

In Case You Missed

Napoleon-Era Artifacts
Fetch \$1.2m

Letters written by Napoleon Bonaparte and other artifacts from his rule in the 19th century were sold for more than €1 million (\$1.2 million) at auction on Sunday.

A letter from the French emperor to his sister Pauline sold for €14,200 and a comb belonging to his stepdaughter, Princesse Hortense, fetched €20,000, AFP reported.

A fragment from the 120-meter-long painting "Panorama of the Century", showing a portrait of General Lazare Hoche, was sold for €25,000. The whole painting was shown at the 1889 Universal Exhibition in Paris (100 years after the French Revolution) but has since been displayed in museums across the world.

Auctioneer Jean-Pierre Osenat said that more than half of the 237 documents linked to Napoleon, his family and marshals were compulsorily claimed by the French state and national museums.

An inventory of Empress Josephine's diamonds and jewels was claimed by the national museum of chateaux, part of the culture ministry.

Stalin-Era Mass Grave
Discovered

A mass grave with the remains of nearly 500 victims of the Stalin regime has been unearthed in eastern Russia. The grave was discovered during a road construction project.

The find was made on the outskirts of the Pacific Ocean port of Vladivostok. Workers at the site have removed at least 3.5 tons of bones.

Because the skulls had bullet holes, officials believe the people were likely political prisoners who were executed in the 1930s, reported Allheadlinenews.com.

One of the skulls appeared to be that of a child. Money from the 1930s, clothes and personal effects also were found at the site.

Officials are planning a proper burial for the remains after forensic examination.

Historians estimate that millions of people fell victim to reprisals by the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin who ruled Russia from 1924 to 1953.

Babak Khorramdin
A Hero From Azarbaijan

Babak Khorramdin is considered one of the most heroic freedom fighters of Iran who initiated the Khurramite movement. It was a freedom movement aimed at overthrowing the Arab occupiers ruling over Iran.

Babak was born in 8th century in Balalabad region of Azarbaijan province, close to the city of Ardebil. His father died from wounds suffered in a fight during a journey to the Sabalan district when Babak was in his teens. The responsibility of his two brothers and mother fell on his shoulders.

By age 18, Babak was engaged in the arms trade and industry in Tabriz. His engagement in businesses gave him the opportunity to travel throughout Central Asia and Eastern Europe, reported Persiansara.com.

> Unrest Spreads

In 8th century, Iran was under the rule of Arab caliphs. Unrest and resistance were growing in all provinces, as Iranians started revolts to regain their freedom. This in turn forced the Arab rulers to use more violence to keep the country under control.

Since Azarbaijan was strongly resisting Arab occupation, it faced the onslaught of the Arabs.

Witnessing all this pressure being exerted on the people, Babak launched the Khurramite movement from a place that later came to be known as Babak Fortress in the mountains of Karabakh.

Babak's knowledge of history, geography and the latest battle tactics strengthened his position as a potential commander during the early wars against the Arab occupiers.

One of the most dramatic periods in the history of Iran was set under Babak's leadership during 816-837, as

people not only fought against the Arabs, but also for the preservation of Persian language and culture. Babak's followers, who were mostly from Azarbaijan area, used to wear red uniforms.

Babak called Persians to arms, seized castles and key areas, thereby blocking the movement of his enemies.



Gradually, a large multitude joined him. For many years, the persistence of Iranian residence under Babak's leadership yielded many victories for the Iranians, preventing the Arab generals from quelling the popular movement.

> Babak's Campaign

In 835, Al-Motaseem, the Abbasid caliph, placed Afshin, a senior Persian general and a son of the vassal prince of Osrusana, in command of an expedition to destroy his compatriot, Babak.

Afshin faced Babak in battle and inflicted heavy loss-

es, but Babak escaped. The next year, Afshin avoided the traps laid by Babak and managed to capture his camp, driving off his forces and finally storming Babak Fortress in August 837.

Eventually, Babak, his wife, and his warriors were forced to leave Babak Fortress after 23 years of constant campaigns. In 837-838, Al-Motaseem reinforced Afshin and sent a safety guarantee for Babak who became very upset and said: "Better to live for just a single day as a ruler than to live for 40 years as an abject slave." He made his way to the Armenian leader Sahl Sombat, prince of Khachen. Sahl Sombat, however, handed Babak over to Afshin, punishing Babak for devastation that his troops inflicted upon the Armenian lands of Syunik and Artsakh in addition to cashing in on the large reward for the capture of Babak.

During Babak's execution, the caliph's henchmen first cut off his legs and hands in order to spread fear in his followers. Legend has it that Babak bravely wiped his face with the drained blood pouring out of his cuts, thus depriving the caliph and the rest of the Abbasid Army from seeing his pale face (a result of the heavy loss of blood) and attributing it to fear.

Babak took pride in his Persian heritage and made every possible effort to bring Iranians together. His sensational and legendary campaign to defend Iran's national identity and interest is still commemorated after nearly 1,200 years in Azarbaijan province every year on his birth anniversary.

Every year in July, Iranians visit Babak Fortress to hail their Iranian hero, Babak, as the symbol of Iranian resistance against the Arab occupiers. They read poetry, especially from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, play traditional Persian music and light up bonfires in line with the traditional rituals of ancient Iran.

Third Announcement

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Tender No: 89/HE/889



Ports and Maritime Organization

Tender Subject: Purchase, shipping, installation, commissioning and delivery of 2* 1500

KW Diesel Generator Sets for Khorramshahr Port Special Economic Zone

Place and Deadline for Receiving Tender Documents: Via the below website or central P.M.O Secretariat. Deadline until Monday 28/June/2010

Place and Deadline for Submitting Tender Proposal: Director General of Equipment Supply & Maintenance on 5th floor of P.M.O building.

Deadline: 10 a.m. (Tehran local time) on Sunday 01/Aug/2010

Tender envelopes shall be opened at the same location and on the same date mentioned above for submitting tender proposals at 10:30 a.m.

> Tender Deposit: An unconditional bank guarantee extendable for as many times as required to the amount of 33,500 Euro or its equivalent of 452,250,000 Iranian Rials.

> Tender document can be received either at the tender holder's place (P.M.O building)

upon presenting an introduction letter and the original bank receipt of 200,000 Iranian Rials paid to account No. 90160 by Bank Melli Iran, Villa Branch Code 452 or the below website.

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(The above-mentioned fee is not reimbursable.)

> Tender Holder's Address: Ports and Maritime Organization - South Didar St. - Haghani Highway - Vanak Sq. - Tehran - Iran
Fax: +9821-88651066

Email: Technical@pmo.ir

> The Q&A session for this tender will be held at 10 a.m. (Tehran local time) Monday 28/June/2010 on 5th floor of P.M.O building

Attendance of all bidder companies (or their informed technical and commercial representatives), which have received tender documents and are willing to propose their tender offer in the said session is obligatory.

> The bidders must observe the related law for using the maximum local technical, engineering, manufacturing, industrial and administrative capabilities.

For further information, please refer to our website

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UNDP Deal to Save Persian Cheetah

Iran's Department of Environment and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed a memorandum of understanding to expand cooperation on saving the Persian cheetah.

The agreement is part of the second phase of a domestic program dubbed "Protection of Persian Cheetahs", which was launched 9 years ago.

UNDP's coordinator, Consuelo Vidal, said the second phase of the project will last four years.

He said \$4 million have been allocated to the project, of which \$1 million will be provided by UNDP and the rest by Iran.

Vidal praised Iran's role in saving the environment, describing it as one of the most important countries in the world that cares for the nature.

one of the project's goals.

On the number of cheetahs, Jourabchian said that before the project only 10-15 of them were confirmed across the country.

"Currently, there are 70-120 of them living in the protected zones," he said, hoping that their population will increase after the implementation of the second phase.

On the future goals of the project, Jourabchian explained that focusing more on environmental issues, improving the condition of habitats, educating local people and using public participation are among the projects' goal for the second phase.

"Many international bodies are now supporting the project, including IUCN," he said.

Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh, the head of Depart-



Alireza Jourabchian, the head of the project, told IRNA that effective steps were taken in the first phase.

"The first phase of the project was very successful in saving the Persian cheetahs from extinction," he said.

Jourabchian noted that the second phase of the project demand greater efforts with the project's team feeling a heavier responsibility.

"The project of protecting Persian cheetah began 9 years ago in cooperation with the UNDP and during this period the number of environmental rangers have been doubled in the habitats of Persian cheetahs," he said, adding that their habitat have also increased.

"The cheetah's habitat has increased from 3,000,800 hectares to 6,000,300 hectares," he said.

The official noted that facilities and equipments projected in the project have been increased by 150 percent.

"Twenty-eight years before the launch of the project, there was neither any sighting nor any picture from Persian cheetah in Iran. But when the project began, 200 photographs of the animal have been submitted to the department," he said.

The head of the project said the first NGO for educating local people about the animal and its habits was launched as

ment of Environment, also described the project as one of the most successful ones in the world.

"We can apply the experiences of the project in saving other animal species, particularly those in danger of extinction," he said.

The official said the Persian cheetah's habitats have increased from 5 to 10 as a result of the project.

"Currently, more than 80 percent of local people living near the habitats of the animal are acquiring needed education," he said.

Mohammadzadeh said that what we once knew as Asiatic cheetah is totally extinct and what has remained is the Persian cheetah, stressing that the animal exists only in Iran.

"Raising the animal in captivity was much easier for experts, but we preferred to raise them in nature till they can develop their natural characteristics and learn to survive in the wild," he said.

Mohammadzadeh announced Iran's readiness to help Middle Eastern countries and those that lack the know-how for saving endangered animals.

"Iran is ready to transfer its knowledge of saving at risk animals to all countries in the world," he said.