recovery. Despite progress, much of Mosul's old city remains

in ruins, marked by minefield warning signs, highlighting the complexity of post-conflict reconstruction.

UNESCO aims to complete the

full reconstruction of al-Nouri Mosque by December, "finally erasing the stigma of the Daesh occupation," the statement said.

A decade after Daesh declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria, the extremists no longer control any land, have lost many prominent leaders and are mostly out of the world news headlines.

Still, the group continues to recruit members and claim responsibility for deadly attacks around the world, including lethal operations in Iran and Russia earlier this year that left scores dead. Its sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq still carry out attacks against government forces in both countries, at a time when Iraq's government is negotiating with Washington over a possible withdrawal of U.S. troops.

## Massive Asteroid Flies Past Earth



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- A skyscraper-size asteroid discovered two weeks ago zoomed between Earth and the moon on Saturday. At its closest approach, the space rock passed within roughly 184,000 miles (295,000 kilometers) of our planet — about three-quarters the average distance between Earth and the moon.

The asteroid, named 2024 MK, is estimated to measure about 480 feet (146 meters) across, which is greater than the height of a 40-story building or the Great Pyramid of Giza.

During its closest approach, it traveled at roughly 21,000 mph (34,000 km/h), according to NASA. Astronomers in South Africa discovered the asteroid on June 16.

Although the hefty space rock posed no threat to Earth, NASA classified it as a "potentially hazardous asteroid" due to its large size and precarious orbit, which occasionally crosses that of our planet. Shortly after its close approach to Earth and the moon this weekend, 2024 MK will zoom back out toward the asteroid belt

between Mars and Jupiter, and will not return to our neighborhood until 2037, according to NASA predictions. The space rock won't pose any threat to our planet then, either.

NASA monitors the orbits of more than 35,000 near-Earth objects (NEOs), which are space rocks that come within 120 million miles (195 million km) of the sun, often crossing Earth's orbit during their travels. Currently, there are no known asteroids that pose a threat to our planet for at least the next 100 years.

The close approach of 2024 MK came just days after an even larger asteroid called 2011 UL21 blasted past our planet. Measuring between 1.1 and 2.4 miles (1.7 to 3.9 kilometers) wide, the mountain-size object flew by at 4.1 million miles (6.6 million km) from Earth, or about 17 times the distance to the moon. Despite this ample breathing room, 2011 UL21 was the largest asteroid to come that close to Earth in 110 years, according to the Virtual Telescope Project, which livestreamed the encounter Thursday.

## Picture of the Day



Voting for the 14th presidential election was held in the nomadic areas of Qaradagh in northwest Iran. Photo by Tasnim