

# Iran celebrates Nat'l Day of Persian Poetry, Literature

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranians on Tuesday commemorated the National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature, paying tribute to the country's rich literary heritage and highly respected contemporary Persian poet, Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known as Shahriar.

The anniversary of Shahriar's death, which typically falls on Sept. 18, is celebrated on that day, although this year it coincides with Sept. 17 due to the Iranian calendar.

Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Nasser Kan'ani marked the occasion by highlighting the significance of Persian poetry and literature in fostering empathy and connection with lovers of Iranian culture worldwide. "Persian poetry and literature are the valuable heritage of our history and ancestors, the essence of Iran's identity," Kan'ani wrote

on his X account.

In the northeastern province of East Azarbaijan, 120 cultural programs were held to coincide with the anniversary of Shahriar's death, including poetry and music nights, calligraphy and painting exhibitions, and a ceremony to honor the poet's memory.

In Kermanshah Province, a grand ceremony was held which was attended by local artists, writers, and students. Pooriya Jalali, the provincial director of culture and Islamic guidance, emphasized the importance of literature in Iranian culture, saying that "from the beginning, our culture has been intertwined with poetry, and it is this connection that makes it essential for us to preserve and protect it."

In Alborz Province, literary events and poetry readings were held to celebrate the day, with many paying tributes to Shahriar's contributions to Per-

sian literature.

Shahriar was a famous Iranian poet who died in 1988. His poetry is known for its themes of love, nature, and fairness, and has been translated into many languages.

Born on January 2, 1906, near Tabriz City in East Azarbaijan Province, Shahriar showed a love for poetry at a young age. His first poems were published while he was still in high school in Tabriz.

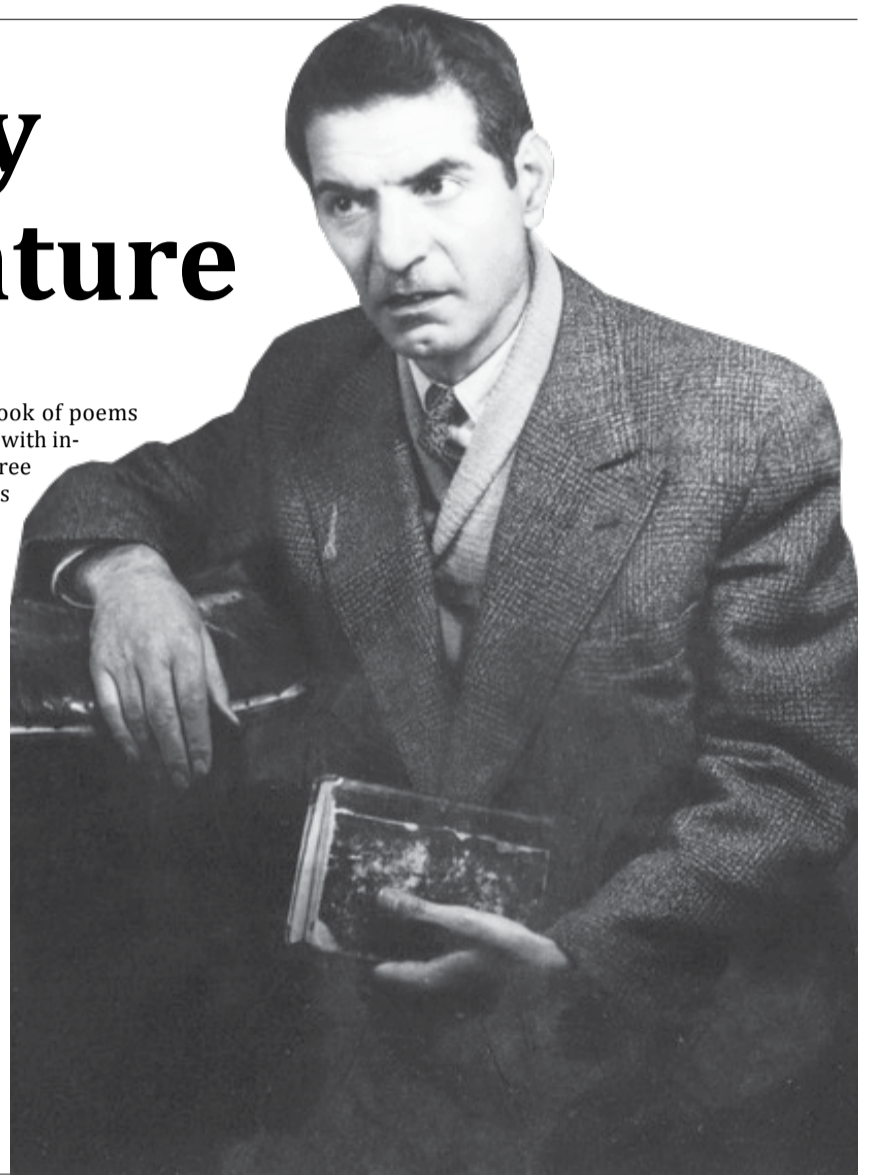
At first, Shahriar wrote under his given name, Behjat. Later, he started using the pen name Shahriar. His first book of poetry, 'Divan-e Shahriar,' came out in Tehran in 1931 and got praise from well-known poets and scholars for its beautiful language and new ideas.

Shahriar wrote in many forms, including songs, four-line poems, and long poems. But he was most famous for his ghazals, which were influenced by another respected Iranian

poet, Hafez.

Shahriar's first book of poems came out in 1929, with introductions by three notable writers. His poems are mostly influenced by Hafez. His most famous poem, 'Heydar Babaya Salam,' is considered one of the best modern poems in the Azeri language. It has been turned into several plays and translated into over 30 languages.

One reason for Shahriar's success is that he used everyday language in his poetry, making it easy for many people to understand.



## Iran's stall named second best at Zimbabwe tourism expo



The Sanganai/Hlanganani World Tourism Expo, a key event on southern Africa's tourism calendar, wrapped up on September 14, with Iran taking the second spot as the best international exhibitor. The three-day exhibition, held at the Zimbabwe International Ex-

hibition Center in Bulawayo, is an annual event that brings together tourism stakeholders from across the region and beyond. The expo provides a platform for countries to showcase their tourism products and services, ISNA reported. The event, officially opened by

Zimbabwe's Minister of Tourism Barbara Rwodzi, aims to promote destinations, attractions, and tourism services to a global audience. It also allows tourism boards, travel agencies, and related businesses to showcase their products and services.

The expo facilitates networking and business-to-business meetings between tourism stakeholders, including tour operators, hoteliers, and industry players.

This year's event saw a significant increase in participation, with 408 exhibitors, up from last year. Regional and international exhibitors from countries such as Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Angola, the UAE, and Iran took part in the exhibition.

## Iran-Russia film 'Rekindle' wins top prize at Film7Days in Moscow

Iranian filmmaker Ata Mojabi's short film 'Rekindle' received the top prize at the international Film7Days event in Russia.

Mojabi's film, a neo-noir production shot entirely in Kazan, Russia, beat out other entries to win the first-place award at the festival, which was presented at the opening ceremony of the "Altyn Minbar" Kazan International Film Festival. 'Rekindle' was a collaborative effort between Iranian and Russian producers, and features Russian actors Ramil Vaziev and Gulchachak Garayeva.

The panel includes Iranian director Yoones Eskandari,



as well as directors from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia, and South Africa. Other members of the panel include Paulo Roberto Jr of Brazil, Yu Lan of China, Omnia Adel of Egypt, Riwita Dutta of India, Leonid Demchenko and Hanna

Mironenko of Russia, and Martin Rossouw of South Africa. The Film7Days event, held annually in Kazan, Russia, brings together 10 filmmaking teams from around the world to produce a film within a 7-day period.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Israel's attack on ...

Meanwhile, US policymakers are continually trying to persuade Israel that they cannot expand the battlefield until the new American administration takes power. The Yemeni military has launched multiple attacks on Israeli military and economic targets in the occupied territories to halt the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. Sunday's ballistic missile strike on Tel Aviv, which rendered Israel and its allies' air defense systems ineffective, has terrified Tel Aviv and its partners.

The occupying entity desires to attack Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah's relentless attacks on its military targets and settlers in the northern occupied areas but is afraid to act alone. It is engaging in conspiracies to involve its allies. Hezbollah has made it clear that if Israel initiates a major attack, it will retaliate in such a way that Israel will not have the ability to end the war. Hezbollah has also warned Israel's Western allies and patrons that any attack on Lebanon will lead to a war against all of Israel's allies, severely im-

pacting the US and Europe. Israel's nuclear assets will also be targeted. Hezbollah has already demonstrated some of its military capabilities to the world, including its underground missile firing system, which can target strategic locations across Israel. Israel made a grave mistake by destroying Gaza and pursuing its plan of genocide against Palestinians. Tel Aviv's traditional strategy of seizing land through genocide has not worked against the steadfast Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli defense experts

and military officials are repeatedly trying to convince their authorities to refrain from turning Israel and the world into a battlefield for baseless ideologies. If a large-scale attack is attempted on Lebanon, the response will not only come from Lebanon but also from Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Gaza, bringing a rain of fire upon Israel, endangering Jewish civilians. A ceasefire is crucial for Israel's interests, while it holds little significance for the Resistance Axis, including Hamas and Hezbollah.