



# President's message to Iranian diaspora

## *Pezeshkian: New chapter to begin with solidarity*

### Iran to pursue diplomacy using 'full political capacity'

#### Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday called on Iranians abroad to stand united with their homeland, pledging a new chapter of "hope" and "solidarity" in the wake of the country's recent 12-day war with Israel. In a message published by the president's office, Pezeshkian said his government would use "full political capacity" to steer the country away from war. The address marked Pezeshkian's first direct message to the Iranian diaspora since taking office in June. It followed weeks of high tensions triggered by Israel's

surprise military strikes, which killed Iranian commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, including women and children. The president framed Iran's missile response as "legitimate defense" under international law and said the retaliation had shattered the enemy's calculations. "We've never sought war," Pezeshkian said, "but we will never surrender." He stressed that Tehran remains committed to "constructive engagement" and reaffirmed Iran's longstanding position that its nuclear program is peaceful. "Experience shows that whenever Iran moves toward peace and stability, Israel interferes and escalates," he

added. Describing the recent domestic response as a show of national strength, Pezeshkian praised Iranians both at home and abroad for their "unprecedented unity." He called the grassroots mobilization during the conflict a "turning point" and credited Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's "composure and firmness" with helping shape a nationwide front. Looking forward, Pezeshkian said his administration sees the solidarity forged during the conflict as an opportunity to better serve the people. "This is a season of renewal," he said, emphasizing the need for public trust, youth engagement,

and innovative thinking. "We must look critically at the past and build a new path through rationality and cooperation." He also vowed economic stability amid sanctions and war-related strain. Citing ongoing market surveillance, he assured citizens that the government is taking steps to prevent shortages of basic goods. "We are fully mobilized to protect livelihoods and ensure access to healthcare," Pezeshkian noted. The president closed by honoring those killed in the war and warning adversaries not to miscalculate Iran's resolve. "Our armed forces are at peak defensive readiness. Any future aggression will be met with even heavier blows."



Masoud Pezeshkian  
● president.ir

## Iran, Iraq, Pakistan agree on joint steps to ease Arbadeen pilgrimage



Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni (c) stands with Iraqi Interior Minister Abdul Amir al-Shammari (l) and Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi during a trilateral meeting in Tehran, Iran, July 14, 2025.  
● IRNA

#### Social Desk

Interior ministers from Iran, Iraq and Pakistan met in Tehran on Monday to coordinate efforts for managing the annual Arbadeen pilgrimage, which draws millions of Shia Muslims to Iraq each year. The meeting was hosted by Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and attended by his Iraqi and Pakistani counterparts, Abdul Amir al-Shammari and Mohsin Naqvi, IRNA reported. Held ahead of this year's pilgrimage in early September, the trilateral summit focused on improving logistics, border control, and crowd management for the millions expected to travel, mostly by land, to the holy city of Karbala. Arbadeen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein, a central figure in Shi'ite Islam. Iraq received over five million foreign pilgrims in 2024, with more than three million coming from Iran alone.

"We are fully ready to welcome pilgrims from all over the world," said al-Shammari, stressing Baghdad's "complete preparedness" under the directive of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. He called for continued Iranian support and urged Pakistan to better manage the return flow of its citizens to ease pressure on Iraqi border crossings. Naqvi, the Pakistani interior minister, pledged full support for Iraqi and Iranian plans and said Islamabad would not allow any Pakistani citizen to leave Iraq without proper documentation from January 2026 onward. "We want pilgrims to travel and return with the same caravans," he said, warning that undocumented stays had caused problems in past years. The ministers also agreed to form a trilateral working group to streamline coordination. Representatives from Iran and Iraq have already been appointed; Pakistan is expected to announce its delegate shortly. Al-Shammari urged all sides to "tight-

en field coordination" and update previous agreements where needed. Momeni described the talks as "constructive and warm-hearted" and said they had yielded "important decisions" on transportation, security, and health services for pilgrims. He praised Iraq's efforts to host millions and thanked al-Shammari for his personal involvement in smoothing operations. Alongside the ministers, governors from six Iranian border provinces—Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, West Azarbaijan, and South Khorasan—took part in the session, as did ambassadors from the three countries. Discussions touched on visa policies, border infrastructure and the deployment of volunteer groups and aid stations, or mawakib, inside Iraq. Naqvi also used the forum to condemn Israel's recent military campaign against Iran and praised Tehran's "legitimate defense." He thanked Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for what he called "decisive leadership" during the 12-day war. Al-Shammari reminded attendees that Iraq had already begun preparations across all provinces and vowed to provide pilgrims with the "dignified services they deserve." He stressed that Arbadeen's success depends on "mutual trust and synergy."

## Iranian photographers shine at Florida museum awards

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian photographers Majid Hojjati and Armin Amirian took top honors at the 2025 International Photography Awards hosted by the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts (FMoPA), the museum announced on Monday. The annual contest, held in Tampa and regarded as one of the most prestigious of its kind in the United States, drew more than 2,500 submissions from 55 countries. This year's jury, composed of art and photography experts, highlighted innovation, cultural storytelling, and contemporary technique. Hojjati clinched the grand prize in the main competition with his image 'Eid Prayer,' which also won first place in the People/Portrait category. His second photograph, 'Stream of Life,' topped the Places/Landscape division. Amirian earned first prize in the Conceptual Photography category with a piece from his latest series. The museum described the work as "visually daring" and praised its nu-



anced cultural themes. FMoPA, one of only ten dedicated photography museums in the US, focuses on pushing the boundaries of photographic art. The museum will showcase the winning entries in a public exhibition running from July 15 through September 7 at its downtown Tampa location in Ybor City. The awards aim to spotlight global voices in visual storytelling. Organizers say this year's winners "pushed the envelope" in portraying human experience through the lens.

## Iran showcases audio storytelling expertise at ABU Panel with NHK and RRI

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's national radio theater division joined broadcasters from Japan and Indonesia in a major international panel on audio storytelling at the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union's (ABU) Con-Fest in Kuala Lumpur, held from July 8 to 10, 2025, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). The session, titled 'Creative Uses of Sound in Radio Narratives,' was among the key panels of the three-day gathering, which drew delegates from 15 countries. Although Iran's presenter Mohsen Sohani, Director General of Performing Arts and Radio Namayesh, was unable to attend in person due to flight restrictions stemming from regional conflict, his team's presentation was broadcast as part of the official lineup. The pre-recorded presentation, produced in collaboration with veteran Iranian sound designer Farshad Azarnia, focused on cutting-edge audio narrative techniques. Through technical demonstrations and case studies from domestic productions, the session explored how Iran is "pushing boundaries" in using sound for immersive storytelling, organizers said. Azarnia's role in sound architecture and post-production was highlighted as "pivotal" in bringing the presentation up to international broadcast standards. Sohani described the contribution as "decisive" in matching the



caliber of global peers such as Japan's NHK and Indonesia's RRI, both of which presented alongside Iran. The panel drew strong engagement and was widely shared on ABU's digital platforms and featured in closing reports. According to IRIB, the exposure marked "a notable step" in strengthening Iran's international broadcasting profile. Sohani also credited Abbas Mohammadnejad, Director General of International Affairs at IRIB, and Meysam Mashaekh, an international affairs expert, for their coordination efforts. Their behind-the-scenes support was described as "crucial" to maintaining the organization's active presence in global media circles.

## Iranian illustrators scoop top honors at Moscow book design fair

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian graphic designer Amir Najafi and illustrator Somayeh Mohammadi won top prizes at the Image of the Book competition in Moscow, held annually under the patronage of Russia's Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications and the Moscow Book Designers and Illustrators Association. The event, which began in 2008 and went international in 2017, showcases outstanding work in six major categories, including fiction and non-fiction illustration, children's books, visual storytelling, and new artists, IRNA reported. This year, Najafi was the sole winner in the Best Book Cover Design category, while 'Vali,' illustrated by Mohammadi and written by Marjan Zarifi, clinched the

Best Picture Book award. Najafi, who also serves as art director at Mehrak Publishing, was recognized for his cover designs on a series of children's titles, including 'Selfie with Mirza,' 'The Winter Without Shazdeh,' 'Like My Mother's Hands,' and 'The Boy Who Became a Crow.' All were published by Mehrak, a spin-off imprint of Sureh-Mehr, which gained independent status in 2022. The winning picture book 'Vali' tells the story of a lonely whale who, despite being surrounded by small fish friends, feels overwhelmed and heads to the Pacific Ocean in search of peace. The book has already racked up accolades at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy and the Asian Festival of Children's Content in Singapore. 'Vali' was also among the selected works



at Illustrofest 7, an international illustration event held recently in Belgrade. Roughly 1,000 artists from various countries have been honored since Image of the Book opened its doors to global submissions. Iranian illustrators, riding a creative wave in children's publishing, have continued to make inroads on the international scene.