

# Rangooniha Mosque; unique structure with extraordinary architecture

## Iranica Desk

Oil, refinery, and people brought prosperity to Abadan in Khuzestan Province. The city hosts a number of unique attractions one of which is a mosque with unusual architecture called Rangooniha Mosque, built by Muslim immigrants from Rangoon of India, now called Yangon. Thanks to its eye-catching and exceptional decorations, it is often considered as a destination for tourists travelling to Khuzestan Province, especially those from India.

The story of this mosque began when the first English group arrived in Abadan to establish a refinery. They were employees of the Rangoon Refinery in Burma (Myanmar). This group brought a number of assistants to Abadan, who were mainly of Rangooni origin and Sunni



Muslims. Therefore, after their arrival, they set out to establish a mosque on the banks of the Arvand River in the late Qajar period, around 1912 CE, according to Mehr News Agency. Upon seeing the mosque, every

visitor, instinctively remember the mosques and temples of India, particularly those located in the northwest of the country and the city of Punjab. The decorations of the building bear a strong resemblance to intricate plaster-



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work, although it is actually done with cement. It is said that some of the building materials used in this mosque, such as dyes, were brought from India to Iran. The mosque remained undamaged during the Iran-Iraq War.

The main prayer hall of the mosque, square-shaped on one floor and with an area of 150 square meters, was built using oil transmission pipes and railway tracks for the main and secondary beams. The walls of the

mosque are made of bricks, and mortar made of sand and lime has been used. Four eight-sided minarets are located in the four corners of the building, and they are completely hollow-built with bricks and mortar made of sand and lime. The historical and valuable Rangooniha Mosque has been registered on the National Heritage List.

Visiting the Rangooniha Mosque is not permitted throughout the entire year; its doors are only open to the public during specific times. It is advisable to contact the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Abadan to confirm the mosque's operating hours before planning your visit. Historical relics are vital parts of our heritage. It is essential to appreciate these treasures and to avoid causing any damage to them.

## Tir Gorge serving as beckoning destination for sightseeing, fishing

## Iranica Desk

About 50-kilometer from the city of Tohid, Ilam Province, amid the picturesque Zardalan region of Holeyam town, the breathtaking and captivating Tir Gorge is situated.

Farzad Sharifi, the Director General of Ilam Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization told

ISNA that the gorge overlooking Seymareh River serves as a shortcut, connecting the tropical section of Zardalan to its colder part.

Tir Gorge has a pristine and dreamy nature, with a breathtaking landscape. The Seymareh River flows through it, and on either side stand mountains like iron walls, adding to a beautiful touch to

the region.

The tall and very beautiful cliffs on both sides of the gorge, with oak forest, rare bird species that fly and sing in the area, nesting among the mountain rocks, and the beautiful road overlooking the Seymareh River, are among breathtaking landscapes of the region. Tir Gorge is a very attractive destination for sightseeing, fish-

ing and recreation in the region.

Ilam Province, located in western Iran along the Zagros Mountain, is renowned for its rich and diverse natural landscapes. The province is home to dense oak forests, dramatic mountain chains such as Kabirkuh, and numerous springs, rivers, and waterfalls that create a unique ecological environment.

In addition, Ilam's varied climate and unspoiled landscapes make it a suitable destination for eco-tourism, hiking, and nature-based travel. The ongoing registration of natural sites as national heritage not only contributes to their long-term protection but also helps introduce Ilam Province as a significant natural tourism destination in Iran.



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## Iranian clubs to host Asian games in neutral venues



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## Sports Desk

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has ordered Iranian clubs Tractor, Sepahan, and Esteghlal to play their upcoming home games at the Asian competitions in neutral venues.

The continental governing body's decision has been driven by the escalating regional tensions and recent unrest in the country.

Iranian top-flight champion Tractor will face Qatar's Al Sadd in its penultimate outing in the league stage of

the AFC Champions League Elite on February 10.

Dragan Skocic's side sits second in the West Zone's 12-team table with 14 points – four behind Saudi heavyweight Al Hilal – and has already secured qualification for the round of 16 of Asia's top-tier club competition with two matches to spare in the league phase.

Sepahan and Esteghlal, meanwhile, have advanced to the knockout stage of the AFC Champions League Two after finishing runner-up in their respective groups.

Esteghlal, which claimed a comprehensive 3-0 away victory over Bahrain's Al Muharraq in a must-win clash in December to finish behind the UAE's Al Wasl in Group A, will play Jordan's Al Hussein in the first leg of their last-16 tie on February 10 – a day before Sepahan goes head-to-head with Qatari club Al Ahli.

The Persian Gulf Pro League trio are expected to host their opponents in the United Arab Emirates, according to reports in the Iranian media.

## Taremi on Forest radar: Report

### Sports Desk



Mahdi Taremi could leave Olympiacos to join English Premier League club Nottingham Forest FC during the January transfer window, Iranian sports news website Varzesh3 wrote, citing reports by The Athletic and Four Four Two. The Iranian international striker, who joined the Greek top-flight heavyweight from Inter in the summer, has been in flying form this season, scoring 13 goals, while registering three assists, in 22 games across all competitions for The Legend. Taremi, 33, is second in the Greek Super League's lead-

ing marksmen chart with eight strikes – four adrift of his Moroccan teammate Ayoub El Kaabi. Forest sits 17th in the English top-flight table with 21 points, seven clear of the relegation zone. Only bottom-club Wolverhampton has scored fewer goals (15) than Forest, which has managed to bag 21 strikes in as many games this season. Forest's prolific striker Chris Wood is set to be sidelined for a lengthy spell after undergoing surgery recently and is not expected to return to action before the closing stages of the campaign.

## WTT Youth Contender: Iran's Shirvani claims runner-up trophy

### Sports Desk

Iranian table tennis prodigy Nikan Shirvani settled for runner-up finish at the WTT Youth Contender event in Manama, Bahrain.

The Iranian boy fell to a 3-2 loss to his Russian opponent in the under-13 singles final on Thursday to collect his first trophy of the new international season. Shirvani enjoyed an impressive run of results at the annual event last season. The Iranian claimed the

under-11 title in Tunis last January, thanks to a final victory over Andya Mohammad of Iraq, and then repeated the success in April, defeating Moldovan Nicolae Bucur in straight games in the final. Shirvani also bagged a third-place trophy on his return to the Tunisian capital in October, courtesy of a last-four setback in a five-game thriller against Russian Matvey Manankov, who competed as a neutral athlete, in the under-13 age class.



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