

# Hur al-Azim wetland might dry up completely: *Official*

## Social Desk

The deputy of the natural environment of the Khuzestan Department of the Environment, Adel Mola, pointed out the potential drying up of the Hur al-Azim wetland, a critical ecosystem in the southwestern province.

Mola revealed that the lagoon currently holds only about 40 percent of its water capacity. The combination of high air temperatures and increased evaporation rates threatens to further deplete the lagoon's water levels, according to ISNA.

"For several years, the water rights of Hur al-Azim have been largely ignored, except during floods, or they have been significantly less than the amount allocated for the wetland," Mola said.

Despite recent water releases, the official expressed concern that the water is not reaching the environment. He cited uncontrolled water harvesting upstream for agriculture as a major issue, and called for stricter regulation of farmers and agricultural lands upstream. Mola also criticized the reporting of water inflow into the lagoon, arguing that the figures do not accurately reflect the reality. He pointed out that the water entering the wetland is largely the result of upstream paddy fields or water lost from farmers.



● IRNA



● ISNA



"One, two or three cubic meters of water is not sufficient for the lagoon. The lagoon needs a strong wave of water to be revived to some extent," he said.

He also highlighted the ongoing legal efforts to secure the water rights of the lagoon, but warned that the process is time-consuming and has not yet yielded any preventative measures to

avert the crisis.

"In the first quarter of this year, only 0.4 percent of the water rights of the Hur al-Azim wetland reached it. In this critical situation, at least 20 to 30 percent of the water rights of the Hur al-Azim wetland should have been delivered," Mola stated.

The deputy warned that the current condition of the lagoon is critical, with the decreasing water level

posing a serious risk of fires and fish deaths. He suggested that local fishermen might be allowed to catch the remaining fish to prevent a total loss due to dehydration.

Mola also raised concerns about the potential for the wetland to dry up completely, which could lead to the land becoming a dust center, encroachment and occupation of the dry parts of the wetland, fire,

air pollution, and other dangers to the living.

In the face of these challenges, Mola emphasized the need for continuous monitoring to prevent the occupation of the wetland lands.

"This work is being done, but if the process is prolonged, there will definitely be people who want to occupy the lands," he concluded.

## Extreme heat is killing Italian workers



● SHUTTERSTOCK

Stefano Olmastroni, a cleaner, had been tidying shelves in a supermarket selling farm produce in Florence shortly before he died on 13 July, when Italy was in the midst of an anticyclone called Cerberus that pushed temperatures beyond 40C.

Earlier in the day, the 61-year-old told relatives that he was struggling to work in the heat and was feeling sluggish. He was looking forward to resting on his day off the day after, The Guardian reported.

Olmastroni, who had heart problems, finished his shift at 3 p.m. and was later found slumped in the changing room.

"When they found him, the temperature in the changing room was 39C," said his niece, Sara Ndero Olmastroni.

"He died before they could take him to the hospital." Her uncle had been working in the supermarket's greenhouse area, where there was no air-conditioning.

"The temperature was really high and he was a person who had heart problems – a heart attack could have happened at any time but for sure, the heat didn't help," she added. "It was a horrible way to die – at work, and alone."

Olmastroni is one of five people in Italy whose death over the past week is believed to have been provoked by the extreme heat as a more intense anticyclone, Caronte, broke a temperature record in Rome and nudged the mercury to almost 47C in Sicily. The true death toll is likely to be far greater.

All, apart from a 44-year-old road worker who died after collapsing while preparing fresh markings on a street in Milan and whose family is still awaiting the results of an autopsy, had heart-related health issues.

They include *Ciro Adinolfi*, 75, originally from Afragola near Naples, who died in front of his son, also a labourer, while operating a crane on the construction site of an Amazon warehouse in Jesi, in the central Marche region, and *Gabriele Lucido*, 64, from Salerno in the south, who was found dead in his lodgings after finishing his shift at a construction site in Brescia for TAV, the Italy-France high speed rail project.

## 'My whole being is drenched in love of Ahl al-Bayt'



By Mahdieh Qazvinian  
Staff writer

In ta'zieh, the clothes of the enemies of Imam Hossein, such as Shemr and Yazid, must be of suitable colors. Specifically, their qaba, waist shawl, trousers, and the brim of their helmet should be red. Green, white, brown, yellow, blue, and black colors are used for the qaba, trousers, and waist shawls of Imam Hossein and Hazrat-e Ali Akbar, while Hazrat-e Qasem's clothes are either green or blue. Hazrat-e Zeinab's and the children wear white or blue. In ta'zieh, Imam Hossein and his family

always don a qaba on their bodies, a robe on their shoulders, and a turban.

Abbas Nikfallah, a 42-year-old ta'zieh artist with 15 years of experience, strangely, has never been exposed to a ta'zieh in his childhood. Now a renowned performer, he recalls, "I was first introduced to ta'zieh through a friend from Talian."

He remembers that the first ta'zieh he saw moved him a lot.

"On the day of Tasu'a in Baraghan's main hosseiniyeh, I watched the ta'zieh of the martyrdom of Hazrat-e Abbas, and the conversation between Shemr and Hazrat-e Abbas had a profound impact on me. It was then that I visualized myself reciting ta'zieh to a large crowd mourning Imam Hossein."

Nikfallah's performances are not just about the art, but also about the messages they convey. He believes that ta'zieh is ripe with messages, with some being obvious and others hid-

den, only to be understood through the performance. "These messages often revolve around love, unity, and the cohesion of family and social relationships," he explains.

When asked about the impact of ta'zieh on his personal life, Nikfallah responds, "Ta'zieh has a direct effect on my behavior and all recitations. This art is religious and heavenly, it comes from the heart of Islam, and so the reciter is always careful about his behavior and actions."

Nikfallah's talent has taken him beyond Iran's borders, with performances in Armenia's Blue Mosque of Yerevan and Sundukyan State Academic Theatre. He recalls the charm of the trip, noting how the audience was initially drawn to the theatrical aspect of ta'zieh, but after understanding the process, they were deeply moved.

In light of the global recognition, Nikfallah emphasizes the importance of preserving Iranian rituals and



traditions, particularly the art of ta'zieh.

"During the Qajar era, ta'zieh performances were held every day in the famous hosseiniyeh of Tehran. This art was brought to life in the best way possible during that period," he says, adding after a pause, "Unfortunately, many people view this art from in light of its sadness, while it can cover a wide range of emotions in different subjects."

Nikfallah's passion for ta'zieh is deeply rooted in his love for Ahl al-Bayt.

"The friendship and love of Ahl al-Bayt is mixed with my mother's milk in my being. When I love Imam Hussain, my words will influence the hearts of the friends of Ahl al-Bayt, attracting a noble audience and lovers of them."

As for the future, Nikfallah has a wish for the world of art.

"I wish ta'zieh, with its artistic, religious and ritual scope, could become a university majors so that lovers of this art can learn it in an academic way."