



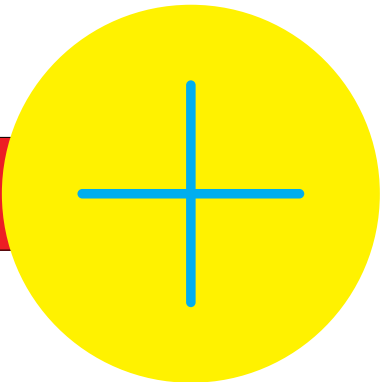
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The history that we can do is only as good as the historical sources that we use.

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Art, architecture, and mysticism come together in Haft Tanan Garden of Shiraz



● surfiran.com

Haft Tanan (Seven Bodies) is an Iranian garden and museum located in Shiraz, southwestern province of Fars, dating back to the Safavid times. It is named after the seven mystics buried there. The people of Shiraz attach great importance to Haft Tanan Garden. They used to go there in the past, and now they go to pray for rain and other things. Art, architecture, and mysticism all come together in one place at the Haft Tanan Garden. Haft Tanan Garden's mansion is an incredible example of Iranian architecture. An extended porch with two stone columns can be found on the northern side of the building. Above these ornamental columns is a wooden roof covered with beautiful oil paintings with flat sides, tappersia.com reported. The columns of the porch are decorated with lemon-colored marble stone and the floor is covered with red

tiles. A large pond greets you as you enter the garden and the area in and around it is filled with various trees that are over 200 years old, such as cypress, orange, and pine. Having been an abandoned convent that housed dervishes and ascetics, Haft Tanan Garden was converted into a museum of stone and tile. The garden was constructed several centuries before the Zand Period (1750-1779 CE), but the mansion was built within the lifetime of Karim Khan Zand.

Seven mystics

Years ago seven Shirazi mystics were buried in the hillside of Chehel Magham Mountain. Karim Khan ordered tombstones to be constructed for these seven people, but due to their anonymity, there was no inscription to put on their tombstones. The upper niches of this porch are among the most

masterful decorations among Iranian buildings. The two columns, like the pillars of the tomb of Hafez, can be seen on a large and integrated stone which is beautifully designed with flowers and leaves. In the south of the mansion there is a garden, which has a wall with a brick arch. Seven anonymous mystics have tombstones of the same size and shape, six tombstones are in a row, parallel to each other, but the seventh stone is located singly at the bottom of the sixth tomb.

Paintings: Narrators of the past

Some unique paintings can be seen on the porch of the mansion of Haft Tanan Garden, created with oil on plaster. These five paintings depict a dervish (mystics in the Iranian culture who follow the path of asceticism) with pole-axe and axe, Prophet Moses' role as a shepherd, Sheikh Sanan and Christian girl,

Abraham. One of these five paintings is of a dervish with a white hat and beard and an axe.

Prophet Moses

On another canvas you can see the image of the Prophet Moses as a shepherd. This painting illustrates a state of forgiveness and simplicity on the way to a dervish's behavior. The Prophet Moses had to be a shepherd for eight years before he was allowed to marry the daughter of Prophet Shoaib.

Sheikh San'an

Another painting of Sheikh San'an and Christian girl in the middle of the porch depicts Sheikh San'an in love with a young Christian girl and expressing his love to her. This story is borrowed from Attar of Neishapour, who lost his faith because of a girl, but gained it once again through his friend, and then the girl became a Muslim.

Prophet Abraham

The fourth painting is the story of Prophet Abraham's sacrifice of Ishmael. This painting skillfully shows Abraham's readiness to break with his greatest worldly attachment, his child.

Shah Abbas

This is the fifth painting depicting Shah Abbas Safavid (1571-1629 CE). When he was a king, he wore a disguise and reached out to the poor and helpless people to help them. He believed that there should be no mediator between himself and his people, so he lived among them and listened to their demands. This is why Shah Abbas Safavid is portrayed as a dervish in the painting. The value of these paintings is so high that they were restored many years ago. In addition to these paintings, the doors, walls, and porch are decorated with colorful flowers and shrubs.

Ronaldo to 'let time be a good adviser' on Portugal future

REUTERS – Cristiano Ronaldo said on Sunday that he had always been dedicated to being a part of the Portuguese national team, which was knocked out of the World Cup a day earlier, but he was coy about his future in the national side. The 37-year-old, a five-times Ballon D'Or winner, had arrived in Qatar with a mission to prove he could still make a difference on his national team. He ended the tournament, however, coming on as a second-half substitute in Portugal's 1-0 quarter-final loss to Morocco.

"I just want you all to know that much has been said, much has been written, much has been speculated, but my dedication to Portugal has not changed for a moment," Ronaldo said in a Facebook post.

"I was always one more person fighting for everyone's goal and I would never turn my back on my teammates and my country." Before the World Cup, he had refused to say whether the tournament in Qatar would be his last and said he was already looking ahead to the 2024 European Championship. His Facebook post on Sunday, however, ended on an ambiguous note.

"For now, there's not much more to say. Thank you, Portugal. Thank you, Qatar. The dream was beautiful while it lasted... Now, we have to let time be a good adviser and allow everyone to draw their own conclusions," he wrote.



● CARL RECINE/REUTERS

Around 4.5 lakh visitors visited Bangladesh Book Fair



● INDIAN EXPRESS

INDIAN EXPRESS – An estimated 4.5 lakh people visited the Bangladesh Book Fair, held in Kolkata from December 2-11, organizers said on Monday.

The book fair was organized by the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission with support from the Raftani Unnayan Bureau of the neighboring country and arranged by the Bangladesh Pustak Prakashak O. Bikreta Samity (Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association). Mazharul Islam, president of the booksellers' association, said around 30,000 books were sold from 75 stalls during the book fair. "The book fair was a resounding success. Bibliophiles had descended in droves. The event increased awareness about books published in Bangladesh," S.H. Nipu, writer and researcher from the neighbouring country, told PTI. The event was held in College Square, located next to book hub

College Street and heritage institutions such as Presidency University and Calcutta University, for the first time. The previous editions were held in Mohor Kunj area.

Islam said this year's response after two years of COVID pandemic was beyond expectations.

He said his organization, which is the representative body of Bangladeshi publishers, is holding talks with the Publishers and Booksellers' Guild of Kolkata for jointly holding book fairs in Dhaka and Kolkata in future.

Mohammed Bachhu, who was manning a stall having books on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said books worth several thousands of rupees were sold and his 'Asamapto Atmajiboni' (incomplete autobiography) was in great demand.

Panel discussions on literary and social issues, and cultural performances were held during the book fair.