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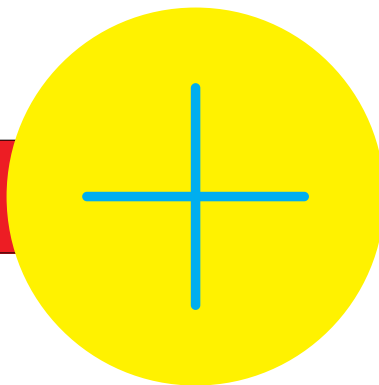
French federation condemns racist abuse after Argentina loss

REUTERS – The French Football Federation (FFF) has condemned the online racist abuse directed towards its players and pledged to take action after they were targeted as the team lost to Argentina on penalties in Sunday's World Cup final in Qatar.



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Ancient architectural structures of Maragheh fascinate every viewer



● AZIN HAQIQI/IRAN DAILY

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EXCLUSIVE

It is said that Nizami Ganjavi, a 12th-century Persian poet, wrote the Haft Peykar, one of the great works of Persian literature, with the inspiration of the seven domes or seven towers of Maragheh, a city in the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan. During my trip to Mar-

agheh I visited four towers out of seven that still remain in the city. The Red Dome, known in Persian as Gonbad-e Sorkh, is the oldest monument of the city, situated on Khayyam Street. The construction of the monument, dating back to the Seljuk Period (1050-1300 CE), can be regarded as the beginning of an outstanding architectural period in Iran.

The square structure was built upon the order of the ruler of Azarbaijan, Abdul Aziz bin Mahmoud bin Sa'ad. Maragheh, having several wooden, brick and stone structures, has a special position in Iran. The Red Tower is a 900-year-old two-story monument with simple and eye-catching decorations. Various types of bricks have been used in the structure which

helped make it stronger. There are two beautiful arches on each side of the tower and an inscription in Kufic script is located above its entrance door. For the first time in Iran, the decorative muqarnas (honeycomb-like vaulting) was used under the tower's dome. Tohid Hemmati, an expert from the city's Cultural Heritage Department, said that the building was

probably the tomb of a person whose name is not known. He pointed to some holes on the top of the tower and said since Maragheh was known as the city of astronomy, the holes were created in later periods to turn the building into an observatory. A big pillar which was built in the middle of the tower's stone basement, known in Persian as sardab, has strengthened the building as well.

Ghafarieh Dome (Gonbad-e Ghafarieh) is another amazing ancient monument in Maragheh. Although the square structure of the tower is similar to that of Red Tower, it has more complicated decorations. A larger number of colored and glazed tiles were used in this structure. Moreover, the inscription of Ghafarieh Dome is written in Rayhani script, not Kufic. The monument was built by a person, originally from Egypt, during the Ilkhanid Period (1256-1335 CE), when Maragheh was the capital of Iran. Kabood Dome is also an old tower located in Maragheh, dating back to the Ilkhanid Era. Some say that the building is the burial place of the mother of Halaku Khan, an Ilkhanid king who conquered much of Southwest Asia. But others say that tower, which is full of Qur'anic decora-

tions, was built before the Ilkhanid Period; therefore, the mother of Halaku Khan, who was a Christian, should not have been buried there. The tower is a 10-sided building with various decorations. The turquoise tiles of the monument which were decorated with verses of Holy Qur'an in Thuluth script, as well as the eye-catching muqarnas decorations of Kabood Dome fascinate every viewer. Finally, Modavvar Tower (Borj-e Modavvar) is the second oldest building in Maragheh, after the Red Tower. It does not have any special decorations, except a tile inscription which is located above the entrance door on which a verse from the Holy Qur'an is written.



The photo, taken on December 20, 2022 shows the reedy parts of Zaribar Lake, in Marivan, Iran's western Kurdistan Province, hosting native and migratory birds.
● SEYYED MOSLEH PIRKHEZRIAN/IRNA

Russian Film Days to be marked in Iran

ILNA – The first round of Russian Film Days will be held in Tehran's Farabi Cinema Foundation from December 24 to 26.

The cultural program will be held at the foundation's Kiarostami Hall to boost cinematic cooperation between the two countries.

Lyubov Borisova's film 'Don't Bury Me Without Ivan' (2022) will be the opening film of the event.

Three recently-produced Russian films 'Are You Alive?', by Ildar Yagafarov (2022), 'Elsa's Land,' by Yulia Kolesnik (2019), and 'Don't Bury Me Without Ivan' will be screened. Valery Ivanovich Tonkikh, deputy director of the Union of Cinematographers of Russia, director and producer Ivan Isayevich Bolotnikov, film producer Salamonov Aleksandr Aleksandrovic, executive director of international festivals and senior



specialist at the Union of Cinematographers of Russia, and cinema producer Galina Mikhailovna Prostakova will be among the guests and experts of the event.