

## With Fists Raised and Vows of Vengeance, Millions Entomb Their Martyred Leader

*'They will face retribution': Top commander warns martyred Leader's assassins*

TEHRAN - A top Iranian military commander has warned that those responsible for the martyrdom of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, will face retribution.

Major General Ali Abdollahi, the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, issued the warning after the funeral of the late Leader in the holy city of Mashhad on Thursday. He said the massive funeral processions would go down in history as an enduring symbol of "grandeur, insight, faith, jihad, and resistance." ▶ Page 2

*'Revenge' and resilience dominate coverage of martyred Leader's rites*

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — When the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was laid to rest at the Imam Reza (AS) shrine in Mashhad on July 9, foreign news organizations had already spent an exhaustive week scrambling to report a staggering reality their corporate editorial lines never anticipated.

The largest funeral in modern history, spanning five major cities across Iran and Iraq with tens of millions of participants, forced even the most hostile Western ▶ Page 5

*More than a farewell: The global political impact of Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral*

By Syeda Yasha Raza Naqvi

LAHORE - How does it feel when humanity becomes so deeply connected through one guiding force that deception itself loses ground? It feels like a historical moment unfolding in real time—one that humanity has only witnessed in rare chapters of history, most notably in the legacy of the Battle of Karbala and the spiritual mass gathering of Arbaeen.

In those moments, millions of hearts unite beyond race, nationality, language, and geography. Today, a similar phenomenon appears to be emerging once again—where people from every nation, every color, every sector, and every belief system are observing a shared reality: humanity itself being reshaped by the force of leadership and ideology. ▶ Page 3

*Defying repression and distance, mourners across continents bid farewell to martyred Khamenei*

TEHRAN — As the remains of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, were laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on Thursday, a wave of profound grief and unwavering loyalty swept across the globe.

From the mountain valleys of Pakistan to the streets of Bahrain and the plains of Nigeria, mourners held symbolic funeral processions, demonstrating that the martyrdom of the Leader of the Ummah has resonated far beyond Iran's borders.

In Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, the city of Skardu became a sea of black-clad mourners. ▶ Page 5



Ayatollah Khamenei's oldest son, Mostafa, leads prayers before the burial



The burial site of the martyred Leader and his family members

## TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday Iranian newspapers.

## America cannot be trusted

Kayhan, in an analysis on distrust toward the United States and the proper response to its repeated violations, wrote: The history of Iran-US relations has proven that America cannot be trusted. Today, the battlefield for a final response is fully prepared, but before that, the diplomatic apparatus must immediately announce the end of this ineffective memorandum. In the operational phase, the country's actions must be based on several key pillars. The first step is the complete halt of oil exports from the region by stopping the flow of energy out of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz—so thoroughly that reconstruction of these routes would not be possible for a long time, imposing severe economic pressure on the West. Alongside this, the closure of the Bab al-Mandab corridor should be adopted as the next strategy to eliminate secure trade and cut the logistical lifeline of warmongers. Furthermore, pursuing a strategy of cost-imposition and targeted asymmetric strikes—inflicting heavy casualties on American forces—would make Washington's cost-benefit equation negative and minimize its psychological security, because America only understands the language of force.

## Sobh-e-No: Rewriting the region's geopolitical map

Sobh-e-No examined the massive funeral procession for the Leader of the Revolution in Iraq. According to the newspaper, what occurred in Iraq during the funeral reshaped the balance of power in the Middle East in two ways: First, the Resistance proved its social capital not through slogans but through an unprecedented, physical, million-strong presence. Second, this solidarity sent a clear message to regional and global actors: any attempt at security restructuring or political agreement in the region that ignores this demographic consensus will face a crisis of legitimacy. From now on, the Axis of Resistance, backed by a force beyond military structures, has entered a new phase—one in which collective will rewrite the region's geopolitical map, and any strategic calculation must confront this new

reality. This martyrdom marks the beginning of a historic transformation, not the end of a path.

## Hamshahri: The re-emergence of war in the Strait of Hormuz

Hamshahri evaluated the reasons behind the renewed conflict in the Strait of Hormuz. Under the Iran-US memorandum, passage through the Strait of Hormuz must follow Iranian procedures—using routes approved by Iran, with Iran's permission, and after paying service fees. However, since last week, the United States has created a route in the southern part of the Strait of Hormuz, known as the "Omani Corridor," and encouraged tankers to pass without following Iranian procedures, violating the memorandum. For Iran, this is both a breach of the agreement and a loss of sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. The insecurity of the American-backed Omani section is therefore highly significant. Based on the information provided, making the southern part of the Strait insecure—due to the US violation—is necessary to compel adherence to Iranian procedures in the future.

## Arman-e-Emrooz: The hidden motives behind Trump's recent positions

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed Donald Trump's recent statements about Iran. The paper wrote: The criminal president of the United States, more than three months after the brutal attack on Iranian soil, speaks as if he carried out a sacred war in Iran and now seeks in negotiations what he failed to achieve on the battlefield. If Trump had achieved all his goals and destroyed Iran's military forces, why did he complain at the NATO summit in Turkey: "Why didn't you help us in the war with Iran?" This complaint is a clear admission of failure to achieve the objectives of the war. Iranian diplomats will certainly preserve the achievements that the nation and armed forces gained on the battlefield. America's acceptance of Iran's conditions shows that the resistance of the Iranian people and armed forces has paid off, and Iran has achieved its goals.

## 'They will face retribution': Top commander warns martyred Leader's assassins

TEHRAN - A top Iranian military commander has warned that those responsible for the martyrdom of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, will face retribution.

Major General Ali Abdollahi, the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, issued the warning after the funeral of the late Leader in the holy city of Mashhad on Thursday. He said the massive funeral processions would go down in history as an enduring symbol of "grandeur, insight, faith, jihad, and resistance."

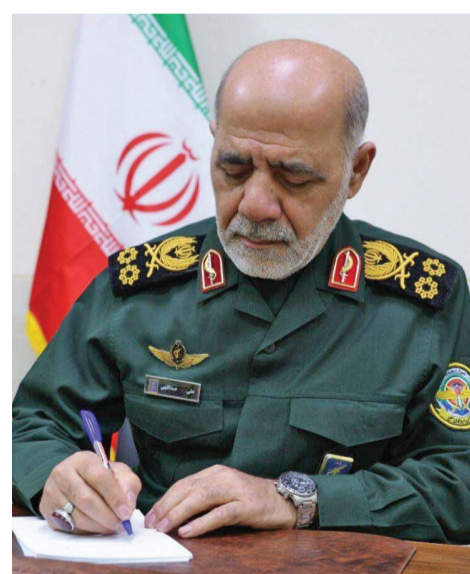
"This sacred mourning and righteous anger will endure in the pursuit of retribution against the assassins of the martyred Leader, the leader of Muslims and freedom-seekers around the world, as well as the oppressed martyrs of the second and third imposed wars, and they will ultimately be brought to justice," General Abdollahi stated.

He added, "The unprecedented presence of the Islamic Ummah was far more than a farewell ceremony; it was a resounding cry for justice and a decisive rejection of the schemes of the world's hegemonic powers, clearly distinguishing truth from falsehood."

General Abdollahi said "the brave sons of the nation in the Armed Forces" would sooner or later exact vengeance on those responsible for these terrorist crimes.

Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated in a coordinated US-Israeli attack on February 28, at the outset of the war of aggression against Iran.

The commander's warning comes amid growing domestic calls across Iran to



avenge the death of the late Leader.

Throughout the historic and epic funeral ceremonies, millions of grief-stricken yet resilient mourners flooded the streets, their thunderous voices shaking the ground with powerful anti-US and anti-Zionist slogans that unequivocally condemned the cowardly assassination as a heinous act of state-sponsored international terrorism. Amid an ocean of black banners and defiant portraits of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the faithful masses sent a clear message to the world's arrogant powers. They demand the ultimate punishment for US President Donald Trump, who directly ordered the strikes against Iran, which also led to the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei.

## With fists raised and vows of vengeance, millions entomb their martyred Leader

TEHRAN — Calls for strong and historic revenge have reached an absolute peak across the Islamic world following the final burial of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Millions of deeply grieving yet defiant mourners gathered at the Holy Imam Reza Shrine in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Thursday. This final step of a week-long funeral across multiple cities transformed from a display of national grief into a powerful public demand for justice. The global Axis of Resistance and the Iranian nation have made their position clear: the cowardly assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei will not go unpunished. The demand for direct revenge against the perpetrators—especially Donald Trump—is now a firm national stance backed by the will of millions.

The martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei on February 28, along with several members of his immediate family during the first hours of the nearly forty-day war launched by the United States and the Israeli regime, was carefully planned by Washington and Tel Aviv to cause a complete breakdown in Iran. The enemy wanted to remove the top leadership of the Islamic Republic, stop the government from functioning, cause division among the people, and permanently cut Iran's links with its regional allies.

However, the political reality that has emerged over the following weeks has completely turned the enemy's plans upside down. Instead of showing weakness or harming the state, the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei has acted as a powerful force for national unity. It has strengthened the foundations of the Islamic Republic, ensured a smooth transfer of authority to the newly appointed Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, and created an ironclad unity across the global Muslim world that has not been seen in modern history.

To understand why the US-Israeli plans failed so completely, one must look at the long strategic legacy that Ayatollah Khamenei built over more than three decades. His leadership was defined by a firm commitment to national independence, economic self-reliance, and support for the Axis of Resistance. By targeting the center of this network, the United States and the Israeli regime believed they could break the bonds that tie Tehran to its regional partners. Instead, they misunderstood the deep Islamic concept of martyrdom. In Iran, the blood of a martyred leader does not create a space; it serves as a powerful message that strengthens the nation's path. The work of the state continued without a single interruption, and the entire public instantly united behind a single demand: resistance over surrender.

The magnificent public process



of honoring this great legacy began on July 3, starting a week of historic ceremonies that completely defeated Western psychological warfare and diplomatic pressure. The rites began at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran, where the bodies lay in state. Defying Western threats, political officials, heads of state, and foreign ministers from dozens of countries, alongside leading Islamic scholars from nearly 100

Khamenei's legacy goes far beyond national borders, the funeral procession moved to neighboring Iraq on Wednesday, drawing an estimated 10 million mourners to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. Iraqi officials confirmed this as one of the largest funeral gatherings in recent history. Entire tribal groups, top state officials, and members of the Popular Mobilization Forces accompanied the

Amam Courtyard of the shrine, led by the martyred Leader's eldest son, Seyyed Mostafa Khamenei, who performed the prayers over the coffins as the massive crowds wept.

Following a private, deeply emotional farewell ceremony for the immediate family members, the late Leader was laid to rest inside the holy shrine of the eighth Shia Imam, fulfilling his final wishes. Buried alongside him during the final rites of the funeral in Mashhad were the family members who were martyred during the initial February 28 strikes, including his daughter, his son-in-law, his 14-month-old granddaughter, and the wife of the new Leader. Following the burial, hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide performed the Laylat al-Dafn (night of burial) prayer, creating a shared global moment of spiritual unity born out of the historic gathering in Mashhad.

Throughout the multi-day processions, the streets were heavily filled with standard symbols of mourning, but more importantly, with clear messages of future military and political response. Prominently displayed at the front of the historic funeral in Mashhad were massive banners carried by the youth. These large banners explicitly named the political architects of the war, placing the blame directly on Trump and his military commanders, with text vowing to avenge the martyrdom.

The long journey reached its deeply emotional and historic climax late on Thursday, July 9, during the funeral in Mashhad. From the early hours of the morning, an endless sea of mourners flooded the northeastern holy city, filling the major streets. So large was the crowd that the boundaries of the Holy Imam Reza Shrine could not hold the millions who had traveled from across Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Turkey, and Nigeria to participate in the Mashhad ceremonies. The formal prayers for the deceased were held at the Payambar-e



nations, arrived in the capital. This massive international presence proved that the late Leader's work had secured Iran a strong position in the world that cannot be isolated. For two consecutive days, on July 4 and 5, millions of ordinary Iranian citizens filled the avenues around the Grand Mosalla, waiting in lines that stretched for miles to pay their final respects.

On Monday, the funeral convoy moved through the main streets of Tehran. The capital became a vast sea of red and black as millions accompanied the coffins. This incredible turnout happened again on Tuesday when the ceremonies moved to the holy city of Qom, the spiritual heart of the Islamic scholarly world. Outside the Holy Jamkaran Mosque, Grand Ayatollah Abdullah Javadi Amoli led prayers before millions of the faithful, showing total unity behind the ongoing revolutionary path.

Demonstrating that Ayatollah



The crowds in Mashhad shook the streets with powerful chants of "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Death to those opposed to the Guardianship of the Jurist." The widespread display of the crimson flags of vengeance bearing the historic words "Ya Latharat al-Hussein" (O Avengers of Hussein) signaled to international observers that Iran's public sees this burial as the beginning, not the end, of the nation's response. The demand for revenge has spread to every part of society; it is no longer just a strategic choice for high-level generals in Tehran, but a clear command from millions of citizens during the funeral in Mashhad.

Ultimately, the grand plans of the Western powers have collapsed into a total failure. The military planners in Washington and Tel Aviv operated on a flawed model that treats a revolutionary Islamic state like a regular corporation—believing that eliminating the top leader causes the collapse of the whole system.

They completely failed to realize that the structural foundation of the Islamic Republic was engineered precisely to withstand such profound shocks. Backed by an unyielding system of ideological, religious, and political continuity, and fueled by the unwavering, monumental support of millions of devoted citizens, the leadership remains entirely resilient, ensuring that the march of the Islamic Revolution continues uninterrupted.

# Iran condemns fresh US strikes, warns of retaliation while pursuing regional diplomacy

By Fardin Molaei

TEHRAN — Iran has strongly condemned a new wave of US military strikes on its territory, describing them as grave violations of international law and the ceasefire memorandum reached between Tehran and Washington, while simultaneously intensifying diplomatic engagement with regional partners to prevent a broader escalation in the Persian Gulf.

The latest attacks came early Thursday, when US forces targeted several sites in Iran's southern coastal provinces as well as two railway bridges in eastern Iran along the strategic route leading to the holy city of Mashhad. Iranian officials said the strikes followed earlier US military operations over the previous 48 hours, which Washington claimed were linked to incidents involving vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement issued Friday, Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the attacks as "grave war crimes," accusing Washington of violating Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter as well as key provisions of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding on the Termination of the War.

The ministry argued that the strikes reflected "the United States' refusal to honor its commitments" under the ceasefire arrangement, while also condemning recent remarks by US President Donald Trump and other American officials as inflammatory and evidence of Washington's lack of commitment to diplomacy.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will under no circumstances allow breaches of commitments, coercion, and aggression to undermine its national rights and interests," the statement said, reaffirming Tehran's determination to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministry also paid tribute to



those killed in the recent attacks, including several members of Iran's naval forces, while pledging that those responsible would face consequences.

## Security officials warn of reciprocal response

Echoing the Foreign Ministry's position, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr warned that any attack targeting Iranian infrastructure would be met with reciprocal action.

In a message released Friday, Zolqadr said Israel, which Tehran accuses of supporting the attacks, "will not be spared" from Iran's response. According to him "recent hostile rhetoric by President Trump reflected frustration over the massive turnout at the funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei."

"As previously announced, any attack on infrastructure will receive a reciprocal response," Zolqadr said.

## IRGC warns against US moves in Strait of Hormuz

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy warned the United States against any attempt to influence shipping routes through the

Strait of Hormuz.

According to the IRGC Navy commander, Iranian forces have restored maritime traffic to nearly 50 percent of pre-war levels through a phased reopening of the strategic waterway while maintaining security across the Strait.

He said vessels are permitted to transit through Iranian-designated routes after receiving authorization and complying with security regulations.

The commander warned that any US military intervention in navigation arrangements would not only provoke "a decisive Iranian response" but could also disrupt the gradual reopening process and threaten the interests of countries dependent on the vital shipping corridor.

## Diplomacy continues alongside military warnings

Despite maintaining readiness to respond in the military sphere, Tehran has continued an intensive diplomatic campaign aimed at containing regional tensions and preventing further instability in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a series of high-level telephone consultations with regional counterparts, emphasizing diplomacy while warning against fur-

ther military escalation.

During a conversation with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, Araghchi condemned the latest US strikes as clear violations of international law and the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, warning that Iran would firmly defend its sovereignty and national security against any future aggression.

In separate calls with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Araghchi discussed developments in the Strait of Hormuz and stressed the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement, coordination, and dialogue to reduce tensions and preserve regional stability.

The Iranian foreign minister also spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, with both sides reviewing regional developments following the latest US attacks as part of Tehran's broader diplomatic outreach to neighboring countries.

## Russia Calls for Comprehensive Settlement

Russia also called for a negotiated resolution to the conflict.

Speaking after talks with Mozambique's foreign minister, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the war involving Iran could only be resolved through a comprehensive agreement that safeguards the interests of all parties, including Iran, its neighbors, the United States, and countries affected by the broader economic consequences of regional instability.

Lavrov said Moscow shared common positions regarding developments involving Iran, the Strait of Hormuz, and security in the Persian Gulf, reiterating Russia's support for a diplomatic settlement rather than continued military confrontation.

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## More than a farewell: The global political impact of Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral



By Syeda Yasha Raza Naqvi

## Global visibility and changing perception

LAHORE — How does it feel when humanity becomes so deeply connected through one guiding force that deception itself loses ground? It feels like a historical moment unfolding in real time—one that humanity has only witnessed in rare chapters of history, most notably in the legacy of the Battle of Karbala and the spiritual mass gathering of Arbaeen.

In those moments, millions of hearts unite beyond race, nationality, language, and geography. Today, a similar phenomenon appears to be emerging once again—where people from every nation, every color, every sector, and every belief system are observing a shared reality: humanity itself being reshaped by the force of leadership and ideology.

The idea of leadership has been made so clear that deception seems increasingly difficult to sustain. When leadership becomes visible in its principles and consistency, confusion loses its space. This clarity is what transforms perception into certainty for many observers.

This narrative is deeply connected to the philosophy derived from Imam Hussain ibn Ali, whose stand in Karbala represents a timeless separation between truth and falsehood—between resistance and submission to injustice.

## From historical standpoint to modern political movement

This ideological continuity is seen as extending into modern revolutionary thought, especially through the political transformation led by Imam Ruhollah Khomeini, who re-introduced the concept of governance rooted in religious legitimacy and resistance to imperial structures.

Despite decades of wars, sanctions, global isolation, propaganda campaigns, and economic pressure, the system claims to have maintained its ideological consistency. This endurance is not accidental—it is proof of certainty in a long-term vision.

## Resilience through struggle

The narrative of this movement emphasizes continuous sacrifice: political pressure, economic constraints, and diplomatic isolation have all been part of its historical journey.

Yet from this perspective, standing firm under such pressure is itself considered evidence of conviction.

Over time, this has shaped how both supporters and observers interpret the evolution of Iran's political identity—whether as resistance, revolution, or a contested geopolitical model.

Today, this funeral has created an impact where this ideological and political framework is getting increasingly visible in global discourse. Social media has amplified narratives in real time, allowing audiences worldwide to observe developments without traditional mediation.

This visibility has contributed to shifting perceptions, where even previously distant or skeptical audiences are now engaging with the image of a nation deeply tied to its leadership and ideological identity.

When religious authorities, political delegations, government officials, military leaders, and media influencers from around the world gather for one funeral, it becomes more than a farewell—it becomes history.

International diplomatic movements—whether discussions about reopening embassies or recalibrating foreign relations—are often interpreted as signs of changing geopolitical dynamics, even if gradual and complex.

## Social media narrative shift

Social media is flooded with content surrounding the funeral, as countless voices document what they witnessed. Narratives that once dominated international discourse are now being openly challenged, while influential figures from around the world share content expressing support for Iran and paying tribute to Ayatollah Khamenei.

History may be witnessing one of its most significant shifts in public perception. Many who had long accepted portrayals of Ayatollah Khamenei through the lens of political rhetoric are now expressing grief, reflection, and, in some cases, regret that they never sought to understand him during his lifetime.

This nation represents something larger than politics. It is seen as the unfolding of a deeper historical truth: that sustained conviction against pressure eventually reshapes global perception.

The phrase associated with this ideology is interpreted as a declaration that such a path cannot be easily erased or diminished by opposition.

What is being witnessed, after seeing this large gathering at the funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei, is not merely political change but a convergence of ideology, leadership, and collective identity. Whether interpreted as spiritual awakening, political transformation, or historical continuity, it is a phenomenon that continues to shape global conversations about power, legitimacy, and resistance.

Syeda Yasha Raza Naqvi is a student of Jamia Ummul Kitab, Lahore, Pakistan

## Regional security threatened by foreign interventions, Iran tells NATO

TEHRAN — Iran has rejected allegations made in the NATO Ankara Summit Declaration regarding its nuclear activities and the Strait of Hormuz, accusing the alliance of adopting a politically motivated stance and overlooking "the role of foreign powers in creating regional instability."

In a statement issued on Friday, Iran's Embassy in Turkey said the claims were "unfounded," reaffirming that the country's nuclear program is entirely peaceful, and nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defense doctrine.

"Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful," the embassy said, noting that Tehran remains committed to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The response came after NATO leaders, during their summit in Ankara, called on Iran to ensure free-

dom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and reiterated that Tehran "must never have a nuclear weapon."

Rejecting the accusations, Iran said it has played a responsible role in maintaining maritime security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, arguing that instability in the region has primarily resulted from "unlawful military interventions, provocative actions, and destabilizing policies" by extra-regional actors.

The embassy also criticized NATO's position over recent developments, saying the alliance was not in a position to lecture Iran on regional security after supporting "acts of aggression" against the Iranian people.

"Such contradictory and politically motivated positions neither advance peace nor enhance NATO's credibility," the statement said, accusing the alliance of applying "double standards."



Tehran also emphasized its commitment to diplomacy and international cooperation, saying that regional peace and stability require respect for national sovereignty, non-interference, and cooperation among neighboring countries free from external pressure.

The NATO summit in Ankara was held amid heightened tensions in the region following a 40-day military

confrontation between Iran and the United States and Israel, which Iranian officials have described as an act of aggression.

Iran has repeatedly stated that its management of the Strait of Hormuz is aimed at ensuring regional security and stability, and that its position regarding the strategic waterway is based on international law and its rights as a coastal state.

## LATEST NEWS

### ■ Army chief: Martyr Leader's path will continue with nation's resolve

Iran's Army Commander-in-Chief Major General Amir Hatami praised the Iranian nation's massive turnout at farewell ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, saying the historic participation demonstrated the people's enduring commitment to revolutionary ideals. He said the late leader's path, rooted in truth and justice, would continue through national determination, while thanking military and civic institutions for supporting the unprecedented gatherings.

### ■ Iranian cleric: MoU with US based on commitments, not trust

Senior Iranian cleric Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabi-Fard said the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States was built on "commitment in return for commitment," not trust. Addressing Tehran Friday prayers, he accused Washington of violating the agreement through unilateral actions and military attacks. He praised Iran's armed forces for protecting sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz and

described the mass funeral turnout for Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as a sign of national strength.

### ■ US military ignored warnings before deadly Minab school strike: CNN

US military commanders reportedly bypassed intelligence warnings that target data on Iran was outdated before approving strikes, including the attack on a primary school in Minab. CNN reported that Pentagon systems flagged the need for intelligence verification, but targets were approved for operational urgency. The February 28 strike killed 168 people, mostly children. Iran has rejected claims of an accident, calling the attack a deliberate strike on civilian infrastructure.

### ■ Al Jazeera: Qatari negotiators in Iran to ease regional tensions

Qatari negotiators reportedly arrived in Iran on Thursday, as part of diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and preserve a recently signed memorandum of understanding, Al Jazeera reported. The visit aims to strengthen the commitments reached in the

agreement and create conditions for broader negotiations in Qatar or Pakistan.

### ■ Head of IAEA says situation at Bushehr nuclear power is being monitored

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi said the agency was monitoring the situation at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, after reports of US attacks in the area.

According to Iranian media, Grossi did not confirm any damage to the facility but said that attacking any nuclear plant would be unacceptable.

### ■ Qatar urges US, Iran to uphold the deal

Qatar has urged the United States and Iran to honor their memorandum of understanding and continue talks to prevent further escalation.

The Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, said in a post on X that he had made the appeal during a call with Egypt's Foreign Minister, Badr Abdelatty.

## Iran condemns deadly terror attack in Pakistan

Iran has strongly condemned a terrorist attack in Pakistan's Khuzdar that killed at least 17 people and injured dozens, expressing condolences to the victims' families and the Pakistani government. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei reaffirmed Tehran's opposition to all forms of terrorism and called for stronger regional coordination to identify, prosecute, and punish those responsible for terrorist acts. The attack targeted a political leader's residence and was claimed by the banned Baloch Liberation Army.



## Inventory of essential goods exceeds 4 million tons

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Agriculture stated that despite disruptions caused by the war, over 4 million tons of essential goods are available in the country.

Mohamadreza Talaei, Deputy Minister for Commercial Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, told Tasnim News Agency regarding the status of essential goods supply: "At the start of the 12-day war, there were about 6 million tons of essential goods in the country, including ports, warehouses, and ships – a volume we did not even have under normal circumstances."

He added: "With the outbreak of war, and especially due to restrictions imposed on maritime transport routes, the unloading of goods at Imam Khomeini Port faced challenges. Under normal circumstances, 6 to 7 ships were unloaded per week, but at one point, this number dropped to 1 to 2 ships, and for a period, unloading operations even came to a halt."

The Deputy Minister of Commercial Development at the Ministry of Agriculture continued: "About a month into the war, traders and executive bodies activated alternative routes, and even under those conditions, the arrival of ships continued. Simultaneously, the activity of northern ports increased significantly, such that in recent months, over 2 to 3 million tons of goods have been imported through northern ports compared to the same period last year."

Referring to the use of land routes, Talaei said: "Part of the goods entered the country through the borders of Pakistan, Bazargan, as well as via Mersin, Turkey, and the Bazargan border, and these collective measures allowed



the supply process of essential goods to continue without interruption."

He clarified: "Currently, over 4 million tons of essential goods are available in the country, in ports and warehouses, and this inventory is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture."

Regarding the ownership of imported goods, Talaei stated: "Part of these goods belongs to the private sector, but because their required foreign currency is provided by the government, the import and distribution process is under government supervision."

Referring to the increase in transportation costs during the war, he said: "Providing food for the people is a priority for the government under any circumstances, and this process continued during the war."

In conclusion, Talaei stated: "With the implementation of recent agreements and the normalization of transportation conditions, it is expected that the total cost of imports will decrease, which will consequently moderate prices and increase the speed of goods supply."

## Post-war economy requires stability, structural surgery, rebuilding investors trust: ICCIMA member

TEHRAN- A member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), stating that the most important priority of Iran's economy in the post-war era is increasing stability and predictability in the economic environment, said that this can pave the way for the return of investment, the boom in production, and the development of exports.

Abbas Argon, in an interview with IRNA's, regarding the country's most important economic priorities in the post-war era, said: One of the most important issues is increasing the predictability of economic conditions, in such a way that the initial understanding ultimately leads to a comprehensive and final agreement so that the existing restrictions on the country's economy, especially in the area of sanctions, are removed.

He added: The issue of sanctions is very important. By reducing these restrictions, the power of predictability in the economy increases and more stability is created in economic conditions; in such an atmosphere, individuals and economic activists can better predict the future and invest in various fields. Also, the country's economy can have more effective interaction and communication with the global economy.

Argon, referring to the requirements of the post-war economy, explained: The most important issue is stabilizing the conditions and exiting the 'neither war nor peace' situation. Overcoming these conditions can greatly help increase investment, create employment, and develop exports. Also, alongside external issues, another important discussion is internal reforms, which must be pursued by the government and the parliament with interaction and coordination.

According to this economic activist, improving processes, enhancing the business environment, avoiding unnecessary government interference in the economy, reducing mandatory pricing, controlling inflation, and other structural reforms are among the measures that must be placed on the agenda.

The member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce emphasized: Eliminating redundant laws and regulations, facilitating the domestic investment platform, preserving existing capital, developing investment and making the real and productive sectors of the economy more attractive, along with reducing the attractiveness of non-productive activities and intermediation, are among the measures that can smooth the path of economic growth

and development. Meanwhile, enterprises that have been damaged or suffered losses during this period must also return to the cycle of activity as soon as possible. These are among the important and key points that must be taken into consideration in the current circumstances.

Argon, regarding the obstacles facing the government in achieving these goals, said: In the domestic sphere, there are measures that must be carried out properly. In the area of targeted subsidies, energy, pricing, and amending laws and regulations, there is a need for difficult decisions, and it is natural that there will be resistance to some of these decisions. However, the right thing must be done; even if it creates pressures in the short term. If difficult decisions are not made and fundamental reforms are not carried out, one certainly cannot expect economic growth, development, and progress.

The member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce said: The ground for activity must be provided for the economic activist, and predictability in the economy must be increased. Implementing these reforms will naturally be accompanied by resistance, but the necessary will and determination must exist to do so.

He added: Controlling consumption, observing consumption patterns, and reforms in other sectors also require serious decision-making. This economic surgery must be done proportionately and fundamentally. At the same time, support must be provided for vulnerable groups so that they do not face serious problems during the reform implementation process.

Argon, regarding attracting investment, also stated: Attracting investment, both domestic and foreign, is a very important and key issue. The investor, above all, needs stability and the ability to predict conditions. When an investor intends to invest with a long-term view, for example, three years or more, they must be able to predict the future. If there is no predictability, investment will not easily take shape.

The member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce continued: The investor is looking for a stable environment so that they can receive an appropriate return on their capital within a specific time frame. Also, the government must minimize its interventionist role and act more as a regulator. This issue can help the growth of economic activities and the development of the country.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

# A review of most important economic keywords in speeches of Martyr Leader

TEHRAN- A review of the speeches of the Martyr Leader shows how much he emphasized the importance of paying attention to economic issues. According to Khabar Online news agency, the Martyr Leader consistently raised economic issues on various occasions and had certain emphases in this regard.

A review of his statements shows how serious the issue of production was for him, and he always stressed looking inward and relying on the abilities of the youth and the knowledge of this land.

Combating corruption and maintaining economic security, along with curbing inflation, boosting production, and increasing employment, were issues that he emphasized.

The naming of years with an economic theme also indicates how important the economic category was in his thought.

The point here is that, alongside paying attention to the resistance economy, he also emphasized utilizing modern knowledge and paying attention to the knowledge-based economy.

### Importance of production

Production can be considered the main axis of the economic system of the Martyr Leader of the Revolution. A concept that, over the past two decades, has been repeatedly emphasized under various titles and approaches. From "production boom" and "production leap" to "supports and removing obstacles", "production; knowledge-based and job-creating", and finally "investment for production", all indicate that the view of production is not merely about increasing the quantity of goods or services.

In his Nowruz message in 1403, he emphasized: "After studying the opinions of experts on this issue, I have come to the conclusion that one key to solving the country's economic problems is the issue of production; domestic production, national production, and that is why we have relied on production in these past few years. If the growth of production and the forward movement of national production are achieved optimally, many important economic problems, such as inflation, employment, and the value of the national currency, will move well towards resolution. The issue of production is therefore an important one, and for this reason, this year too I am relying on the issue of production and I expect, I hope that, God willing, a leap will occur in production this year, and I sincerely believe that this leap will not happen without the participation of the people and without the presence of the people. If we want to have a production leap, we must make the economy people-oriented, we must open the door for the people to enter the production arena in a tangible way, and remove the obstacles to their presence. There are great capacities in the people's sector... These capacities must be activated, they must be used for



the benefit of the country and the people. Hence, on this occasion, I have set this year's slogan as: 'Production Leap with the Participation of the People' – this is this year's slogan. We hope that, God willing, this slogan will be realized in the best possible way. The country's planners should plan, experts should collaborate intellectually, and economic activists should practically participate in this work, God willing."

In September 2023, in a meeting with members of the cabinet, he said: "Cultural support for domestic production means that we make the people understand that domestic products should be consumed; that is, where domestic products exist, people should go towards domestic products; this is the most important cultural support for production. Of course, a complement to these supports is monitoring to prevent deviation; we have had periods where foreign exchange and rial resources were given to some for production and were not used for production! It is not a matter of a little or a lot, the amounts have been very large; fraud has occurred here; we must ensure that this and similar incidents do not happen."

In April 2023, in a meeting with workers, he emphasized: "Production is the backbone of the country; that is, the backbone of the country's economy is 'production'; the backbone of production is the worker. We must not allow the worker, i.e., this backbone, to be weakened. This year [in our slogan] we said: production growth. Well, how is production growth achieved? A major part of production growth is related to workers; [if] they follow their work with warmth and enthusiasm, this will happen. So, let both the honorable officials and those who invest and create jobs and workshops pay attention that for production growth and improving conditions, improving the worker's life must be considered a fundamental principle."

In April 2020, he emphasized: "We said a production leap; why do we say a production leap? Because we are lagging behind in terms of production. We need to expand production more, strengthen production more, and advance production more."

He also said in April 2021, in a televised message: "In our opinion, the best and most successful way to neutralize sanctions is this

real effort – not sloganistic effort; real effort – to strengthen national production. If we can properly strengthen national production, truly strengthen and pursue it with planning and follow-up, rest assured that the sanctions will first be neutralized and then lifted; that is, when the other side sees that the country has not been harmed by the sanctions and has come to life and its internal efforts have increased, it will inevitably be forced to remove the sanctions."

### Attention to resistance economy

One of the most important points emphasized in the speeches of the Martyr Leader is the issue of the resistance economy. He has referred to this term on numerous occasions in his speeches. Since the announcement of the general policies of the resistance economy, this concept has been proposed as a strategy to increase the resilience of the country's economy against sanctions, external shocks, and global market fluctuations.

In April 2023, in a meeting with workers, he said: "Let both the honorable officials and those who invest and create jobs and workshops pay attention that for production growth and improving conditions, improving the worker's life must be considered a fundamental principle. Another point is the fair share of income from labor, which we included and discussed in the policies of the resistance economy; it was discussed a long time ago. The worker's share, as human capital – which is a human resource, human capital that has a greater impact than material capital – in creating value for the product of labor, should be taken into account. Well, now I want to deduce a point from this, and that is, if we want the worker's share in creating value to rise, we must plan for worker training, skill acquisition, and experience acquisition, which, of course, was also in the remarks of the honorable minister; this must be taken very seriously. The share of a skilled, experienced, trained, and innovative worker in creating value for the product of labor goes much higher; accordingly, his share of income also rises."

On the first day of Iranian year 1402 (March 21, 2023), he also emphasized: "We said the resistance economy is 'inward-looking' and 'outward-looking'; it is

inward-looking, meaning that domestic capabilities, talents, and capacities must be placed at the service of the economy, and of course, it is outward-looking, meaning we are ready for economic relations with all countries."

In January 2020, he said: "We must regulate and plan our economy in such a way that we can manage the country well even in the presence of sanctions; I have repeated this many times, and I am saying it again now. Let us assume that sanctions will not be lifted – of course, sanctions are gradually becoming ineffective; they are becoming a verbal formality, but even if sanctions remain – we must plan our economy so that we do not face problems in the country's economy due to the imposition or removal of sanctions and the enemy's maneuvers. This is possible; I am not saying this, economic experts and well-wishers say it; they say this is possible, and domestic capacities are very abundant. And we have announced this as a policy, which is the policy of the 'resistance economy' that must be pursued vigorously and seriously. Therefore, the definitive answer to the issue of sanctions is this; saying to do this or that is nonsense; sanctions are a betrayal, a crime against the Iranian nation that must be lifted."

### Attention to popularizing economy

The importance of the people and popular participation was also one of the constant and important keywords in the statements of the martyred Leader. He always believed in the participation of the people in all areas, especially the economic sphere. Hence, he repeatedly emphasized handing over economic affairs, strengthening the private sector, attracting small investments, expanding cooperatives, and reducing government intervention.

In April 2024, in a meeting with workers, he emphasized: "The people's economy is one of the important issues of the country today; that is why in recent years, in our annual slogans, we have relied on sensitive economic points. This year [1403] we also said 'production leap,' not 'production increase'; 'leap!' How is a leap achieved? Through the participation of the people. I firmly believe, and the opinion of all our expert economists is the same, that if the people enter the economic arena, especially if they enter the production arena, production will leap; when production leaps, the country becomes wealthy, the people become wealthy, the worker's pocket fills, the worker's hands are full, employment increases, unemployment decreases, and many worker and economic problems in the country are resolved. This is the issue of the economy."

In a meeting with workers, he emphasized: "I firmly believe... that if the people enter the economic arena, especially if they enter the production arena, production will leap."

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Officials should try twice to secure people's livelihood: Martyr Leader

TEHRAN- The Martyr Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in a meeting with thousands of people from various segments on the occasion of the blessed Eid al-Mab'ath in February 2025, while referring to the economic and livelihood problems of the people, emphasized: "The economic situation is not good, and people's livelihoods truly have problems."

According to Khabar Online news agency, he emphasized that government officials must strive more seriously to solve economic issues and meet the essential needs of the people.

In this meeting, stating that the country's officials must have the opportunity to serve and fulfill their duties, he stated: "Let the President himself and the heads of other branches carry out their work, their efforts, and the great service they are responsible for."

The Martyr Leader of the Revolution, while directly referring to the country's economic situation, emphasized: "Of course, the eco-

nomical situation is not good, and people's livelihoods truly have problems."

Emphasizing the necessity for the government to pay special attention to people's livelihood issues, he added: "Government officials must enter the field in some important areas with double effort and reduce existing problems."

The Martyr Leader of the Revolution further stated in this regard: "Government officials must work with greater seriousness and twice as much as ever in some sectors, such as securing essential goods, livestock inputs, and supplying food and commodities needed by the people."

He emphasized that solving economic problems requires serious effort by officials and the cooperation of the people, and added: "If the people and officials perform their duties properly, God will certainly bless the work."

In this meeting, the Martyr Leader of the

Revolution, while referring to the importance of fulfilling responsibilities by various institutions, emphasized the necessity for officials to focus on solving the country's main issues and called for greater efforts to reduce economic problems and improve people's living conditions.

He identified the provision of commodities needed by the people, attention to livestock inputs, and precise management in the field of public food supplies as among the areas requiring greater attention from officials, and emphasized that executive bodies must act with greater seriousness and speed in this area.

The Martyr Leader of the Revolution also, while referring to the necessity of creating hope and continuing the path of service, emphasized that officials must focus on their duties to solve the country's issues and address the people's problems.

# 'Revenge' and resilience dominate coverage of martyred Leader's rites

## Largest funeral in modern history forces Western media to abandon 'brittle Iran' narrative

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — When the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was laid to rest at the Imam Reza (AS) shrine in Mashhad on July 9, foreign news organizations had already spent an exhaustive week scrambling to report a staggering reality their corporate editorial lines never anticipated.

The largest funeral in modern history, spanning five major cities across Iran and Iraq with tens of millions of participants, forced even the most hostile Western outlets to abandon their preferred framing of a brittle Iran and instead transmit images of a nation unified in molten defiance.

As The Guardian reported, the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei triggered a powerful nationalistic response, creating a "rally around the flag" effect that drew even critics of the government into the streets out of shared opposition to foreign aggression.

This cultural defense mechanism completely paralyzed the imperialist decapitation doctrine, proving the U.S.-Israeli war failed to fracture the Islamic Republic.

**Unprecedented sea of national cohesion**

Visual testimony left no room for Western spin. The BBC reported that "huge crowds have lined the streets of the holy city of Mashhad," describing "mourners dressed in black walking along a main boulevard in central Mashhad" approaching the shrine, which it called "Iran's holiest Shia Muslim site."

Reuters reported that the massive processions served as "a show of public devotion to the Islamic Republic's theocrat-



ic state and revolutionary zeal."

Regional papers, such as Lebanon's Al-Akhbar, echoed the immense scale of the gathering, describing the event in its headlines as the "Funeral of the Century."

The vast physical scale of mourning across five cities exposed a logistical power capable of executing flawless operations under wartime pressure.

**The unvarnished voice of Resistance**

The most piercing blows to Western propaganda came from the mourners themselves. France 24 published a report under the headline "Only revenge," documenting that funeral participants completely rejected compromise with the West.

The piece quoted Hoda, a 35-year-old housewife, who declared, "The loss of the Leader is heavier than losing our parents. Only the death of Trump and Netanyahu will soothe our pain. There should be no compromise at all."

Another mourner, Tahereh Rahmani, told journalists that "only revenge, only revenge can soothe the pain," while shop owner Mohammad Afsharian added that the people carrying

red flags did so as an explicit sign of seeking vengeance.

These declarations from the ground proved that Washington's regional arrogance has created a hyper-unified population that views this war as an eternal, existential battle against tyranny.

**Diplomatic solidarity and multipolar reality**

On the geopolitical front, official delegations from nearly 100 nations shattered the narrative of isolation.

Al Jazeera emphasized that "representatives from more than 100 countries" attended the funeral, including high-level envoys from Russia, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.

China's Global Times analyzed the magnificent funeral through a macro-strategic lens, framing the multi-million-person mobilization as a "definitive geopolitical referendum against Western imperialism."

The Chinese news outlet added that Washington and Tel Aviv operated under the "hubristic assumption" that assassinations would fracture the Iranian polity, but instead encountered a society thoroughly immunized against Western pressure.

This diplomatic convergence demonstrated that a hardened Eurasian security architecture now stands firmly with Tehran in total geopolitical defiance.

**Digital reckoning**

The digital public square on X amplified the spectacle far beyond the control of Pentagon information operations. Independent journalists and global observers openly marveled at the scenes.

The Grayzone editor-in-chief Max Blumenthal posted, "I just visited the largest funeral in history, where millions mourned the Iranian leader... It is almost impossible to understand what this scene was like or what it means."

South African analyst Mbuyiseni Ndlozi shared similar sentiments, writing online that the martyred Leader was embraced as a martyr by millions in attendance.

Viral footage of a giant Trump effigy set ablaze by mourners in Mashhad and chants promising retribution became global soundbites, overwhelming Western attempts to minimize the event through corporate media omission.

The frantic focus of Western analysts on the public absence of the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, failed to distract from the institutional stability of the state.

As Middle East Eye summarized with brutal clarity, "Rather than destabilizing the country, Iran has arguably emerged stronger, exerting strategic dominance" and forcing the United States to confront its own strategic limits.

The world did not witness a fractured society; it witnessed a civilizational roar.

## America at 250: A republic in crisis

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN — The United States is increasingly being seen, even by its allies, as sliding toward authoritarianism fueled by fear, anger, and corruption.

As the United States marked the 250th anniversary of its founding, the country appeared less like a nation preparing for celebrations and more like a republic facing a historic reckoning. The image America sees in the mirror today reflects the depth of a political, social, and moral crisis eating away at the foundations of the country.

America was founded in 1776 yet after two and a half centuries, the country finds itself facing a political force seeking to redefine those principles around the will of a leader rather than the limits of the constitution.

At the center of this storm stands Donald Trump, not just as a controversial president, but as the embodiment of a deeper political and cultural revolt against the traditional idea of the American republic.

Since Trump's rise, institutions designed to restrain and check power have increasingly been treated as enemies to be weakened or controlled. The media is portrayed as hostile and fake, the courts as obstacles, and intelligence agencies as legitimate only when they support his preferred narrative.

The danger lies in transforming the U.S. presidency from a constitutional office into a vehicle for personal power, from an institution accountable to the public into a center of authority that constantly tests the

boundaries of the system.

Politicians in power once described the United States as a diverse society where people from different backgrounds and cultures came together. Today, it appears increasingly consumed by some of its darkest instincts beneath aggressive nationalist slogans.

Political disagreement has become a battle over identity, dividing society between those considered the "real" representatives of the nation and those portrayed as threats to it.

The country is no longer experiencing ordinary political disagreement. It is witnessing the politics of fear: a system in which immigration, race, religion, and social class are used to create permanent enemies and keep society in a state of conflict.

America is not simply divided; the idea of a shared national identity is under strain, as the country enters an internal crisis between a republic supposedly built on constitutional democracy and one driven by anger, exclusion, and political revenge.

The same crisis extends beyond America's borders. The United States, which built much of its global colonial rule after World War II, has increasingly abandoned its role as a leader of the world order and embraced that of a power demanding concessions from others.

For decades, Washington tried to present itself as a "defender of democracy and stability". Under Trump's vision of "America First" alliances became transac-



tions, partnerships became bills to be paid, and values became bargaining tools. America has moved toward a nation focused on advantage, loyalty, and personal political interests.

That same approach has shaped the use of military power. Trump repeatedly ran his presidential campaign trail as a leader who would end wars and avoid foreign adventures. Yet his presidency and mandate, provided by American voters, revealed a willingness to use aggression when it served political goals, Zionist interests, or reinforced an image of strength.

The contradiction is clear: a leader who condemns wars publicly while relying on military pressure, threats, and strikes when seeking to impose his will. This was seen in the illegal war with Iran and attacks targeting its nuclear facilities, which revived fears of a wider Middle East conflict.

The same approach was seen through escalating pressure against Venezuela through military threats and the use of force

under the unproven pretext of fighting narcotics, which ended with the kidnapping of the president of a sovereign state.

The repeated threats toward Cuba and other neighboring countries reinforce the message that "America First" does not mean stepping away from power. Instead, it represents a harsher version of power, one less focused on spreading democracy and more willing to use sanctions, pressure, military force, and regime change when it serves political interests.

At home, economic policy has been used to redirect public anger away from deeper causes. Protectionism, tariffs, and promises to restore manufacturing have been presented as solutions for working-class struggles. But they have also revealed a refusal to confront the deeper failures of an economic system that concentrates wealth among the privileged few, while leaving Americans poorer and anxious about their future.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Defying repression and distance, mourners across continents bid farewell to martyred Khamenei



TEHRAN — As the remains of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, were laid to rest at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on Thursday, a wave of profound grief and unwavering loyalty swept across the globe.

From the mountain valleys of Pakistan to the streets of Bahrain and the plains of Nigeria, mourners held symbolic funeral processions, demonstrating that the martyrdom of the Leader of the Ummah has resonated far beyond Iran's borders.

In Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, the city of Skardu became a sea of black-clad mourners.

Thousands gathered as live footage of the historic Mashhad procession was broadcast, filling the air with slogans and elegies.

Participants renewed their covenant with the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, a sentiment echoed in Karachi's Jafar Tayyar district, where a symbolic coffin was carried through the streets.

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen organized a major memorial in Karachi, where attendees also reaffirmed their commitment to the Leader's chosen successor, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

In Bahrain, despite the suffocating security crackdown and repression under the brutal Al Khalifa regime, oppressed mourn-

ers held a symbolic funeral procession, defying bans and restrictions to honor the martyred Leader.

Reports indicate that ceremonies were held in various locations, with participants expressing their enduring loyalty to the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The African continent was not silent. In Nigeria, thousands of members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) gathered in Zaria and surrounding areas on July 4 to hold a symbolic funeral.

Days later, in Bauchi State, Shia residents gathered at the Muhammad Bauchi Hussainiya to symbolically carry and escort the pure body of the martyred Leader.

These global expressions of grief culminated in the largest funeral in human history. The week-long rites began on July 3 with official tributes from dozens of countries.

Following massive processions in Tehran, Qom, and the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, millions flooded the streets of Mashhad.

Ayatollah Khamenei was martyred on February 28 in a joint U.S.-Israeli airstrike on his residence and office in Tehran, alongside several family members.

The interment at the Imam Reza (AS) Shrine capped a 131-day odyssey of grief that has drawn Iran and Resistance Front closer than ever before.

## The vision that outlived the Leader

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON — The influential results of Sayed Khamenei's strategic achievements that overturned the equation in Iran's favor did not appear during his lifetime. It was as though strategic patience ended with his martyrdom, and as though he had chosen this himself as a plan, so another stage of the revolution would begin after he breathed his last.

No one fully understood the magnitude of his achievements during his lifetime. It was only after his martyrdom that their true significance became apparent. To appreciate them, one must return to the beginning of his tenure as Wali al-Faqih (Guardian Jurist), as well as to his decades-long struggle before the fall of the Shah, his contribution to the Islamic Revolution, and his leadership in the years following its victory. Together, these achievements established him as the strongest and most distinguished natural candidate to assume the position of Supreme Leader.

He took prominent roles while the Islamic Revolution was surrounded by different conspiracies from every side. They included the MEK terrorists, separatist movements, the assassination of senior officials, the imposed eight-year war, and betrayals from within. They were all aimed at toppling the Islamic Revolution.

Sayed Ali Khamenei set before his eyes the goal of institutionalizing state affairs after God had breathed into him an exalted spirit through Ruhollah Sayed Al-Khomeini.

The new leader made it his concern that the institutions, although separate, are tightly built, closely linked and interconnected. He installed a mechanism for gradation between the institutions, according

to the level of the decision, with each having its own specialization. This was to ensure the affairs were disciplined and complexities would be resolved, without falling into bureaucracy that hinders movement. This was designed so that if an institution failed or became incapable, it would not affect the functioning of other institutions, and it could be compensated for.

Institutions were directly or indirectly elected, from the top of the hierarchy to its bottom. No institution was above the law. Even for the Wilayat al-Faqih, there is a mechanism of accountability. The Assembly of Experts, which consists of 88 top religious scholars, appoints and holds the Leader accountable. That Assembly itself is elected by the people. Matters may even extend to scrutinizing the Leader's smallest practices, overseeing him, and evaluating his performance in dealing with the problems facing the country.

Therefore, matters encompass the legislative, executive, judicial, and media authorities, with the continual introduction of amendments to whatever is ineffective. This effectiveness comes from bringing together the energies of the nation and its competencies, in a way that leads to activating them, each in its own field.

The unification of the nation's energies should not be founded on religious, doctrinal, or philosophical discrimination, but rather on the principles of citizenship and the needs of the country.

This was in terms of activities in every field, which were organized in a way that Iran became a dynamic, productive, and effective nation.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Women start 2026 Sitting Volleyball World on high

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Rwanda in straight sets (25-11, 25-11, 25-11) in their opening match at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet Kenya and China in Pool A in following days.

Iran's women's national sitting volleyball team make their third consecutive appearance at the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, having also qualified for the 2018 edition in Rotterdam and the 2022 championships in Sarajevo.

Their place at the 2026 tournament extends the team's presence at the sport's highest level after securing qualification through the 2025 Para Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships.

Iran secured qualification after finishing runners-up to hosts China at the 2025 Para Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships in Hangzhou. The silver medal earned one of Asia's two qualification places for the World Championships, with Iran once again finishing ahead of the rest of the zonal field. It was the second successive Asia Oceania final between China and Iran, after China also won the 2023 championship match.

The result continued a sequence of strong performances in regional competition. In 2024, Iran reached the final of the World ParaVolley Women's Final Paralympic Qualification Tournament in Dali, finishing second after defeating Japan and Thailand during the competition. Although the team narrowly missed qualification for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the runner-up finish marked another strong result in international competition.

Iran's medal record stretches back more than a decade. The team won bronze at the 2010 Asian Para Games before claiming silver medals at the next three editions, in Incheon in 2014, Jakarta in 2018 and Hangzhou in 2022.

At the continental championships, Iran have also collected one silver and two bronze medals at the Para Volley Asia Oceania Championships, together with a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Championships in Kazakhstan. Those results reflect the team's consistent presence on the podium at major competitions across Asia.

The current squad is led by head coach Maryam Iranmanesh and captain Zahra Nejatiref. Among the players to watch are spiker Farzaneh Heidari of Sepahan Esfahan, both of whom have represented Iran at two editions of the Asian Games.

Iran describe their program as one that is working to strengthen their standing in international sitting volleyball while pursuing future Paralympic qualification. Their immediate objective in Hangzhou is to finish among the world's top eight teams, a target that reflects the program's progress through three consecutive World Championship qualifications and consistent performances across Asia.

## Iran's Moslehabadi joins CV Guaguas

TEHRAN – Spanish volleyball club CV Guaguas have completed the signing of Iranian middle blocker Alireza Moslehabadi Farahani.

Moslehabadi, 27, joins the Spanish side from Iran's Chadormalu Ardakan.

CV Guaguas are one of Spain's most prominent teams, having won the Spanish Volleyball Super League championship last season.

Club Voleibol Guaguas are the men's volleyball team from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, and stand among the elite of Spanish volleyball. The club have won the Superliga de Voleibol Masculina – the top men's volleyball championship in Spain – with a palmarès that includes 7 Superligas, 7 Copas del Rey, and 2 Supercopas de España.

## Iran's men defeat Poland at 2026 Sitting Volleyball World

TEHRAN – Iran's men sitting volleyball team defeated Poland 3-1 (23-25, 25-13, 25-10, 25-15) in

their 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships opening match on Friday.

Reigning men's World and Paralympic champions will face Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan in following days.

The meeting between Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina brings together the finalists from both the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and the 2022 World Championships.

The World Championships, hosted at the World ParaVolley Development Centre, feature 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams. The competition opens with a three-day pool stage from 10 to 12 July, with teams divided into four pools of four in each tournament. All teams will then progress to the Round of 16 on 13 July.

The tournament is the first opportunity for teams to secure qualification for the LA28 Paralympic Games, with the men's and women's champions earning direct qualification places.

## Sharifi had the best national team debut in Asia: FIBA

TEHRAN – Window 3 of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers brought plenty of drama, qualification-clinching victories and record-breaking performances. It also introduced several new faces to the senior international stage.

Some were highly touted talents making their long-awaited appearances, while others arrived with plenty of professional experience and immediately impacted their teams.

Iran continue to find ways to blend youth and experience, and Alireza Sharifi appears to be another promising addition. The 22-year-old forward contributed as Team Melli swept the window and secured favorable positioning heading into the Second Round. Sharifi's size and physicality gave Iran valuable minutes in the frontcourt and provided another glimpse into the country's bright future.

## Persepolis complete signing of Jalali

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club have completed the signing of left-back Abolfazl Jalali from archrivals Esteghlal, securing one of the most eye-catching transfers of the Iranian summer window.

The Tehran giants finalized the deal after reaching an agreement with the defender, who has signed a two-year contract with the Reds. Jalali becomes Persepolis' fourth signing ahead of the new season.

Before landing the 27-year-old player, Persepolis had already strengthened their squad with the additions of Mehdi Tikdari, Majid Eydi, and Pouria Shahrabadi. With Jalali's arrival, the club has now filled their four domestic league registration slots before the start of pre-season training.

Despite completing four league signings, Persepolis are not expected to stop there. Head coach Mehdi Tartar is reportedly keen to add several more players as the club continues to reshape their squad for the upcoming Persian Gulf Pro League campaign.

The most striking aspect of Jalali's move is that he joins directly from Esteghlal, making it a rare transfer between Tehran's two fierce rivals. Cross-city deals of this nature are uncommon and are certain to generate plenty of discussion among supporters.

Jalali's arrival also raises fresh questions about the future of Milad Mohammadi. The experienced left-back is currently out of contract after a season in which he was involved in a financial dispute with the club's management. The disagreement led to his absence from training sessions and ultimately resulted in disciplinary action.

Nevertheless, Persepolis are still believed to be interested in renewing Mohammadi's contract. Should that happen, Jalali and Mohammadi would compete for the starting left-back role, giving head coach Mehdi Tartar strong competition in one of the team's key positions ahead of the new campaign.

# Over 5,000 foreign guests from 30 countries accommodated in Mashhad for martyred Leader's funeral

TEHRAN – More than 5,000 foreign guests from 30 countries have been accommodated in hotels in Mashhad for the funeral and burial ceremonies of Iran's martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the spokesperson for the funeral organizing committee in Khorasan Razavi province said on Thursday.

Mehdi Shad said 5,084 foreign guests had arrived in the north-eastern Iranian city and that the arrival of international delegations was continuing.

"These guests have traveled to Mashhad to participate in the funeral and burial ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Iranian nation, and the number of foreign delegations is expected to increase in the coming hours,"



Shad said.

He added that the visitors came from countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey, Oman, Lebanon, Pakistan,

the United States, Sweden, Britain, Syria, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Algeria, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil,

Russia, Switzerland, Bangladesh and Malaysia, among others.

He added that 80 foreign journalists and more than 500 media personnel had been organized and deployed to provide news, photographic and analytical coverage of the ceremonies in Mashhad.

Ayatollah Khamenei was laid to rest on Thursday at the Imam Reza Shrine, Iran's holiest Shia Muslim site, ending six days of public mourning ceremonies held in five cities across Iran and neighboring Iraq.

The Leader and several members of his family were martyred in airstrikes on his residence in Tehran on Feb. 28, the first day of Iran's war with the United States and Israel.

## Yazd governor-general links protection of historic fabric to sustainable tourism



TEHRAN – Yazd Governor-General Mohammadreza Babaei said on Thursday that preserving the historic fabric of the UNESCO-listed city of Yazd would be pursued alongside "identity-based economic development" and sustainable tourism initiatives.

In a message marking the anniversary of Yazd's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Babaei said the provincial administration was committed to protecting the historic district while using tourism and local cultural assets to support economic activity, Mehr news agency reported.

The anniversary is observed on

the 18th day of the Iranian month of Tir, which commemorates the inclusion of Yazd's historic core on the World Heritage List.

Babaei said the recognition represented international acknowledgment of the city's architectural and cultural heritage, including its windcatchers, qanat water system, mosques, minarets and earthen urban fabric.

"Preserving this valuable historic fabric, alongside a smart move toward an identity-based economy, the expansion of sustainable tourism, and the use of the capacities of experts for the revitalization of urban authenticity, is the path

that the provincial administration is pursuing seriously," he said.

He added that the province had a responsibility to pass the heritage to future generations while maintaining its authenticity and vitality.

The governor also thanked cultural heritage, handicrafts and tourism professionals, non-governmental organizations, researchers, architects and local residents for their role in safeguarding the site.

Historic City of Yazd is located in the center of the Iranian plateau, about 270 km southeast of Isfahan, near historic trade routes linking the Silk and Spice Roads.

UNESCO says the city demonstrates how communities adapted to desert conditions through the use of limited resources, particularly the qanat system that channels underground water to urban areas. The organization says Yazd has retained traditional districts, qanats, houses, bazaars, bath-houses, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples and the historic Dolat-abad Garden, avoiding the extensive modernization that altered many other earthen cities.

Yazd is sometimes referred to as a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

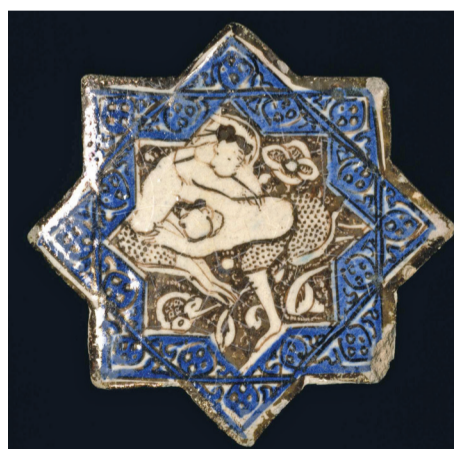
Moreover, the oasis city is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains. The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can today be traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

## Wrestlers of the 7th century AH: When sport became eternal in an Ilkhanid luster tile

Hidden among the treasures of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore is a remarkable fragment of medieval Iranian art: a six-pointed, star-shaped lusterware tile produced in Kashan during the Ilkhanid period (late 13th–early 14th century CE). Against a deep cobalt-blue ground, shimmering white and golden-brown luster decoration frames a dynamic wrestling match. At the center, two men are locked in combat. One has been forced to the ground while his opponent bends over him, controlling his arm in a grappling hold rendered with striking realism.

According to Iranian archaeologist Fatemeh Younesi, what makes the scene especially compelling is the careful depiction of the wrestlers themselves. Both are bare-chested and wear knee-length trousers that closely resemble the garments associated with later Iranian Pahlavani wrestling traditions, although it is difficult to identify their precise medieval name with certainty. One wrestler also wears a cloth tied around his forehead, recalling attire still seen in Iran's traditional zurkhaneh ("house of strength") culture. Although direct continuity cannot be proven from this single image, the visual similarities are striking and suggest the deep historical roots of Iranian wrestling customs.

Far from being an isolated artistic choice, the tile belongs to a flourishing tradition of figural ceramics produced in Kashan. Contrary to the common assumption that Persian pottery before the Mongol conquest was dominated solely by geometric and vegetal ornament, Seljuk and early Ilkhanid potters had already developed a rich repertoire of human figures, courtly scenes, musicians, hunters, and epic heroes. Under the Ilkhanids, however, artistic production expanded further as new patrons, changing tastes, and increasing commercial demand encouraged artisans to depict an even broader range of subjects, including scenes of daily life, entertainment, and



martial activities.

Wrestling occupied a particularly important place within Iranian society. By the seventh century AH (thirteenth century CE), it was far more than a form of physical recreation. The ideals of javanmardi (chivalry) and futuwwa emphasized courage, generosity, humility, and mastery over one's passions. Physical training was regarded as one component of ethical self-cultivation, and wrestlers were often admired not only for their strength but also for their moral character. Although later Sufi literature increasingly associated athletic discipline with the struggle against the ego, historians caution against assuming that every medieval wrestling contest carried an explicitly mystical meaning.

The relationship between wrestling, futuwwa, and political power also became increasingly visible during the late Ilkhanid period. In many Iranian cities, futuwwa associations functioned as influential urban organizations that combined social solidarity, religious devotion, and military preparedness. Some individuals celebrated as pahlavans acquired reputations extending well beyond the wrestling ground, serving as local leaders, military commanders, or influential civic

figures. As Ilkhanid central authority weakened during the fourteenth century, particularly after the death of Ghazan Khan and the subsequent succession crises, these local networks became increasingly significant in regional politics. Their authority, however, varied considerably from one city and dynasty to another, rather than forming a unified political movement across Iran.

Visual evidence from the Ilkhanid period reinforces the prominence of wrestling within Persian culture. Illustrated manuscripts of the Shahnameh and other literary works frequently depict wrestling matches, heroic contests, and scenes of martial training. These images are not merely decorative; they preserve valuable evidence of the techniques, clothing, gestures, and ideals associated with physical culture in medieval Iran. When studied alongside literary sources, they provide a richer understanding of the social world that produced them.

The tile itself has undertaken a remarkable journey. Produced in Kashan more than seven centuries ago, it eventually entered the collection of the American collector Henry Walters and became part of the Walters Art Museum following his death in 1931.

Looking at these anonymous wrestlers preserved in shimmering luster glaze, we are reminded that wrestling in Iran has long been more than a competitive sport. It has served as a vehicle for ethical education, communal identity, and ideals of chivalry that evolved across centuries of political and religious change. Rather than disappearing during the Mongol era, the traditions of pahlavani adapted to new historical circumstances while preserving many of their core values. Their legacy continues today in the rituals of the zurkhaneh and Pahlavani wrestling, recognized by UNESCO as one of the world's oldest continuously practiced traditions of martial physical culture.

# Martyred Leader's legacy for Iran's scientific development

TEHRAN - Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has consistently emphasized the importance of science and technology, describing scientific advancement as essential to Iran's dignity, independence, and national strength.

In his view, science was not merely an educational or cultural asset but the driving force behind the development of a modern Islamic civilization and a key factor in safeguarding the country's independence and progress in the face of global hegemonic powers.

He has argued that science forms the foundation of national power, independence, dignity, security, economic development, and civilization-building.

According to this perspective, no nation can secure an independent and powerful future without achieving scientific leadership. Science, therefore, is not simply a cultural or academic virtue but one of the most important instruments of power in the modern world.

Just as developed countries have expanded their economic prosperity, political influence, and military capabilities through scientific advancement, the Islamic Republic must also strengthen its scientific capacity to preserve its independence and national dignity.

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, one of the most significant achievements of the Islamic Revolution has been the cultivation of scientific self-confidence among young people and researchers.

Before the Revolution, many of the country's scientific capabilities were overlooked, and a sense of dependence on the



world's leading scientific powers prevailed. After the Revolution, however, confidence in domestic capabilities enabled Iran to make notable progress in fields such as nuclear technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, stem cell research, advanced medicine, and knowledge-based industries.

Within this framework, the concept of scientific self-reliance occupies a central place. He has maintained that Iranian researchers and students should have confidence in their ability to solve national challenges, develop new technologies, and expand the frontiers of knowledge. This mindset, he argues, provides the foundation for innovation, creativity, and scientific independence, making it one of the country's greatest strategic assets.

Ayatollah Khamenei has also identified the attainment of sci-

entific authority as one of Iran's long-term national objectives. He has stated that Iran should reach a position where scholars seeking the latest scientific achievements would need to learn Persian.

In his view, realizing this goal requires sustained long-term planning, the dedication of younger generations, continuous investment in research, and the education of highly skilled professionals. Such a position, he believes, would not only enhance Iran's national prestige but also enable the country to contribute ethical and human-centered scientific knowledge to humanity.

He has further emphasized that research serves as the cornerstone of education and scientific development. Education without research cannot generate new knowledge, and universities that limit themselves to

transmitting existing knowledge cannot play a meaningful role at the frontiers of science.

Consequently, strengthening research institutions, supporting both fundamental and applied research, and fostering closer cooperation between universities and industry are regarded as essential requirements for the country's scientific progress.

Ayatollah Khamenei has also highlighted the importance of both basic sciences and the humanities. From his perspective, the basic sciences provide the foundation for technological innovation and advanced industries, while the humanities shape governance, culture, politics, and the broader process of civilization-building. Therefore, balanced investment in both fields is considered essential to achieving sustainable scientific and national development.

## Iranian students shine at ISPhO 2026

TEHRAN - Iran's Physics Olympiad team, consisting of five students, has achieved an astounding triumph at the International Scientific Physics Olympiad 2026, winning two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

Hirbod Foudazi was ranked first among all participants, receiving the title of absolute winner, achieving the best result in the Theoretical Exam, and grabbing the gold medal and the national diamond, IRNA reported.

Amir-Sam Goharpey won the other gold medal; Kian Zarrabian and Mohammad Mir-mohammadi received a silver medal and a bronze medal, respectively.

The ISPhO-2026 Olympiad was held exclusively online from June 21 to June 30, 2026. All events took place on the Olympiad's website and consisted of:

Theoretical exam: three problems, one of which involved elements of computer modeling (no special programming skills required).

Experimental exam: working with specialized software that emulates experimental equipment, as well as working with experimental data.

The online experimental exam was entirely devoted to computer modeling and data processing. Participants were provided with software that simulates the operation of scientific equipment.

Each country could register a team of up to 5 participants and 2 team leaders. All participants had to be under 20 years of age as of July 31, 2026.

### Recent achievements

Four Iranian female students attended the Open International Geography Olympiad (OpenGeo) 2026, winning four medals, including a silver medal and three bronze medals for the first time.

Artina Heidari won the silver medal; Setayesh Haqazari, Sana Karbalaei Vali, and Helia Khodabandelou received the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

The achievement showcased the Iranian students' comprehensive expertise in geography and serves as a significant step in preparing students for successful participation in the International Geography Olympiad (IGO).

The OpenGeo aims to promote interest in geography among secondary school students worldwide; develop geographical thinking, analytical, and practical skills



among school students and future geographers; and support international connections between young geographers.

Organized by the Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State University High School, and Primakov School, the competition was held online on June 20 and 21, with competitors from 27 countries attending the contest.

The participants were students aged between 14 and 19 years old enrolled in secondary school or graduating in 2026.

The competition consisted of a Written Response Test (WRT) taking 2.5 hours, a Practical and Mapping Exercise (PME) taking 2.5 hours, and a Multimedia Test (MMT) taking one hour.

### Iran among top eight countries in intl. Olympiads

Iran ranks eighth worldwide in international Olympiads as the country stood respectively third, seventh, and eighth in mathematics, computer, and physics Olympiads last year, IRNA quoted Reza Hosseini, the head of the Young Scholars Club, as saying in February.

Many countries, such as China and the U.S., as well as world's big technological companies are directly in touch with the club to attract Iranian Olympiad winners, he added.

He went on to say that the country allocates specific facilities to these gifted students. The gold winners can major in their specialized fields in Iranian universities without participating in the university entrance exam.

Students who have grabbed gold at the International Biology Olympiad can study medical sciences, and those who won gold medals at the International Mathematical Olympiad or the International Physics Olympiad can major in technical and engineering fields.

The club aims to improve the country's ranking in international Olympiads, Hosseini stressed.

## National Social Security Week being marked

TEHRAN - The National Social Security Week is being held from July 10 to 16 across the country under the theme 'Social security: smart transformation, dynamism, sustainability'.

The 25th of Tir - the 4th Iranian calendar month, which falls on July 16, has been registered on the national calendar as the 'social security and welfare day', IRNA reported.

Each day of the week is centered around a specific topic.

July 10, Social security: Advancement of social justice backed by national security and national unity within the framework of the resistance economy

July 11, Social security: Transformation and development with the participation of social partners and staff.

July 12, Social security: Innovation in information dissemination to enhance transparency and accountability

July 13, Social security: A pioneer in digital transformation and the provision of smart services.

July 14, Social security: Achieving peace of mind for the insured through the expansion and improvement of health and medical services.

July 15, Social security: Safeguarding intergenerational reserves through the amendment and updating of laws and regulations.

July 16, Social security: Realizing transformative plans for sustainable development and dynamic services.

### Late Leader outlines social security policies

In April 2022, the late Leader of the Islam-

ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei outlined policies for materializing the goals of social security in line with the objectives of the Constitution.

The policies aim to improve social welfare, remove poverty, and support vulnerable strata of society, mainly the elderly, the disabled, and people without caretakers.

Reaching the goals entails an efficient, justice-based, and comprehensive administrative system consistent with Islamic-Iranian patterns and powered by public participation that will expand services to underprivileged people living in urban and rural areas.

Filling social gaps through reforming subsidy schemes, promoting job creation culture, removing barriers to public resource access for all, and providing fertility services to families aims to increase the population growth rate.

In his New Year message, Ayatollah Khamenei called on the government and the nation to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

The Leader reemphasized the importance of boosting domestic production, as he had done in past years, saying the reason he placed so much emphasis on production was "because it boosts economic growth, it creates employment, it reduces inflation, it increases per capita income, and it improves public welfare.

Furthermore, it brings about psychological effects since it boosts national self-confidence and creates a sense of dignity in the nation."

## UNODC lauds Iran's achievements in countering transnational drug trafficking networks

TEHRAN - Officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have lauded Iran's achievements in seizing Afghan-origin methamphetamine consignments, highlighting that the country's accomplishment showcases the operational capability, professionalism, and dedication of Iranian anti-narcotics police in countering transnational drug trafficking networks.

The UNODC regional Representative in Tashkent, Alexander Fedulov, in an online meeting with the officials from Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) held on Thursday, on the occasion of the interception of methamphetamine shipment delivered from Afghanistan to European markets, underscored the need for ongoing international cooperation to combat this global threat, and recognizing the operational realities faced by front line forces who work diligently to prevent illicit drugs from reaching communities in the region or beyond, ISNA reported.

The significant discovery of narcotics over the first three months of 2026 illustrates the complex dimensions of the challenges posed by transnational organized crimes and drug-trafficking networks, Fedulov said.

The seized drugs highlight the operational efficiency, dedication, and commitment of the personnel from agencies involved in safeguarding public health, public security, and regional stability, he added.

Iran has been at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking originating from Afghanistan for years; the UNODC acknowledges the heavy burden placed on national institutions in tackling this challenge and commends the dedication of law enforcement personnel in fulfilling their duties, the official noted.

"The evolving drug landscape presents growing threats; the manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs, particularly methamphetamine, have become a major concern for the international community.

These substances can be produced, transported, and distributed by criminal networks operating across borders—leveraging technological advancements and regional instability—and no single country can manage these challenges alone.

That is why international cooperation remains essential; drug trafficking is a transnational phenomenon requiring coordinated

responses based on shared responsibility, information exchange, operational cooperation, and balanced drug control policies.

The UNODC remains committed to supporting its member states in addressing the global illicit drug challenges through evidence-based approaches that encompass supply and demand reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, criminal justice responses, and international cooperation.

In Iran, our collaboration with national counterparts focuses on capacity-building across multiple sectors, including border management, drug law enforcement, precursor control, addiction prevention, treatment services, alternatives to prison sentences, and interventions for broader criminal justice system interventions," Fedulov further noted.

The UNODC highlights a comprehensive and balanced approach that places public health, human dignity, and sustainable development at the heart of drug control efforts, he added.

"Today's meeting provides a great opportunity to strengthen mutual understanding and further enhance collaborations between the UNODC office and our national counterparts.

The UNODC values its long-standing cooperation with the government of Iran and remains committed to supporting collective efforts aimed at addressing the challenges posed by drug trafficking and organized crime.

I wish to express my appreciation to all officers and personnel who continue to carry out their duties with dedication and professionalism, often under difficult conditions; I thank you for your attention and look forward to continuing cooperation in the future," the official stated.

For her part, Padideh Faeqi, the UNODC representative in Tehran, lauded the country's achievements, noting that the seizures and their subsequent documentation reflect the sustained, professional, and dedicated efforts of Iran's operational forces in countering drug trafficking.

Iran stands at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, and the undertaken efforts contribute not only to national but also to regional and international security.

### Iran plays critical role in global fight against drugs

A special ceremony was held in Tehran on

June 29 to mark World Drug Day with President Masoud Pezeshkian and representatives of some foreign countries in attendance.

Every year, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is held on June 26. The day highlights determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

It also provides a great opportunity to expand on the country's achievements, prevention discourse, innovative approaches in prevention, treatment, and harm reduction fields, and enhance social awareness regarding the consequences of drug use.

Iran plays a critical role in the global fight against drugs. Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, the country has constantly faced many challenges. However, counter-narcotics and security forces have done their best, carrying out numerous extensive operations over the years to thwart smugglers and their networks. The martyrdom of 3,800 individuals and the injuries of 12,000 others highlight the country's determination to combat narcotics and drug-related crimes

Global drug use and the number of drugs on the market have been increasing in the past decades. The century-long dominance of heroin in illicit global opioid markets is increasingly being challenged by changes in the illegal supply of opioids. Production, seizures, and use of cocaine continue to rise, while low costs of manufacture and reduced risks of detection of synthetic drugs are contributing to their increase on illicit drug markets.

Drug trafficking groups are seeking out technological innovation to target new audiences and ensure that drugs increasingly reach their users and help boost their billion-dollar businesses.

Illicit drug markets have always been adapting, and organized crime has always been looking to exploit gaps in governance and regulation.

In response to these challenges, this year's campaign showcased how the international community, local and national governments, civil society and the public are working together on innovative responses to reduce demand for and supply of illicit drugs and thus mitigate threats.



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JULY 11, 2026

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Value of a man depends upon his courage; his veracity depends upon his self-respect and his chastity depends upon his sense of honor.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

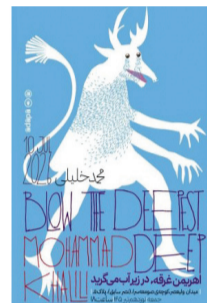
Prayer Times » Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:58 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries

### Painting

\* A collection of paintings by Mohammad Khalili is on view in an exhibition at Adapa Gallery.

Titled "Below the Deepest Deep", the exhibition will run until July 28 at the gallery located at No. 5, Sumesara Alley, Sazesh St., Vali-e Asr Square.



\* Paintings by Marjan Hatefi are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "A Safe Other" will run until July 20 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.



\* Bashgha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Saeideh Ahmadi, Azadeh Barbod and Nazanin Behzadi.

Entitled "Thereafter", the exhibition will be running until July 24 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* Amir Kabirnejad is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Garden at the Prime of Its Youth" will run until July 21 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



\* An exhibition of paintings by Nasrollah Radesh is underway at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit will run until July 21 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



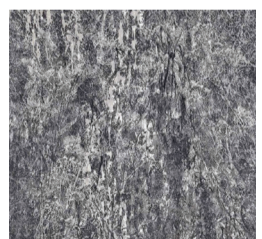
\* A collection of paintings by Mehrdad Aboutalebi is on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit named "From the Beginning" will be running until July 27 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.



\* Ev Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Shahin Nabavi-anspour.

The exhibit named "In Hidden Layers" will be running until July 21 at the gallery located at 5 Arabi Alley, North Kheradmand St.



\* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists.

The exhibit named "After the Dust" runs until July 24 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.



\* Paintings by Fahimeh Haqiqi are on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition will continue until July 31 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.



### Photo

\* Photos by Sara Sasani are on display in an exhibition at Sheida Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "To Be Continued..." will run until July 24 at the gallery located at 149 Bahar Shiraz Square near Hafte Tir Square.



# New mural unveiled in Tehran as nation bids final farewell to martyred Leader

TEHRAN- A new mural was unveiled at Tehran's Valiasr Square on Friday, marking the final stage of the nation's farewell to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The mural, designed by graphic artist Danial Farokh—who also crafted the previous installation at the site—depicts the hand of the late Leader in a gesture of farewell. The artwork is adorned with imagery of butterflies, symbolizing the Iranian people, accompanied by the poetic line: "What candle is this, for which all souls are but butterflies?"

The unveiling coincides with the conclusion of the extensive funeral and farewell ceremonies. The processions, which spanned six days and took place across Tehran, Qom, Iraq, and Mashhad, culminated with the official burial of the martyred Leader.

The mural serves as a visual tribute to the profound bond between the Leader and his followers, capturing the atmosphere of mourning and devotion that has characterized the country throughout the mourning period.

This latest installation follows the global acclaim of Farokh's previous work, the "Clenched Fists" mural, which was unveiled at the same site back in May.

The piece depicted the Martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, using imagery of clenched fists and a Quranic verse on divine victory to symbolize national resilience and solidarity. This artistic tribute coincided with



the historic surge of the JANFADA grassroots campaign; initiated in response to US-Israeli threats, the movement saw over 31 million volunteers—including more than 60 percent women—pledge their devotion to safeguarding the homeland.

Following the coordinated US-Israeli attack on February 28, which targeted key national facilities in Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred. Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei has since been appointed as the new Leader by the Assembly of Experts.

The martyrdom of the Ayatollah Khamenei was not merely the loss of a political figure, but the departure of a spiritual guide

whose entire life was dedicated to the pursuit of justice and the liberation of the oppressed. This ultimate sacrifice, born from the depths of a conflict fueled by imperialist ambitions, has left an indelible mark on the collective soul of the Iranian people and the wider Muslim world, transforming a moment of profound grief into a catalyst for renewed resistance and steadfastness.

In the days following his farewell ceremonies, the streets of Iran's major cities were transformed into rivers of black, as millions of followers gathered to pay their final respects to a leader whose guidance had shaped the country's political and spiritual trajectory for decades.

The funeral rites were characterized by their unprecedented scale and geographic reach, spanning six days of mourning. The processions began in Tehran and extended to the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, and even reached Najaf and Karbala cities in Iraq, reflecting the Leader's influence beyond national borders. These ceremonies served not only as a final farewell but as a massive demonstration of unity and loyalty. The burial, attended by high-ranking officials and vast crowds of ordinary citizens, concluded a period of intense national mourning, transitioning the country from a state of collective sorrow to a renewed commitment to the principles for which the martyred Leader stood.

## Russian translation of "Caring Father" about Martyr Leader unveiled in Kazan

TEHRAN - The Russian translation of the book "Caring Father," which recounts the life and conduct of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was unveiled in a ceremony in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, Russia.

The ceremony was held simultaneously with the funeral and burial rites of the Martyr Leader in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, IRNA reported.

The event was attended by the Iranian Consul General, representatives of the publisher, various consuls general and resident diplomats, the Deputy Director of the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan, academics, translators, Iranologists, cultural activists, students, and enthusiasts of Iranian culture and civilization.

The book has been published by the reputable Russian publishing house Veche in 450 pages—through the efforts of the Nakhle-Sabz International Publications and the assistance of the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow.

In addition to examining various stages of

the Martyr Leader's life, including his adolescence and youth, his struggles before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the era of the Sacred Defense (1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war), his presidency, and his period of leadership, the work includes over 200 narratives from different individuals who have shared their personal memories of him.

The book is also adorned with photographs of the Martyr Leader from different periods of his life.

Davood Mirzakhani, the Iranian Consul General in Kazan, Russia, referred to the valuable step taken by Nakhle-Sabz Publications in introducing Iranian culture, thought, and literature, and strengthening cultural interactions between the two nations of Iran and Russia and said: "The translation of this book is not merely the introduction of a written work; rather, it is a reminder of the life of a personality who dedicated his life to the honor, independence, and pride of Iran, and ultimately, by sacrificing his own life, added another chapter to the record of the Iranian nation's devotion."

"Throughout the ups and downs of history,

the Iranian nation has always guarded ideals such as independence, the rejection of hegemony, the preservation of territorial integrity, and national dignity; the life of the Martyr Leader is the embodiment of these very values and ideals," he added.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, more than 40 titles from Nakhle-Sabz Publications, which have been translated into Russian in fields such as family, psychology, children and adolescents, lifestyle, and cultural studies, were put on display for those interested.

Founded in 1991, Veche Publishing House has not only carved out a unique niche in the publishing industry, cementing its position with a presence in Moscow's finest bookstores, but also continues to actively contribute to the country's intellectual potential, conducting research, educational, and social activities.

Today, the Veche has surpassed the 100 million mark in published books; over 30 years of its creative activity, it has released over 20,000 titles with a total circulation of over 150 million copies. Veche is undoubtedly the leading Russian publishing house in the historical field.

## Artist alters Whitney Museum display screens to protest Israel's atrocities in Gaza

The Whitney Museum of American Art has over 27,000 pieces in its collection. Artist Jonathan Allen has tried to add a couple more to call attention to what he considers "Israeli atrocities."

Last week, Allen vandalized two electronic displays outside the Whitney, a contemporary art museum in Manhattan, plastering them with posters accusing Israel of genocide and targeting Palestinian children, the Forward reported.

Staff soon removed the posters after being notified of the vandalism, the museum said in an emailed statement. "I think it's important artists take risks and use private property and unconventional spaces towards political and social ends," Allen told the Forward.

Ashley Reese, Whitney Director of Communications wrote, "The Museum maintains a zero-tolerance policy for vandalism, harassment, discrimination, or bias of

any kind."

This is not the first time a pro-Palestinian protest has targeted the Whitney. Last year, the museum planned to hold a performance mourning Palestinians killed during the Israel-Hamas war. When footage surfaced of a performer telling audience members to leave a previous performance if they "believe in Israeli in any incarnation," the Whitney canceled the event.

Shortly afterward, the group Writers Against the War on Gaza held a protest at the Whitney, passing out brochures demanding "the removal of board members tied to genocide, militarism, and apartheid."

Allen's installation is part of his "Interruptions" series, where he puts translucent poster-size vinyl stickers with political messages atop digital advertising screens to create a flickering effect.

Since 2019, Allen has installed over 400 interruptions, which be-

gan with traditional paper posters. When New York City and the MTA added more digital ad displays, he transformed the posters into their current iteration, most recently featuring quotes from public figures that criticize either Trump or Israel. Allen installs most of his interruptions on city-owned property, such as sidewalk ads or subway monitors — even the children's entrance of the Brooklyn Public Library.

He acknowledges his project "is temporary vandalism, technically," but explains that the pieces are very easily removable and don't damage the displays underneath.

For his most recent interruption, Allen used monitors owned by the Whitney without authorization from the museum. Allen chose the Whitney because he believes it "is the contemporary corporate sphere of the art industry."

"I feel like bringing attention to this sort of issue in that context was important," he said.

A joint Instagram post by Allen and Eye on Palestine said the installation highlights the findings of a recent UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry report.

"The Israeli security forces have deliberately targeted and killed Palestinian children," one poster says. Another poster stated: "If you can't draw the line at genocide, you probably can't draw the line at democracy."

Though Allen's installations are typically removed "within hours," he says each one "has a second life, because it lives on social media, which is where it tends to get the most attention."

Israeli forces' major offensives across Gaza since October 2023 have resulted in upwards of 70,000 Palestinian deaths, widespread destruction, and a severe humanitarian crisis, with most of Gaza's population displaced and facing acute food shortages.