



An online crafts marketplace, aimed to boost sales of local handmade products and souvenirs, was launched in northwestern East Azarbaijan province on Wednesday. The necessary platform and infrastructure for comprehensive e-commerce have been developed in the province to drive up handicraft sales to all over the world, the deputy governor-general, Javad Rahmati, said addressing the inauguration ceremony. Although the outbreak of the coronavirus has affected the handicrafts sector of the province, such markets could introduce the crafters' handmade products to their customers directly, the official added. It also could promote the products properly, which could contribute artisans to reach bigger and better markets that lead to economic prosperity, he explained.

Online Marketplace for Handicrafts Launched in East Azarbaijan

Historic Bazaar of Ardebil to be Equipped with Modern Heating System

The Seljuk-era (1037–1194) bazaar of Ardebil in northwest Iran will be equipped with a safe and smart heating system after being fully restored to its former splendor. Due to the high risks of gas heating, which has long been used in the old vaulted marketplace, it will be equipped with modern and safe gears such as solar and ceiling radiation systems, the provincial tourism chief has said. "The project will be carried out in close collaboration with the shop owners," Nader Fallahi announced on Saturday. Such projects aim at protecting people and shop owners' lives as well as their properties, the official added. The historical bazaar of Ardebil was once an important trade center during the Safavid era (1501-1736). At that time, Ardebil had a special prestige and enjoyed a remarkable political, social, and cultural status. Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the bazaar was extensively restored during Qajar-era (1789–1925).



'Unique' Relics Unearthed in Northern Iran: Archaeologist

A "unique" haul of ancient relics and vestiges of urban structures have been unearthed in Astarabad (or Es-terabad) in northern Iran, senior Iranian archaeologist Habib Rezai has said. "As a result of the excavations carried out in this [archaeological] season, historical artifacts and evidence from the Qajar, Safavid, Timurid, Ilkhanid, and Seljuk eras were discovered. These include architectural remains, pieces of pottery and glassware, as well as metal objects and vessels," Rezai told CHTN in an interview on Thursday. A collection of Seljuk-era metal objects (made of copper and bronze), which date back to nearly one thousand years ago, is the most important cultural finding at this excavation, the archaeologist said.



"The metal objects include candlesticks, firecrackers, burners, chandeliers, large and small vessels and utensils, some of which bearing decorations and inscriptions."

"The discovery of such metal collections from the Seljuk era is unprecedented and unique in Iran," Rezai, who led the archaeological excavation at the site, said.

Astarabad is the older Islamic name for the modern town of Gorgan in Golestan province. It lies at the southeastern corner of the Caspian Sea, and is essentially a lowland and piedmont area, rather drier in climate and habitat than the semi-tropical regions of Mazandaran and Gilan further west; it forms a transition area, both from the climatic and the vegetational aspects. "Architectural evidence and a collection of available sources and [historical] travelogues show that [the modern] Gorgan lies on the historical city of Astarabad, and certainly in the lower layers of this historical city, valuable cultural artifacts can be retrieved," the archaeologist explained. Talking about future excavations at the site, the expert noted: "To complete the archaeological knowledge of this treasured site, the excavations should be continuing at this site to reach the virgin soil."

"Future excavations and additional studies can give answers to many of our questions about the spatial function of the site of the discovery of this unique metal treasure... and also the study lower cultural layers and deposits related to the Seljuk period will help to do so."

Iran's Largest Beach Park to be built in Kish

The country's largest beach park is planned to be established in the Persian Gulf island of Kish, southern Iran. Hundreds of hectares of coastal lands on Kish Island have been ratified to be turned into a beach park, which would be the largest of its kind in the country, the CEO of Kish Civil, Water, and Urban Services Abolfazl Tayyebi said on Saturday. One of [public] benefits from the implementation of this project is that some 388,000 square meters of valuable beaches will not be ceded to the private sector, the official added.

In many cities and countries of the world, nowadays, most of the beaches are owned by individuals and the private sector, and



due to construction near the sea, they are out of reach of people and tourists, the official explained. With such a project and establishing facilities for the public on the

island's coastline, no one could encroach on this precious treasure that belongs to all Iranians, he noted.

Amongst the Persian Gulf islands, Kish is the more luxurious and developed. Except for its unique nature such as waters and shallow beaches, the tourist attractions of this charming island are due to its rich historical background as well as kind and hospitable people.

About one million foreign and domestic tourists travel to the island every year and it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iran as it has magnificent attractions such as Kariz Underground City, Hairih Ancient City, Greek Ship, and Grand Recreational Pier to name a few.

Shazdeh Garden, the Paradise in the Heart of the Desert

In visiting the southern Iranian province of Kerman, one needs to make sure they take in Mahan: home to the biggest and most beautiful Iranian garden. Shazdeh Mahan Garden meaning Prince Mahan's Garden is a historical Persian garden located near Mahan in Kerman province, Iran. The city of Mahan is located in the southeast of Kerman. At a distance of 6 km. from the south of Mahan, is a beautiful and large garden with a spectacular structure in the premises. The same is called 'Shazdeh Garden' (Shazdeh Bagh). Similar to other great Persian gardens such as Eram Garden or Dowlatabad Garden, it is also inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List. What is very amazing about Shazdeh Garden is that it is located in the desert where nothing exists but dry plains. However, the entrance of the garden welcomes tourists to the earthly paradise. Putting a step inside

Shazdeh Garden, one can see the pools streaming along the garden, the trees offering shade to the pathway, and the flowers spreading perfume everywhere. Later, the façade of an old pavilion appears from behind the fountains and the stairs lead the visitors toward the pavilion. This garden is a sample of Iranian flat gardens which was built in a rectangular plan with a surface area about 5.5 hectares. It has a length of 407 meters and is 122 meters in width that consists of two eastern and western complexes. There are lots of fountains in the garden's length which cause more freshness in the environment and not many gardens in Iran have used as many fountains as this garden. The Garden's fountains were wisely built which are working only based on height difference, slope usage and without any other force. The Garden's water is supplied by Ghanat and Tigran River.



Explore Tepe Hesar with Finds from Chalcolithic Age to Sasanian era

Tepe Hesar, which bears cultural periods from the Chalcolithic Age to the Sasanian period, is one of the most famous archaeological sites in Iran. Situated on the southern outskirts of Damghan, northcentral Iran, Tepe Hesar is reportedly one of the world's five archaeological hills of the Iron Age, and the archaeological hill is

considered as of the oldest prehistorical sites in the Iranian plateau as well. Identified in 1880, Tepe Hesar was excavated in 1925 and 1931-1932 when the construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway cuts through the main mound. It was one of the first Chalcolithic and Bronze Age excavations in this area, and the stratigraphy has been very important to

date similar sites. In 1976, research was briefly resumed and radiocarbon measures were taken.

The oldest layer, Hesar I, belongs to the Copper Age (Chalcolithic; after 3800 BC); it is about as old as Susa and resembles Sialk III, by which it appears to have been influenced, according to livius.org, a website on ancient history written and maintained

since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering, according to Livius.org; a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering. Hesar II, which starts in about 3600 BC, is marked by the appearance of burnished grey pottery and the first objects made of bronze. Among the finds are long-shaped bottles.



cooking



Dried Apricots Stew

Khoresh Gheysi or Dried Apricots Stew contains very high amounts of vitamin A and vitamin B6, and high amounts of vitamin C, riboflavin, potassium, niacin, and dietary fiber. It has no cholesterol.

Ingredients:

- 4.5 oz (127g) Dried Apricots
- 8 oz (227g) Plums
- 8 oz (227g) Mushrooms
- 6 oz (170g) Carrots
- 1 Onion
- 1 Tbsp Tomato Paste
- 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil Turmeric, Crushed Red Pepper, Salt



Directions:

1-Fry the onions with vegetable oil until golden. 2- Stir in turmeric, crushed red pepper, and tomato paste. 3- Continue frying for couple of more minutes. 4- Stir in the carrots and continue frying for few minutes. 5- Add the mushrooms, plums, and the dried apricots. 6- Garnish with salt and add enough water to cover half of the ingredients. 7- Cover the pot with a lid; simmer for 30 minutes over medium heat.