

Southern Kerman in need of comprehensive cultural heritage planning

Social Desk

The southern region of Kerman Province is resounding with voices of discontent as critics lament the perceived neglect of its rich cultural heritage. Despite boasting a remarkable historical and cultural legacy, this area has allegedly received inadequate attention from Ministry of Cultural Heritage officials.

In response, these officials argue that the area's resources are relatively limited and maintain that they have strived to achieve a balanced provision of services throughout southern Kerman, according to IRNA.

Kerman Province spans vast expanses and encompasses eight world-renowned monuments, over 700 national landmarks, and countless historical and natural attractions. Many of these treasures are concentrated in the southern regions, each holding significant value in their own right while contributing to the broader tapestry of human civilization.

Notably, Jiroft stands out as an epicenter for ancient civilizations dating back several millennia. The Halil River Civilization found in Jiroft has yielded numerous artifacts that shed light on West Asian history and open new horizons for archaeological exploration.

Amongst the prominent tourist sites within southern regions of Kerman Province are the historic cities of Daqyanoos and Jiroft, historically significant structures

like the Jiroft Mosque, ancient hills of Konar Sandal village, Manujan and Kahnuj castles and Delfard and Faryab waterfalls.

Despite its rich climatic, geographical, and cultural background, the southern regions of Kerman struggle with negligence by authorities responsible for preserving its cultural heritage. Concerns have been raised regarding neglected sites such as Konar Sandal hills in Jiroft which reportedly suffered from insufficient post-excavation care resulting in potential destruction.

Jiroft Governor Ahmad Bolandnazar has recently expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage lack of sufficient attention to the region during a recent meeting with the provincial director of the Ministry. He emphasized that the cultural heritage of Jiroft was limited to mere representation, lacking a clear administrative structure and mechanism.

He further added that no significant events related to cultural heritage had taken place in the city for years, acknowledging people's valid complaints regarding their performance in this domain. Urgent restoration is needed for historical sites such as Konar Sandal hills and the old city of Jiroft to prevent further degradation.

Other officials, media outlets, and cultural activists have also voiced concerns about the exclusion of southern Kerman from the travel plans of the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handi-



IRNA

crafts during his visits to Kerman province over recent years.

Zabihollah Azami, representative of Jiroft and Anbarabad in the parliament, proclaimed his unawareness regarding the visit of the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage. He particularly highlighted the slow progress in constructing the Jiroft Museum due to lack of funding, arguing that the minister should shoulder responsibility for addressing this issue promptly.

However, the Director General of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Kerman Province addressed concerns regarding the lack of attention given to the cultural heritage area in southern regions

of Kerman. He emphasized the need for a balanced approach in providing services related to cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts across both the north and south regions of the province. The official stated that they have developed promising projects for investment in tourism specifically targeted towards enhancing development in southern Kerman. Fereidoun Af'aali further revealed that around \$1 million had been allocated recently for Kerman Province. Out of this allocation, half were designated for a project located in southern Kerman.

He also mentioned that there was a necessity to review and phase

out the construction project of Jiroft Museum after several years of suspension. This review has already taken place, resulting in an additional allocation of \$700 thousand during a recent visit by Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage to Kerman province. It was deemed as one among country's priority museums. Af'aali then stated that efforts have been made to revive and activate Jiroft Museum's restoration workshop. As per current expectations, completion of the first phase of the construction is anticipated within three years' time.



Young man's death breathes new life into five people



Mahdiah
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Hospital workers and medical professionals never forget some instances of brain death in Firouzabadi hospital in Shahr-e Rey.

One such instance occurred when Meisam Aqaie, a 35-year-old father of one and husband passed away in the aftermath of having a brain seizure.

Hundreds of people gathered in the hospital courtyard to honor Meisam by throwing flowers on the ambulance, all the while reciting soulful poems.

Meisam used to visit his mother every day, and was the best hus-

band for his loving wife Najibeh and the kindest of fathers for Mahiaz.

Meisam got home from work on June 26, 2023, feeling nauseous and having a severe headache. He let his wife know that he did not feel well so they headed to the doctor's office in Shahr-e Rey. The doctor advised Meisam to go to the closest hospital after noticing that he was in an extreme condition.

Meisam and his wife Najibeh were sitting in the back seat of the taxi, and their 5-year-old daughter, Mahiaz sat in the front seat next to the driver. The young man called his daughter in a shaky voice.

"My sweetest daughter..." and caught his daughter's hand and

said his last goodbye to the apple of his eyes. Mahiaz did not know that this is her last meeting with her father.

Zohreh Mobbasheri, Meisam's mother, says, "It's hard to see your son's life hangs by a thread."

"It was around 7:00 p.m. when I reached Meisam in hospital. His eyes were wide open, and I held his hand. He said to me, 'Mom, I'm dying... take care of my daughter.' As soon as he said these words he went into a coma."

Meisam was the eldest son of his family, and his brother was his closest friend. As a child, he used to be playfully charming, and his best personality trait was his abounding respect towards his parents and the elders. He was a forgiving soul, without any extravagant pride. After Meisam's eyes were closed in the emergency room, he was taken to the intensive care unit. He was kept there until July 1, 2023. During these five days, his mother and wife hardly ever left his side, visiting him in the ICU as often as they could.

"I used to go to Meisam, taking his hand, asking him to get up. I told him that you are a strong boy and you should return home with me. I recorded Mahiaz's

voice and kept playing it for him, wishing he would open his eyes and start speaking," Zohreh said, with a hint of tragedy in her voice.

After five days in the ICU, the medical staff of the hospital held a meeting with Meisam's family. In light of his consciousness level, they asked them to donate his organs.

Upon hearing the request, his mother left the room, because she could not stand the thought of her son never returning home. But she gradually came around, and on the morning of July 2, 2023, Zohreh signed the donation form, kissing his son goodbye. Meisam's heart, liver, kidneys, lungs and intestines were donated to five needy patients.

Meisam's loss is a wound so deep for the Aqaie family - one that even time could hardly heal; yet, donating his organs was an act of grace that brought them some peace of mind. Aqaie family believed that all these events were arranged in a way that Meisam would have the proper ending that such a life deserves. Now, they have accepted his death as destiny, seeking comfort in the fact that his death has not been in vain. Zohreh has kept some of his

shirts and whenever she feels grief-stricken and lonely, she picks one up smell it to - perhaps partially - mend her broken heart.

Now Aqaie family knows that their son's heart beats to keep a 17-year-old girl alive, and the knowledge helps them cope with their son's passing with more ease.

Meisam is far from dead. As long as his organs keep others alive, his memory will never fade.



IRAN DAILY

Amazon nations fail to agree on deforestation goal at summit



REUTERS

Eight Amazon nations agreed to a list of unified environmental policies and measures to bolster regional cooperation at a major rainforest summit in Brazil on Tuesday, but failed to agree on a common goal for ending deforestation.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has staked his international reputation on improving Brazil's environmental standing, had been pushing for the region to unite behind a common policy of ending deforestation by 2030 - one he has already adopted, according to Reuters.

Instead, the joint declaration issued on Tuesday in the Brazilian city of Belem created an alliance for combating forest destruction, with countries left to pursue their own individual deforestation goals.

The failure of the eight Amazon countries to agree on a pact to protect their own forests points to the larger, global difficulties of forging an agreement to combat climate change. Many scientists say policymakers are acting too slowly to head off catastrophic global warming.

"The planet is melting; we are breaking temperature records every day. It is not possible that, in a scenario like this, eight Amazonian countries are unable to put in a statement - in large letters - that deforestation needs to be zero," said Marcio Astrini of environmental lobby group Climate Observatory.

Lula and other national leaders left Tuesday's meeting without commenting on the declaration. Presidents from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru attended the summit, while Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela sent other top officials.

Bolivia and Venezuela are the only Amazon countries not to sign onto a 2021 agreement among more than 100 countries to work toward halting deforestation by 2030. A Brazilian government source said in the lead up to the summit that Bolivia, where forest destruction is surging, is a hold-out on the issue.

Bolivian President Luis Arce did not address the 2030 commitment in his speech on Tuesday.

Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said in a press briefing that the issue of deforestation "in no way whatsoever will divide the region" and cited "an understanding about deforestation" in the declaration, without elaborating.