



## Government Week

# President urges national unity to push back enemies

### Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday urged unity at home and solidarity with Muslim neighbors, warning that divisions would play into the hands of adversaries, including Israel and the United States. Speaking at the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran at the start of Government Week (August 24-30), Pezeshkian invoked the teachings of Imam Ali, saying disputes were born out of “self-interest” and could be overcome by fairness and restraint. “If we are united, they will not dare to confront Muslims or harbor ill intentions,” he said, [president.ir](http://president.ir) wrote. The president, who took office in July, called for equal treatment of Iran’s diverse ethnic groups, from Kurds and Azeris to Baluch and Arabs. He reminded officials that “people are either our equals in faith or our

equals in creation,” and urged compassion, forgiveness and service to citizens. Mistreating the public, he cautioned, amounted to “standing against God.”

Pezeshkian praised the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, for his guidance and support, saying it strengthened the administration’s resolve to carry forward the goals of the Islamic Revolution and the path set by Imam Khomeini.

He pledged to “work tirelessly” to ease economic hardship and deepen social cohesion, stressing that rhetoric undermining unity at home or ties with neighbors was a betrayal.

The president warned that Washington and Israel sought to drive wedges between Iranians and to turn Muslim nations against one another. “These borders were imposed by imperialists,” he said, adding that neighbors



*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a ceremony at Imam Khomeini’s Mausoleum in southern Tehran on August 25, 2025 marking the beginning of the Government Week.*  
● [president.ir](http://president.ir)

should be treated as “brothers” despite political frontiers.

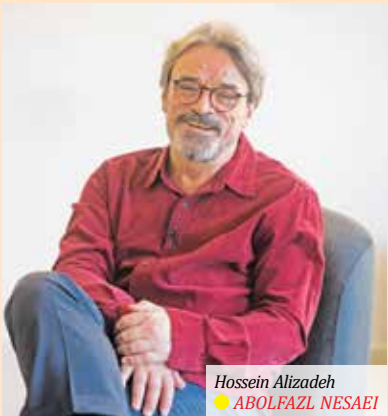
He called on state officials and political figures to set aside rivalries and personal ambition in favor of collective responsibility. “We must not seek power for its own sake,” Pezeshkian said. “Our mission is to serve the people and resolve their problems, not to widen divisions.”

He urged cooperation across the political spectrum and promised to draw on the expertise of all capable figures, saying progress was possible only “hand in hand, with prudence, knowledge and solidarity.”



## Tar virtuoso birthday

# Alizadeh turns every note into a new chapter of Iran’s musical story



Hossein Alizadeh  
● [ABOLFAZL NESAEI](http://abolfazl.nesaei.ir)

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### INTERVIEW

Hossein Alizadeh, one of Iran’s most celebrated musicians, composers, and virtuoso of Tar (A traditional Persian stringed instrument, similar to a lute) players, marks his birthday on August 24. Renowned

for his mastery of traditional Persian music, Alizadeh’s performances take listeners on a journey from the deep roots of Iranian musical heritage to innovative new horizons.

Alizadeh’s extensive body of work spans albums such as ‘Savaran-e Dasht-e Omid,’ ‘Hesar,’ ‘Neynava,’ and ‘Soroud-e Mehr,’ as well as film scores for ‘Delshodegan,’ ‘Gabbah,’ ‘Zesht va Ziba’ (The Ugly and the Beautiful), ‘Avaz-e Gonjeshkha’ (The Song of Sparrows), and ‘Zire Tigh’ (Under the Blade).

His compositions showcase not only a profound command of the traditional Persian Radif—the classical system of melodic modes—but also pioneering techniques in tar performance. Beyond his artistry, Alizadeh’s humanistic outlook and devotion to Iranian culture have earned him a revered place in the nation’s music scene.

Farhad Fakhreddini, a composer, conductor, and one of Iran’s musical luminaries who taught Alizadeh at the Tehran Conservatory, praised his former student, “Hossein Alizadeh is

not just a musician. He is a passionate, committed, and deeply humane artist. His works are moving, enduring, and memorable.” Fakhreddini noted Alizadeh’s lifelong respect for his mentors and his unwavering dedication to his craft.

Recalling their early years, Fakhreddini said, “I first met Hossein in 1963. He was an intelligent and eager student, absorbing everything, from tar performance and music theory to harmony and the integration of poetry and music, with great enthusiasm. His wit and personal charm forged a friendship and collaboration that continues to this day.”

He described Alizadeh’s compositions as equally captivating, “Each work he has created is precious. I cannot single out a favorite, just as a parent does not favor one child over another.”

Fakhreddini emphasized that Alizadeh is more than a performer or composer; he is a holistic artist, combining technical skill, social awareness,

and love for music with impeccable character. “A true artist must pair talent with knowledge, ethics, and good conduct. Hossein embodies all of these virtues,” he said.

Hooshang Kamkar, composer and leader of the Kamkars Ensemble, echoed these sentiments, highlighting Alizadeh’s technical innovations, “Hossein introduced new techniques to tar playing. His works, particularly the collection ‘Dastgahs of Iranian Music,’ are invaluable for future generations.”

Kamkar, a longtime friend, praised both Alizadeh’s artistry and integrity, “He is unique, creative, and technically brilliant. He has never compromised his art for material gain, always creating with love and respect for Iranian culture and people.”

Reflecting on their collaborations, Kamkar cited pieces like ‘Neynava’ and the ‘Tar Concerto with Orchestra’ as exemplars of Alizadeh’s innovation. “Hossein breathes new life into Iranian musical traditions. Listening to his

works is a delight, they are never dry or tiresome,” he said. Kamkar also noted Alizadeh’s commitment to mentoring young musicians, emphasizing the enduring impact of his teaching. Mohammad Reza Honarmand, director of the TV series ‘Under the Blade,’ for which Alizadeh composed the score, described him as “a brilliant star in Iran’s musical sky; his strings illuminate the path of the country’s artistic legacy.” Honarmand added that Alizadeh’s music not only brings visual media to life but also preserves the memory and history of the Iranian people.

Through his mastery of traditional modes, creative innovations, professional ethics, and deep love for culture, Hossein Alizadeh has left an invaluable legacy in Iranian music. The words of masters like Fakhreddini and Kamkar underscore that he is not only an extraordinary artist but also an inspiring human being whose passion continues to shape the music and future generations of Iran.

## Fajr festivals to focus on Iran as main theme

### Art & Culture Desk

Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has announced that the Fajr festivals will focus on the theme of “Iran,” aiming to strengthen national identity and social cohesion through the arts.

Deputy Minister for Artistic Affairs, Nadereh Rezaei, revealed the initiative during a meeting with senior officials from the Interior Ministry of Interior. She highlighted the potential of the arts to foster “social vitality” and proposed collaboration with the Ministry of Interior to enhance public engagement. Seyed Mohammad Bat’haei, Head of the

Social Affairs Organization, concurred, noting that the arts could serve as a “valuable asset” for the Islamic Republic, especially in addressing societal challenges.

He emphasized the importance of leveraging artistic expressions to promote unity and resilience across the nation.

The discussions also touched upon the role of theater, particularly “applied theater,” in addressing social issues.

Saeed As’adi, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister for Artistic Affairs, highlighted the significance of theater in community engagement and its potential to serve as a “bridge” between

cultural institutions and the public. Reza Dabirinejad, Director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, called for increased attention to local art festivals and the establishment of museums in underserved regions. He argued that such initiatives could contribute to “cultural justice” and ensure equitable access to artistic experiences nationwide.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is set to collaborate with the Ministry of Interior to implement these initiatives, with plans to launch joint projects aimed at enhancing the cultural landscape and addressing social challenges through the arts.

