

Nat'l Day of Persian Poetry, Literature

Minister urges youth to reconnect with country's literary heritage

Social Desk

On the National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature on September 18, Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, called on the younger generation to reconnect with the nation's literary heritage.

The day commemorates the death of the Persian poet Mohammad Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known by his pen name Shahriar, who passed away in 1988, IRNA reported.

Salehi described the Persian language as a "timeless treasure" that has nurtured Iranian culture for centuries.

He emphasized its role not only as a means of communication but as a "spiritual home" for Iranians, with poetry serving as its "tallest window" offering insights into mean-

ing and hope.

"Each word carries the fragrance of ancient gardens, and each verse reflects the faith, culture, and love of our people," he stated.

The minister stressed the importance of passing this cultural legacy to future generations. He urged the youth to "befriend poetry," ensuring that the "bright torch" of Persian literary tradition continues to illuminate the nation's path forward.

Salehi also paid tribute to Shahriar, praising his passionate ghazals that revived the spirits of poetry enthusiasts.

Salehi expressed hope that, through the efforts of cultural and artistic communities, Persian poetry would remain a beacon of love, meaning, and truth, resonating with audiences worldwide.



Animation 'Chawk' wins in Baku, set for three global festivals



Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Hazhir As'adi's short animation 'Chawk' (Fountain) clinched the Best Student Short Animated Film Award at the 8th ANIMAFILM International Animation Festival held in Baku from September 3 to 7. The festival, organized by the Azerbaijan Animation Association, showcased 39 films from

20 countries, with 'Chawk' standing out in the international competition, inn.ir reported. The narrative of 'Chawk' delves into the poignant journey of a middle-aged projectionist who, amidst a cityscape of distorted faces, reconnects with his teenage love. Its compelling storytelling and innovative animation techniques have contributed to its growing in-

ternational recognition.

Prior to this accolade, the film received a Special Mention in the International Animation category at the 27th Inventa un Film Festival in Italy and was selected for the 31st ShortFest Palm Springs in California.

Following its success in Baku, 'Chawk' is slated to be featured in several global festivals. It has been officially selected for the 32nd Adana Golden Boll Film Festival in Turkey, scheduled from September 22 to 28, 2025.

Also, the film will be showcased at the 21st Vox Popular Film Festival in Thunder Bay, Canada, from September 18 to 20, 2025, and the 15th Kurdish Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, from September 25 to October 1, 2025.

Homayoun Shajarian pursues new musical horizons

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian vocalist Homayoun Shajarian, son of the late maestro Mohammad-Reza Shajarian, is embracing fresh musical experiences after performing a high-profile concert in Dubai, originally planned as a free event in Tehran's Azadi Square. The move marks a new phase in his career, with the singer exploring innovative approaches to traditional music while engaging contemporary audiences, Mehr News Agency reported.

During a recent press conference, Shajarian outlined his commitment to blending the roots of Iranian music with modern expressions.

"I'm seeking new experiences," he said, highlighting his aim to create music that reso-

nates with today's generation without losing its traditional essence.

He emphasized that the evolution of musical presentation is essential to keeping Iran's heritage alive and relevant.

Shajarian also commented on the interplay between music and cinema, noting that soundtracks and theme compositions enhance storytelling in films and series.

While he has received several offers for cinematic collaborations, differences in artistic vision have prevented new partnerships so far. "Naturally, music and cinema amplify each other when combined," he said. He reiterated that his engagement with pop and contemporary elements is guided by personal artistic ideals rather than audience trends.

"I always move according to my creative framework," he explained, stressing that innovation should be meaningful and in tune with listeners' attention spans today, which differ from those of previous generations. While firmly rooted in traditional Iranian music, Shajarian is focused on making it accessible and engaging for younger audiences.

He welcomed the ways in which the new generation interacts with his work, including remixes and reinterpretations, as a sign that his music continues to connect across age groups.

Shajarian plans further performances that blend traditional and contemporary sounds, stressing his ongoing mission to honor cultural heritage while exploring new artistic directions.

Europeans have already ...

Could the European proposal for a temporary extension of the snap-back mechanism be seen as a sign of willingness to preserve room for negotiation? And in this context, what opportunities exist for Iran?

The idea of an extension does not offer Iran any particular advantage; it merely buys a few more months for diplomacy. The Europeans seem intent on pushing it to the wire to see whether Tehran backs down. That is why they continue to insist on their earlier demands: that Iran allow IAEA inspectors to access nuclear facilities, especially those that came under attack. Iran, however, has strong reservations, since any information gathered by the agency could easily leak out to Western parties, the US, or Israel—who are eager for an exact assessment of the impact of their strikes. This makes the issue highly

sensitive, with direct implications for Iran's national security.

The second demand is for clarity on enriched uranium stockpiles—whether they have been destroyed or remain intact. Again, this is part of a Western effort to gauge the effectiveness of their actions.

Many of the conditions set by Europeans can actually be resolved through the same cooperative process with the IAEA in a reasonable timeframe. The problem is that Europeans seem to have made up their minds in advance and are not really looking for solutions. A third issue relates to talks with the United States. Iran has repeatedly expressed readiness for fair negotiations based on mutual interests. But Washington not only backed Israel's strike during those talks—it later joined in directly. On top of that, the US walked away from the negotiating table. If

progress is to be made, it is they who must come back.

Given that the European parties keep doubling down on their position, how can Iran continue the process of building trust within the framework of cooperation with the IAEA?

Iran has already taken every conceivable step. This latest agreement carries features that could well pave the way for a way-out of the current standoff, provided there is genuine will to seek solutions rather than a preordained decision aimed solely at turning the screws on Iran.

If the chosen path is confrontation, the only outcome will be further escalation—a scenario that benefits no one. Admittedly, finding a way forward is far from easy; with Europe's current stance and the added pressure from

Washington, the odds of reaching a breakthrough may be slim. But while difficult, it is not impossible.

If European countries go ahead with reinstating sanctions, what options exist for Iran to manage political and economic pressure?

Iran has tried every available path to lift sanctions—from negotiations to cooperation with the IAEA and engagement with its counterparts—but these efforts have not produced the desired results. Naturally, when one path leads nowhere, alternatives must be pursued. The Iranian president's recent participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, along with meetings with leaders from various countries—particularly Eastern powers—sent a clear signal of such a strategy: in the absence of successful engagement with the West and in the face of heightened

confrontation, Iran will increasingly lean on partnerships with Eastern states. To put it bluntly, rather than "commit suicide out of fear of death," Iran will focus on shoring up alternatives to navigate this phase as well.

The opposing side, of course, is aiming for Iran's submission. The West is not genuinely interested in negotiations. What they call talks is, in reality, an attempt to dictate terms that fit into their preferred deal. What they demand from Iran amounts to capitulation—neither aligned with Iran's national interests nor those of its people. And even if such demands were met, it would not mark an end to the matter, but merely the beginning of a fresh round of pressure designed to further weaken Iran.

That is why Tehran has little choice but to grow stronger and to find alternative routes to withstand the mounting pressure.