

Minister calls for national, global recognition of Minab tragedy



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri stressed the importance of commemorating the Minab tragedy as a "historical crime" on par with events like Hiroshima and Vietnam. During a visit to the Art Bureau on April 28, he outlined a comprehensive cultural roadmap to ensure the disaster's recognition as a pivotal moment in history. "The Minab catastrophe should be enshrined as a global historical tragedy," Salehi-Amiri said, emphasizing the need for both national and international efforts to solidify the event's place in global consciousness. He proposed turning Minab's commemoration into an annual fixture with national film, music, and poetry festivals



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri (3rd L) visits Tehran's Art Bureau on April 28, 2026.
● CHTN

dedicated to the martyrs of Minab, framing it as a "strategic necessity." The minister highlighted the essential role of cultural resilience as a cornerstone of Iranian identity, advocating for the integration of the Minab narrative into educational materials for future generations. He stressed that moving beyond mere mourning, the tragedy must offer lessons for posterity. In a bid to further solidify the event's cultural legacy, Salehi-Amiri suggested creating a "national symbol" for Minab, one that would resonate across Iranian society. The symbol would be designed to integrate into daily life, becoming a recognizable emblem of collective identity. The minister also proposed utilizing public spaces and national infrastructure for artistic representations. He suggested placing art installations along high-traffic areas, including pathways leading to Imam Khomeini International Airport, as a means to effectively communicate the Minab narrative to both domestic and international audiences.

Salehi-Amiri advocated for developing multimedia content, including textbooks, stories for various age groups, and digital platforms, to embed the Minab narrative into the national fabric. He emphasized the need for government support and professional coordination to ensure the success of this multi-layered cultural initiative. Addressing the role of the arts in preserving cultural memory, he proposed establishing an annual, nationwide celebration of Minab through specialized artistic festivals. These would encompass film, music, poetry, and visual arts, providing an enduring platform for the tragedy's memory. Salehi-Amiri stressed the importance of international cultural diplomacy, proposing the formation of a global task force to advocate for the event's recognition at international forums. He also emphasized the potential of modern technology and digital platforms in spreading the Minab narrative, particularly to engage younger generations.

Six-millennia civilization shields Iran from misjudgments, says heritage chief

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's head of the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said on Tuesday that foreign powers misjudge Iran's resilience by ignoring its 6,000-year civilizational depth, during a Tehran expert session on recent regional tensions. Mohammad Ebrahim Zarei said attackers who "bypass international law" and strike Iranian territory are operating under a "strategic miscalculation," assuming Iran resembles modern states with shallow historical roots, CHTN reported. "They think they are dealing with a country of 50 or 100 years, while Iran carries at least five to six millennia of administrative and civilizational continuity," he said. Zarei argued that external actors, lacking comparable civilizational foundations, mistakenly believe that destroying fortresses and heritage sites can erase Iran's identity. History, he said, has repeatedly disproved this logic, as invasions over millennia damaged monuments but failed to fracture societal continuity. Drawing historical parallels, he contrasted Iran's cultural endurance with empires such as the Assyrians, which relied on destruction and coercion and ultimately disappeared beyond name. By contrast, he cited Cyrus the Great's governance in Babylon as an example of a Persian tra-



dition rooted in tolerance, order and respect for local populations, which helped sustain Iranian cultural influence. Zarei also highlighted a newly announced restructuring of the "Architectural and Urban Heritage" division, framing it as more than an academic field and instead as a pillar of national identity and survival architecture. He acknowledged recent destruction of heritage sites in several cities as painful but said such losses cannot sever the civilizational roots of Iranian society. "These foundations are continuously regenerated even under pressure," he said. The session concluded with the launch of a special issue of a quarterly titled "War and Cultural Heritage," marking expanded research priorities in architectural and urban heritage as a strategic cultural asset.

Coordinated effort to safeguard Tehran's historic Sangelaj

Social Desk

Ali Darabi, deputy minister and head of cultural heritage at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, visited Tehran's District 12 and the historic Sangelaj quarter on Tuesday, stressing tighter institutional coordination to preserve the capital's core heritage fabric, the ministry said. Darabi conducted a field assessment of urban planning constraints and conservation needs, meeting municipal officials to review enforcement hurdles and regulatory limits shaping the district's historic texture, ILNA reported. He called Sangelaj a "strategic" identity hub and said integrated, heritage-led management is a prerequisite for safeguarding architectural authenticity and



sustaining cultural life. "Any urban intervention must align with protective regulations and a sustainable development approach," he said. The delegation inspected key sites, including Rajab Ali Mosque, Ardabiliha Mosque (which has recently received damage due to US-Israel war against Iran), Grand Bazaar of Tehran, Golubandak Crossroads, Armenian Street, Seyyed Esmail Bazaar and Chamran House, gauging structural conditions and urgent restoration requirements. Custodians of Ardabiliha Mosque



Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister Ali Darabi walks with officials through a historic archway in Tehran's Sangelaj district during an on-site inspection on April 28, 2026.
● ILNA

cited damage from recent US-Israeli attacks and sought specialized restoration teams. Darabi acknowledged the request and pressed for expedited conservation works and technical support, stressing the need to "step up" restoration capacity across the district. Tehran's District 12, home to layers of Qajar-era urban fabric and dense commercial arteries, faces mounting pressure from development controls and infrastructure demands, making coordinated governance central to preserving its historic continuity.

Iran keeps postal services running amid war damage

FEATURE REPORT

Iran's postal network maintained uninterrupted nationwide services during what officials call the "Third Imposed War," despite heavy damage to infrastructure and the deaths of three employees, Mohammad Ahmadi, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Technology and chief executive of the National Post Company, said. Ahmadi said 56 post offices across more than 14 provinces were either destroyed or severely damaged in the early days of the conflict, requiring extensive reconstruction, but postal operations were never halted. He attributed the continuity of services to the resilience of the network's infrastructure, the use of domestic internet capabilities amid recent internet restrictions, and the round-the-clock efforts of postal workers who kept operations running under difficult conditions, including along urban and intercity routes and in remote and rural areas. During the war, three postal employees were killed, Ahmadi said, two at their workplace in Divandarreh and Azarshahr in East Azarbaijan Province, and one at his residence in Tehran. To manage disruptions caused by the suspension of flights, the National Post Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran Post) submitted a force majeure notice to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to halt the dispatch of new international consignments to Iran. Customers



with outbound parcels were contacted to arrange returns, while inbound shipments continued to be delivered. The company also coordinated with countries where overland delivery was possible to establish ground transport routes. Ahmadi said the company took special measures to support businesses operating in the digital economy and ensure e-commerce activity continued without interruption during the crisis. He said Iran Post also tightened security controls across its network to prevent misuse for smuggling and other security-related offences, with continuous monitoring of consignments and several violations detected. Among new services introduced during the conflict was a door-to-door parcel pickup service in Tehran, allowing citizens and e-commerce retailers to arrange collection and dispatch by calling the company's 193 hotline without visiting post offices in person.

The company also launched a "Redelivery" service during the Nowruz holiday travel period, allowing customers to request electronic rerouting of parcels or update delivery addresses through postal centers. Ahmadi said Iran Post prioritized the daily dispatch of around 300 cases of specialized infant formula for sick infants across the country during the war, as part of efforts to support patients and ensure delivery of medicines and essential supplies. Iran Post's 24/7 customer care center handled 72,436 calls during the conflict, while the "Baleh" postal assistant support team responded to more than 240,000 online messages, he added. Separately, Ahmadi said three commemorative stamp designs, "Leader Martyr," "Minab School," and "Nowruz 1405," were approved at the first stamp council meeting of the year and, once issued, would be sent to 190 member states of the UPU.