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**IRAN OFFERS TO HELP IRAQ RECONSTRUCT DAMAGED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MASTERPIECE**

- 27.01.2021

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Al Monitor (26 January 2021)

Adnan Abu Zeed

Iran's minister of cultural heritage, Ali Asghar Mounesan, said Iranian archaeologists are ready to help rebuild the ancient Taq Kasra arch following the collapse of a section of it. He said, The problems Iraq has been going through are impeding the protection of artifacts and historical monuments. He added, We are looking forward to paving the way for Iran to help restore Taq Kasra and save this historic building from collapse.

The Taq Kasra was built from between the third and sixth centuries and was in use during the reign of Persian King Khosrow I in the capital, Ctesiphon, or al-Madaein in Arabic. Also known as the Arch of Ctesiphon, the pre-Islamic structure is said to be the largest single-span, unreinforced brick vault arch in the world. The arch is 37 meters (121 feet) high and 26 meters wide (85 feet).

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