

# Fars Province deploys Blue Shield to protect heritage sites

## Iranica Desk

Extensive protective operations, including the evacuation of museum artifacts to secure vaults and the installation of the international "Blue Shield" emblem at key sites and museums, are currently being implemented in Fars Province in accordance with wartime emergency protocols, deputy head of the provincial Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization said.

Sadeq Zare', emphasizing that cultural heritage is a trust to be guarded in peace and shielded in crisis, stat-

ed, "War is a destructive and unwanted phenomenon; however, we are duty-bound to remain at the highest state of readiness to protect a nation's collective memory manifested in its historical monuments. Accordingly, emergency guidelines to counter increasing risks against historical structures have been prioritized in line with the 1954 Hague Convention," according to chn.ir.

Highlighting the vital role of the International Committee of the Blue Shield as a UNESCO advisory body, Zare' added, "This organization, formed by a coal-

ition of prestigious entities such as ICOM and ICOMOS, performs the same role for culture that the Red Cross does for human life. In this regard, the installation of Blue Shield emblems at the entrances and rooftops of the province's prominent sites and major museums has been carried out as the primary protective measure."

Detailing the plan, Zare' explained that the first phase covers world heritage sites and major provincial museums of Fars Province. In the second phase, high-traffic national monuments and sites at greater risk will be

secured.

He further announced a strategic measure, noting: "To prevent any potential damage, valuable historical artifacts have been evacuated from museum galleries and transferred to secure repositories. Additionally, a precise documentation process of the current state of buildings has been completed to ensure necessary records are available for any potential reconstruction or legal follow-up."

Reassuring cultural heritage advocates, Zare' stressed, "While we seek lasting peace for Iran and the world, the guardians of cultural heri-



chn.ir

tage, relying on the principles of prevention, prepared-

ness, and inter-institutional cooperation, will not allow

the flames of war to mar the identity of this land."

# Discover Jiroft where civilization meets scenic beauty



Konar Sandal Hills  
chn.ir

## Iranica Desk

Spring in southeastern Iran comes alive in Jiroft, a city in Kerman Province where nature, history, and culture converge to create a landscape of extraordinary beauty and heritage. Here, spring is not merely a season, but a living narrative of centuries-old civilization, vibrant traditions, and hidden natural treasures. Jiroft can be described as a land of harmonious contrasts — where water, mountains, valleys, and history come together to form a captivating and rare panorama.

Dalfard Waterfall, with its

cool climate and pristine surroundings, is one of the region's most prominent natural attractions. Along this route lies a valley known as the "Mediterranean Valley," distinguished by its four-season characteristics and offering visitors a unique vista of greenery and tranquility.

The mountainous and historic district of Esfandaqeh, a true gem of the region, features attractions such as the Tomb of Mir Heydar, the historic Esfandaqeh Castle, and unspoiled mountain landscapes. These qualities make it an appealing destination for enthusiasts of cultural

tourism and nature exploration.

Jiroft is recognized as the cradle of one of the world's oldest civilizations, with a history spanning several millennia. A vivid reflection of this legacy can be seen at the Jiroft Archaeological Museum, whose valuable artifacts narrate the story of a civilization that has placed Jiroft prominently on the map of world history.

The scenic Jebalbarez Road, with its striking mountainous views, is considered one of the most delightful access routes to the city. Nearby, the Mohammadabad Maskun Forest

Park provides a welcoming setting for family recreation and relaxation.

The Esmaili District, through which the Jiroft-Boluk communication axis passes, plays an important connective role. In addition, its extensive greenhouses and lush farmlands stand as a clear symbol of the region's dynamic and modern agricultural sector.

Alongside these capacities, historical sites such as the Konar Sandal Hills, the mosque of the old city of Jiroft, and the remains of the ancient settlement vividly showcase the deep historical identity of this land.

# Tractor in limbo over ACL Elite remainder

## Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Tractor is awaiting the Asian Football Confederation's decision regarding the remainder of the two continental club competitions.

All knockout fixtures in the West Zone were called off by the Asian governing body last week, following the U.S.-Israeli airstrikes on Iranian soil.

On the first day of the attacks, February 28, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several top Iranian military commanders were martyred in Tehran. Iran responded with widespread missile and drone attacks against Israel and U.S. bases in the region.

Tractor was scheduled to take on Emirati club Shabab Al Ahli in Dubai

last Monday, in the first leg of the Round of 16 in the AFC Champions League Elite.

Tractor won five and lost one of its eight matches to finish third in the West Zone league table with 17 points.

Recent reports have suggested that Asia's top-tier club tournament might resume with the two-legged ties in the West on April 4 and 21, though the AFC is reportedly considering a single-leg format for the four West Zone fixtures — all to be played in Saudi Arabia — in the final week of April.

The bigger issue for Tractor, however, is that the team's domestic matches and training sessions have been suspended, and all foreign players in the squad have left Iran amid the ongoing conflict in the region.



AFC

# Paralympic medalist denounces strikes on Iran's sports facilities

## Sports Desk

Iranian Paralympic silver medalist Zahra Rahimi condemned the attacks carried out by the United States and the Israeli regime against her country's sports venues and infrastructure, describing them as "a blatant violation of international law and a clear act of hostility toward defenseless people — especially the athletes, children, and youth of this nation."

Rahimi, who at just 16 years old became Iran's youngest medalist in Paralympic history by winning a taekwondo silver at Paris 2024, said, "The martyrdom of the innocent athletes and students in Minab has broken our hearts. They were the future assets of our country, and their loss



paralympic.ir

has left a deep scar on the hearts of the Iranian people. The sporting community

shares in the grief of their families." She continued, "The sports

community stands firmly with the people and believes that defending the dignity and security of our country is Iran's legitimate right. Today, more than ever, we need to preserve national unity, empathy, and solidarity."

The national para-taekwondo team member concluded, "With a heart full of pain and sorrow, I extend my deepest condolences to the people of Iran, particularly to the bereaved families. I pray to Almighty God to grant patience and peace to the survivors and the highest rank in paradise to the dear martyrs."

Several sports venues and facilities, including Tehran's iconic Azadi Indoor Hall, have been utterly demolished by the U.S.-Israeli airstrikes in recent days.

# Choopan stands third in Arnold Classic

## Sports Desk

Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan settled for a third-place finish at the high-profile Arnold Classic event on Saturday.

With both Derek Lansford and Samson Dauda absent in the showpiece in Ohio, the Persian Wolf was the hot favorite to repeat his 2024 success but missed out on the ultimate

prize at a major event for a second time in five months, having finished runner-up at the Mr. Olympia 2025 last October.

Andrew Jack won the title on Saturday with Nick Walker in the runner-up spot.

American website Generation Iron reported that the Iranian is considering retirement from professional sport after the latest setback.

