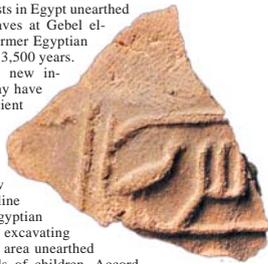


## Art & Culture

### 3,500-year-old child burials discovered at ancient Egyptian work site

A team of archaeologists in Egypt unearthed four ancient child graves at Gebel el-Silsila, the site of a former Egyptian quarry that dates back 3,500 years. The finding provides new insights on what life may have been like at this ancient work site.



Several fascinating discoveries have taken place near Aswan during the past few weeks, as Ahram Online reports. A Swedish-Egyptian archaeological team excavating at the Gebel el-Silsila area unearthed four untouched burials of children. According to Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the four child burials date to the Eighteenth Dynasty, ancient-origins.net reported.

"They consist of a rock-hewn grave for a child between two and three years old. The mummy still retains its linen wrapping and is surrounded with organic material from the remains of the wooden coffin," Waziri told Ahram Online. "The second burial belongs to another child aged between six and nine years old, who was buried inside a wooden coffin, while the third burial is of a child between five and eight. Both of these graves contain funerary furniture, including amulets and a set of pottery."

Maria Nilsson, director of the Swedish mission, believes that the newly discovered child graves could reveal a lot of previously unknown information. "The new burial discoveries are shedding more light on the burial customs used in the Thutmosid period as well as the social, economic and religious life of people during that period," she told Ahram Online. Nilsson noted that the archaeological mission has been very successful during its previous excavation works, as it managed to unearth several burials, even though she acknowledges that the newly discovered burials are of particular cultural and archaeological value.

"More excavations and studies on the site will reveal more about the death rituals conducted during this period," she said.

In the intervening period of time, an Egyptian-Swiss mission working in the ancient town of Aswan, led by Egyptologist Wolfgang Muller, also unearthed a statue of significant historical value – a headless female figure that was also missing her feet and right hand. "The statue is carved from limestone and measures 14cm by 9cm in width, and the thickness of its bust is 3cm, and the lower part is 7cm," said Abdel Moneim Saeed, general director of Aswan and Nubia Antiquities.

An initial investigation on the statue has showed that the dress the woman wears is almost identical to that of Artemis, one of the most widely venerated of the Ancient Greek deities, goddess of the hunt, wild animals, wilderness, childbirth and protector of young girls.

Finally, an Egyptian-Austrian team of researchers working at a hill in Kom Ombo town, also uncovered part of a cemetery dating back to Egypt's First Intermediate Period, almost four millennia ago. Some of the newly discovered mud-brick tombs contained pottery and other funeral items, as the mission's leader Dr. Irene Foster noted.



"The preliminary study revealed that it is mostly built on top of an earlier cemetery. Below the cemetery the mission has uncovered remains of an Old Kingdom town with a ceiling impression of King Sahure from the 5th Dynasty (2,494 to 2,345 BC)".

# IRAN DAILY

» License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 » Managing Director: Sadreddin Mousavi  
 » Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji  
 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88755761-2  
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761869  
 » Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 88521954, +98 21 88748900  
 » ICP: Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 5  
 » Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 8850067- irandaily@iranaghiha.com  
 » Website: http://www.irandailyonline.ir  
 » Email: irandaily@icpi.ir  
 » Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Add: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for the advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

## 2,800-year-old skeleton unearthed in western Iran



The remains of a body, buried in ancient times, was unearthed during construction activities in a neighborhood in Hamadan, said the supervisor of ancient excavations in the western Iranian city.

"The body remains belong to a 10-year-old boy", said Mohammad Sha'bani, adding that they are the oldest body remains so far discovered in the city, IRNA wrote.

Another ancient body remains has also been unearthed in another section of the same construction site at the Imam Khomeini Square which is under examination by the experts, he said.

He said that no historical items were found buried with the body. "Some items have already been unearthed in the area, including a pillar base, belonging most probably to the Seleucid Empire (312 BC to 63 BC), a mill stone, and an oil crock", Sha'bani added.

In the paving process of the Imam Khomeini Square, and Ekbatan Street in Hamadan, two broken earthen coffins, dating back to the Parthian period (247 BC – 224 AD), and some other pottery, belonging to the Median period through the Islamic era, have been also found.

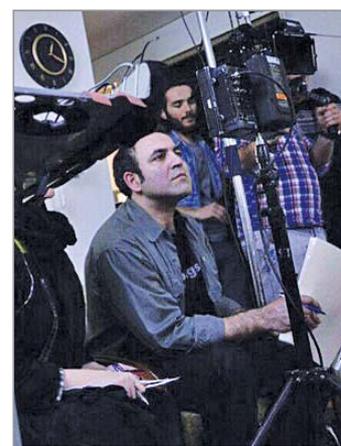
### Iranian director selected for Short Soup jury

Compiled from Dispatches

Iran's cineaste Mohammad-Hassan Shah-Mohammadi was selected as a member of the international jury panel of the 2018 Short Soup Film Festival to convene in Australia.

Shah-Mohammadi received his MA in Information Management in Tehran. He was actively involved in numerous award-winning short films as director, writer and producer as well as a distributor.

He is a member of 'The Iranian Alliance of Motion Picture Guilds'. At Short Soup 2018, Shah-Mohammadi will judge the films together with Italian director Francesca Scalisi as well as Australia's Iqbal Barakat, a director, writer and producer.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

"Notification" is a two-minute short film by Alireza Taheri, will represent Iran at the upcoming international short film festival.

Short Soup will be held on January 28, 2018 at Cathy Freeman Boulevard (Sydney Olympic Park). Iranian Vahid Vahed is on the board of directors of the festival. The festival presents 15 multi-award-winning short films from Australia, Canada, Ecuador, France, Iceland, Poland, Iran, Spain, Ukraine and the USA, competing for the Best Short Film Award in each category. Organized by the Cinewest Association of Australia, the 15th Short Soup International Short Film Festival will have Iranian filmmaker and director, Mohammad Shah-Mohammadi, as a member of its international jury panel. Cinewest was conceived as an association in 1999 under the auspices of Auburn Community Development Network. In 2003 Cinewest became a legal entity as a Company Limited by Guarantee (not-for-profit). Cinewest's board of directors comprise members active in the media, academia, film and the television industry, foreseeing the company's aims and objectives. Since 2004, Cinewest has been partially subsidized by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, to deliver a series of screen culture activities and events as part of its arts and cultural strategies.

### Egypt reopens library holding centuries-old manuscripts

Egypt reopened an ancient library which holds thousands of centuries-old religious and historical manuscripts at the famed St. Catherine Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in South Sinai.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by Egyptian and Western officials, comes after three years of restoration work on the eastern side of the library that houses the world's second largest collection of early codices and manuscripts, outnumbered only by the Vatican Library, according to Monk Damyanos, the monastery's archbishop.

"The library is now open to the public and scholars," said Tony Kazamias, an adviser to the archbishop, adding that restoration work is still underway without specifying a completion date, ancient-origins.net reported.

The ancient library holds around 3,300 manuscripts of mainly Christian texts in Greek, Arabic, Syriac, Georgian, and Slavonic among other languages. It also contains thousands of books and scrolls dating to the 4th century.

At least 160 of the manuscripts include faint scratches and ink tints beneath more recent writing, according to Kazamias, who believes the palimpsests were likely scraped out by the monastery's monks and reused sometime between the 8th to 12th centuries.

During the library's renovation, archaeologists apparently found some of Hippocrates' centuries-old medical recipes. The ancient Greek physician is widely regarded as the "father of Western medicine."

"The most valuable manuscript in the library is the Codex Sinaiticus, (which) dates back to the fourth century," said the Rev. Justin, an American monk working as the monastery's librarian. "This is the most precious manuscript in the world," referring to the ancient, handwritten copy of the New Testament. The library also held some ancient paintings which are currently on display in the monastery's museum.

"There are beautiful paintings in the manuscripts. When you turn the pages there is a flash of gold and colors. It is a living work of art," said Justin.

St. Catherine's, where the monastery is located, is an area revered by followers of the Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Like the Old City of Jerusalem, it has become a popular destination and an attraction not only for pilgrims but also tourists from the world over.

The 6th century monastery, one of the oldest Christian Orthodox ones, is home to a small number of monks who observe prayers and daily rituals unchanged for centuries. Its well-preserved walls and buildings are of great significance to the studies of Byzantine architecture. It's situated at the foot of Mount Sinai, also known as Jebel Musa or Mount Horeb, where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments.



ancient-origins.net

### Weather

16 6 Amol	18 7 Jiroft	16 8 Ramsar	14 1 Shahriar	15 1 Shiraz	13 3 Tehran	14 3 Dushanbe	32 18 Mecca	-1 -5 Saint Petersburg	10 2 Tokyo	3 2 Toronto
--------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	----------------	---------------------------	---------------	----------------