



A special plan for preservation and restoration of the historical-cultural texture of Hamedan has been approved.

According to IRIB, Head of Hamedan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Mohsen Masoom-Alizadeh said on Saturday that in order to implement Article 3 of the law on support for restoration and revival of historical and cultural textures, the plan was proposed and approved at the 19th session of the Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture of Iran. He added that the special plan for restoration of the historical texture of Hamedan was developed and approved with the aim of preserving one of the oldest and most valuable historical fabrics in the country and improving the quality of urban life.

Special Plan Approved for Restoration of Historical Texture of Hamedan

Soltaniyeh to hold National Iranology Conference of Zanjan

National Iranology Conference of Zanjan province will be held focusing on history, culture, and arts of Soltaniyeh city at the Soltaniyeh World Heritage Base.

According to Miras Aria, Leila Mohammadi, director of the Iranology Foundation Zanjan Branch, stated on Thursday that the national conference will be held in cooperation with the Tehran's Iranology Foundation, Zanjan Governor-General's Office and Governor's Office, Soltaniyeh Islamic City Council and Soltaniyeh Municipality, Payam Noor University, the Education Department, Zanjan Cultural Heritage Department, and the Soltaniyeh World Heritage Base.

She added that the purpose of holding the scientific and cultural event is to introduce the historical, cultural, and artistic potential of Soltaniyeh city.

She also said that Soltaniyeh, as one of the most important historical cities of Iran, has a brilliant history in the field of Islamic architecture and Iranian civilization.

Mohammadi stated that the conference provides an opportunity to review the place of the city in the history of Iran and the Muslim world. She stated: "Researchers and university professors will present their works on topics such as archaeology and history of Soltaniyeh county, historical, urban and rural geography, architecture and urban planning from the past to the present, Soltaniyeh's place in the history of Iran and the Muslim world, environment and sustainable development, popular culture, dialect and literature, local customs and traditions, handicrafts, traditional occupations, education, cultural and scientific centers, indigenous sports and religious rituals during the conference."

Mohammadi added that the variety of topics shows the cultural and civilizational scope of Soltaniyeh and its importance in understanding the historical Iran.

She added that the scientific event will be held at Soltaniyeh World Heritage Base in coming September.

Soltaniyeh monument is where Mohammad Khodabandeh better known as Oljaitu, the eighth Ilkhanid dynasty ruler from 1304 to 1316, is laid to rest. The mausoleum is highly recognized as an architectural masterpiece particularly due to its innovative double-shelled dome and elaborate interior decoration. The very imposing dome stands about 50 meters tall from its base.



The Tabas Salt Lake in South Khorasan province has currently been registered on Iran's national natural heritage list following approval by the National Council for Registration of Natural Heritage, a provincial official said.

Zahra Rezaei Malakouti, a natural heritage registration expert at the South Khorasan's Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the proposal dossier was approved at a meeting of the council held at the registration office of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, IRIB reported.

She said the seasonal lake is located south of the city of Tabas, near the village of Fahalanj, on the edge of the Great Salt Desert. Locally known as "Jomjomeh" or "Gharghoo," the lake is formed by runoff from main and tributary rivers originating in surrounding highlands,



Damghan Proposed as Hub for Eastern Iran Civilizational Studies

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Thursday called for Damghan in Semnan province to be developed into a center for civilizational studies in eastern Iran, stressing the need for scientific protection and integrated management of two major historical sites in the city. Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks during a visit to Tepe Hissar and Tarikhaneh Mosque, describing them as part of Iran's "strategic identity assets", IRNA reported.

He said the two sites have the capacity to become active centers for presenting Iranian-Islamic identity at national and international levels and that protection and presentation infrastructure should be strengthened.

Salehi-Amiri stressed coordination among relevant authorities to improve protection and management of the sites' buffer zones.

He said preservation must be

based on scientific studies, systematic planning and inter-sectoral cooperation to ensure proper introduction domestically and abroad.

Referring to Tepe Hissar, the minister said the site is not only an archaeological location but a sequence of civilizational layers that narrate part of the formation of Iran's historical identity.

Tepe Hissar, with a history of more than 7,000 years, is considered one of the most important archaeological sites in eastern Iran. It is among the first systematically excavated Bronze Age settlements on the northern Iranian plateau and has been explored by Iranian and foreign researchers. Findings include gold artifacts and other historical objects, some of which are kept at the National Museum of Iran.

Salehi-Amiri said integrated management of the site's surroundings and upgrading protection measures should be prioritized in provincial plans to prevent potential damage.

During a visit to Tarikhaneh Mosque, he said the structure, with a history of more than 1,000 years, is a prominent example of early Islamic architecture in Iran and reflects the region's cultural and spiritual standing in that period.

Also known as Tarik Khana, the mosque reflects the architectural transition between the Sassanid and early Islamic periods. It is believed to have been built in the second century of the Islamic calendar on the ruins of a Zoroastrian fire temple dating back to the Sassanid era (224-651), combining Sassanian

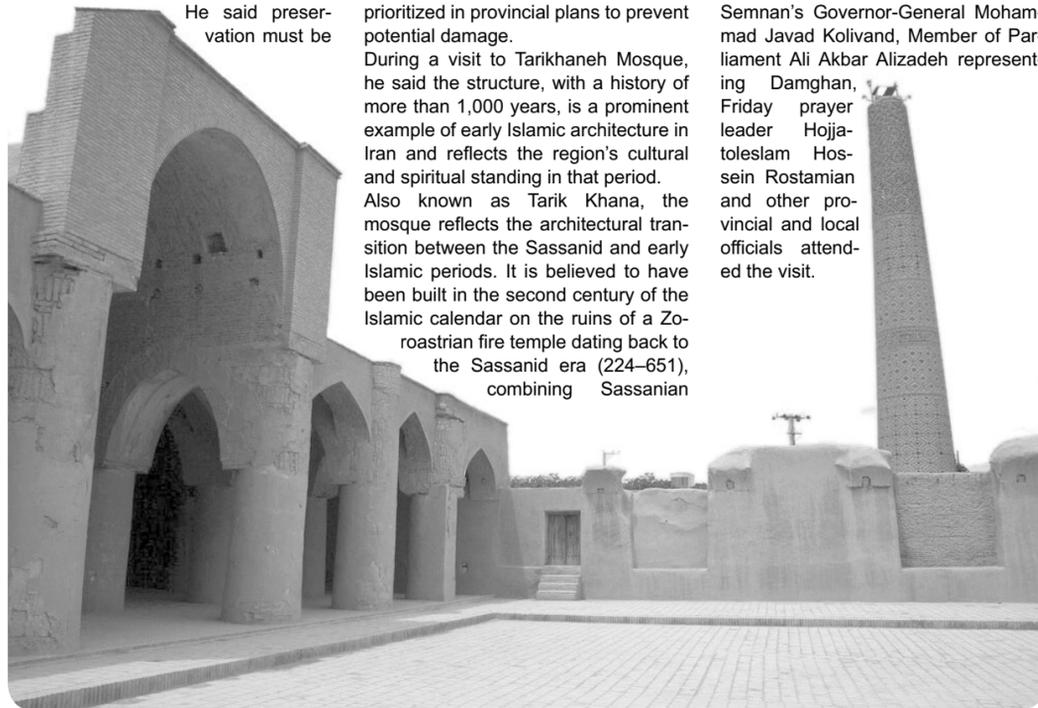
construction techniques with an early Arab design.

Salehi-Amiri said the formation of such a structure in the second century Hijri demonstrates the depth of religious beliefs and architectural capability of the people of the region and could play a role in Iran's cultural diplomacy.

He then described Damghan as having undiscovered historical capacities and said a significant part of the region's archaeological potential requires deeper research. Universities and research centers should pursue targeted study projects in this field, he added.

The minister underlined establishing appropriate infrastructure for presenting historical sites is necessary, including a standard museum space to narrate the city's history. He said expanding cultural spaces could contribute to attracting domestic and foreign tourists.

Semnan's Governor-General Mohammad Javad Kolivand, Member of Parliament Ali Akbar Alizadeh representing Damghan, Friday prayer leader Hojjatoleslam Hossein Rostamian and other provincial and local officials attended the visit.



Tabas Salt Lake Added to National Natural Heritage List

which channel annual rainfall into the Tabas basin, she said. Malakouti said the lake holds water for several months each year. Due to high salt concentrations in the seasonal rivers and high evaporation rates in the desert region, the water contains significant mineral content. She said these minerals combine with salt to produce sodium chloride.

She said the site holds importance among the province's natural attractions and cited its tourism potential as a reason for its introduction and protection as a national natural monument.

Tabas, located on the edge of the Great Salt Desert, dates back to pre-Islamic times and served as an outpost of the Sassanid Empire. Medieval geographers referred to it as the "Gate of Khurasan" because of its strategic location at the junction of several routes.

Desert Village Qaleh Bala Moves Closer to Possible UN Label

Cultural heritage authorities in Shahroud have finalized a dossier to nominate the village of Qaleh Bala in Semnan province for inscription by the UN Tourism, a local official said.

Seyyed Sadeq Rezavian, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Office in Shahroud, said the nomination file has been under preparation for eight months and is now ready for submission.

"We have worked for about eight months on the global registration dossier of Qaleh Bala so that a comprehensive and presentable program can be submitted to the UN Tourism," Rezavian told reporters

at his office.

He said that at a meeting held earlier this month at the national tourism desk of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the file was assessed to be in a favorable position compared to other selected villages across the country. Rezavian said previous submissions had been unsuccessful but expressed hope that a complete dossier could be presented this year. "Everything depends on the opinion of UN evaluators, who must announce the final decision," he said. Qaleh Bala is located in Shahroud county in Semnan province, on the southern slopes of Mount

Shahvar at the edge of Iran's central desert and near the Kharturan protected area. The village is known for its architecture built with local materials including adobe, mud, stone and wood. Local residents have developed ecotourism initiatives in recent years, alongside efforts to preserve seasonal rituals, folk music and oral traditions.

Best Tourism Villages highlight communities that are working to safeguard their cultural heritage, preserve their natural resources and create economic opportunities through tourism.



Perspective



UNESCO-listed Yazd Resumes Restoration Projects, Official Says

Currently, with prioritization of cultural heritage projects, the reactivation of stalled projects, and the focus on global registration commitments, a new path has been opened to preserve Yazd's historical identity and strengthen the city's cultural tourism.

The historical texture of Yazd, as a brick city which has registered on the UN-



ESCO World Heritage List, has faced the challenge of restoring and revitalizing various parts of the largest brick city in the world due to the halt and lack of funding over the past years, ILNA reported.

The historical texture of Yazd has faced challenges such as deterioration of buildings for years, which in addition to threatening the city's historical authenticity, had also slowed down the development of cultural tourism.

According to Seyyed Mohammad Rastegari, head of Yazd Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, by reviewing the executive plans and prioritizing the key cultural heritage projects in the city of Yazd and the province, a series of restoration projects that had been stalled for years have been reactivated. The process can protect the valuable heritage of Yazd, pave the way for the sustainability of the historical texture and strengthen the city's position on the tourism map of the country and the world.

Rastegari announced the prioritization of important cultural heritage projects in the provincial center and the provincial counties based on the five-year plans of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. "With appropriate planning and various credit sources, efforts have been made to re-implement projects that had been stalled for years."