

Minab school to get national heritage status

Iranica Desk

The Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Minab, Hormozgan Province, is set to be registered on Iran's National Heritage List as a "Sacred Defense Site-Event," announced the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Ali Darabi added that the complex will be transformed into a student martyrs memorial site-museum to honor the memory of the martyred students.

According to IRNA, Darabi emphasized the historical and symbolic significance of the school, stating,

"The Shajareh Tayyebeh School will be registered as a historical document and a clear testament to war crimes against defenseless people."

Highlighting the importance of registering sites that narrate pivotal events in Iran's contemporary history, he added, "The registration of this school is a step toward safeguarding the historical memory of the Iranian nation and conveying the truth of the imposed war's events to future generations."

Darabi also announced a formal proposal to the Ministry of Education and the Foundation for the Preservation of Relics and Values of



Holy Defense. "We have expressed our readiness to not only register this school as a historical document

but also to facilitate its conversion into a 'Student Martyrs Memorial Site-Museum' — a cultural and

educational space that can recount the innocence of the students and the depth of the tragedy that occurred here," he noted.

Reflecting on the human and cultural dimensions of the incident, he emphasized, "What happened at the Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab is a shocking example of a flagrant violation of human principles and international rules during wartime."

He further noted, "The registration and introduction of this historical site, beyond honoring the martyred students, is an effort to document and accurately narrate this tragedy for the global public. It allows the

aware and responsible international community to understand how innocent students fell victim to one of the most brutal manifestations of war violence."

"Safeguarding such sites is not only part of the national duty to preserve the country's historical heritage but also a cultural and civilizational responsibility to record the truth and pass it on to future generations," he noted.

The Shajareh Tayyebeh School was targeted on the first day of the US-Israel conflict against Iran, resulting in the martyrdom of 168 schoolgirls and the injury of several others.

Urgent mission to save Iran's collective historical treasures

Iranica Desk

To understand the anxiety of heritage guardians, one must possess a heart that quickens at the sight of stone plinths, magnificent muqarnas, and the turquoise tilework of ancient monuments. One must pause before intricate stucco, dazzling mirror-work, and the dance of light through stained-glass Orsi windows to truly grasp the depth of devotion to ancestral legacy — a heritage that forms the core of a nation's identity and historical memory.

Yet today, as the shadow of the US-Zionist imposed war looms over the region and the face of cities begins to wither, concern for the fate of historical buildings, sites, and urban fabrics is felt more acutely than ever. War, a brutal phenomenon indifferent to cultural values, has always posed a grave threat to historical monuments — treasures that belong not just

to one nation, but to the collective heritage of humanity, chn.ir wrote. Iran's history, however, proves that this land has endured countless crises, wars, and upheavals, yet its civilizational legacy remains standing. From historical invasions to socio-political transformations, many of Iran's most precious works have weathered the storms of time. But this historical resilience does not diminish the current fears of the country's heritage custodians.

Recent days have brought reports of damage to several of Iran's landmarks. Foremost among these is the damage to parts of the Golestan Palace, the capital's only UNESCO World Heritage site, which suffered losses following an airstrike on the Arg Square. Subsequent reports detailed damage to other historical structures in Tehran, including the old Parliament building (Senate Building), the Old Gendarmerie Building,

and several other protected sites. In the historic city of Isfahan, damage has been reported to sections of Abbasi Jaame Mosque in Imam Square, as well as the Chehel Sotoun Palace Museum and the Safavid State Quarter (Doulatkhaneh) — each representing a pillar of Iran's architectural and artistic identity. Furthermore, in Khorramabad, reports indicate strikes near the perimeter of Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, resulting in damage to the structures and surrounding areas of this iconic symbol of western Iran. In response to these events, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has dispatched official letters to UNESCO, calling for the international community's urgent intervention to safeguard Iran's civilizational heritage. These letters emphasize that international bodies must send a clear message of their commitment to protecting shared human heritage during crises — a vital step to

prevent an irreparable catastrophe for global culture and history.

Simultaneously, the official UNESCO website released a report recently expressing concern over the protection of education, culture, media, and the environment amid escalating conflicts in the Middle East. UNESCO has shared the geographical coordinates of all World Heritage sites, national tentative lists, and specially protected

zones with the conflicting parties to prevent further damage.

Alongside these diplomatic efforts, the installation of the Blue Shield has been prioritized. According to officials, this emblem has already been placed on 114 historical monuments across 29 World Heritage files in Iran.

However, a critical question remains among experts and the public: Can this international em-

blem truly protect Iran's treasures from the ravages of war? The answer thus far is somber; despite the "Blue Shield," sites like Abbasi Jaame Mosque, Chehel Sotoun, and the Falak-ol-Aflak perimeter have not remained immune to harm.

Heritage experts believe that safeguarding Iran's civilizational legacy in these critical times requires more than just symbols; it demands serious action from international institutions. These monuments are not merely part of the Iranian identity — they are the cultural memory of all humanity. In such circumstances, it is expected that UNESCO and other responsible global organizations place the safeguarding of Iran's civilizational heritage — as an integral part of our shared human legacy — at the top of their agenda. Such decisive action could prevent a nation's historical memory from suffering irreparable scars in the fires of war.



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Qalenoee hits back at Trump over Team Melli's safety at World Cup



IRNA

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoee said "no one has the authority" to leave his team out of this summer's FIFA World Cup, which will be cohosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Qalenoee made the remarks in response to U.S. President Donald Trump, who cast doubt on Team Melli's safety at the global showpiece on Thursday.

Iran is scheduled to kick off its Group G campaign against New Zealand at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, California, on June 16, before facing Belgium at the same arena five days later.

The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran take on Egypt in Seattle, Washington, on June 26.

The U.S. president, writing on Truth Social, said that Team Melli would be "welcome to The World Cup," but he doesn't believe "it is appropriate that they be there, for their own life and safety."

"Thank you for your attention to this matter," concluded Trump, who made

the comments amid an ongoing conflict between Iran and a U.S.-Israeli coalition. The United States and Israel started a war campaign against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several top Iranian military commanders on the first day of airstrikes in Tehran.

Iran responded with widespread missile and drone attacks against Israel and U.S. bases in the region.

"The World Cup is a historic and international event organized by FIFA, not by any single nation," Qalenoee wrote on Instagram later on Thursday.

"Iran's national team, led by the valiant sons of the country, earned its place among the first teams to qualify for this prestigious tournament through a series of decisive victories.

Undoubtedly, no one has the authority to exclude Iran from the World Cup; if any country is to be expelled, it should be the one that merely carries the title of "host" but fails to guarantee the

safety and security of the participating teams," added the Iranian coach.

This was the latest twist in the controversy swirling around Team Melli's World Cup seventh participation at the flagship international football event.

Iranian Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali and Mahdi Taj, the chairman of the Iranian Football Federation, had hinted at the country boycotting the tournament in recent days.

"This corrupt regime has martyred our leader and thousands of our people," Donyamali said on Wednesday.

"Given the evil acts they have committed against Iran, imposing two wars on us in eight, nine months, I think our players will not be safe in the United States and the conditions are simply not there for the team to take part in the tournament," added the Iranian official.

The Guardian reported last week that FIFA chief Gianni Infantino has warned Taj against boycotting the tournament, as the Iranian federation could face punishment by the international governing body of the sport.

Iran's women's national team became the focal point of a political and media storm during the AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia last week, with foreign governments and outlets amplifying claims that the players would face execution upon returning home after remaining silent during the national anthem before their first game against South Korea. Iranian officials denied all the allegations, emphasizing that no punitive measures awaited the players.

However, six players and one technical staff member applied for asylum, with Australia's Home Affairs approving their requests, while the rest of the squad departed Sydney for Malaysia, then Turkey, on their way back to Iran.

Iran not to attend Asian Weightlifting Ch'ships

Sports Desk

Iran will not participate at April's Asian Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad, India, men's national coach Ali Jabbari confirmed.

All Iranian national teams have canceled their training camps in recent days due to the U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iranian soil.

"Currently, the national teams' camps are suspended, and we are waiting for the final decision by the Ministry of Sport and the Weightlifting Federation.

We are in touch with all weightlifters, and some of them are following their training at home to remain fit," Jabbari told Mehr News Agency on Friday.

Regarding the team's future plans, Jabbari said: "Given the circumstances, we

will definitely not take part at the Asian Championships in April. Even before the war began, we had decided either not to compete or send a limited squad to Ahmedabad, as we have important competitions ahead of us later in the year such as the World Championships and the Asian Games. But now, with the circumstances, they will not be sent at all."

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