



Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan map out new environmental agenda

Social Desk

Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan agreed to deepen practical cooperation on environmental protection and natural-resource management during a series of meetings held on the sidelines of the Zero Waste Forum in Istanbul. Shina Ansari, Iran's Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment (DoE), met Turkey's First Lady Emine Erdogan and Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev between October 17 and 19, outlining a plan to tackle shared environmental challenges stretching from the Caspian Sea to the Zagros Mountains, IRNA reported. Ansari told Erdogan that Tehran was ready to draw on Ankara's experience in waste management, biodiversity, and protection of wetlands. "Waste management is a fundamental priority in Iran's

environmental policy," she said, calling for a joint committee on forestry and water resources and regular exchanges of technical experts. Erdogan said environmental cooperation among neighbors could pave the way for "regional and global peace", adding that Turkey was open to working "in all fields" of nature conservation and resource efficiency. In a separate meeting, Ansari and Babayev agreed to revive previously signed accords and develop joint initiatives to protect the Hyrcanian Forests – a UNESCO-listed ecosystem stretching across Iran and Azerbaijan – and to coordinate regional positions on forest degradation at the upcoming UN Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku. Babayev, who also serves as COP29 President-Designate, emphasized the need to maintain continuity in regional dialogue.

Referring to President Ilham Aliyev's recent address to the UN General Assembly, he urged faster coordination among Caspian Sea states to address the falling water level, calling it a "pressing regional concern". Ansari backed the proposal and pressed for an early-2026 meeting of the parties to the Tehran Convention – a Caspian-region environmental pact – to be held in Tehran. "The agenda must be clear, and final approval for hosting should be secured as soon as possible," she noted. The Zero Waste Forum, running from October 17 to 19, brought together ministers, mayors, and environmental experts from across Europe and Asia under the theme "People, Places, Progress". Turkey launched the initiative in 2017 under Emine Erdogan's patronage, and it has since become a UN-endorsed global platform.



Head of Iran's Department of Environment Shina Ansari (7th R) poses for a group photo with ministers and delegates during the ministerial-level roundtable meeting on the sidelines of the Zero Waste Forum in Istanbul, Turkey on October 18, 2025.
● IRIB NEWS

Russia hails Iranian cinema as 'vivid voice' in global film dialogue



Arts & Culture Desk

Russia praised Iranian cinema as "a vivid voice on the world stage" as the two countries explore new cultural cooperation in film production, the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) said after a meeting in Moscow. The talks brought together Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, Iranian Cultural Attaché Masoud Ahmadvand, and VGIK Rector Vladimir Malyshev, who also heads Russia's Association of Film and Art Universities and the BRICS Film Education Alliance. Malyshev described Iran's cinema as one that "commands respect for its artistic originality and human depth" and said VGIK would make collaboration with Iranian institutions "a special focus of our future outreach". He lauded Iranian filmmakers for their active participation in Russian film festivals and academic exchanges. Jalali emphasized the role of cinema in connecting nations, calling it a "powerful bridge" that brings societies closer through culture and shared creativity. "We are today witnessing rapid growth in



Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) Rector Vladimir Malyshev (2nd L) speaks with Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali (2nd R) during a meeting on joint film cooperation at VGIK in Moscow, October 18, 2025.
● ILNA

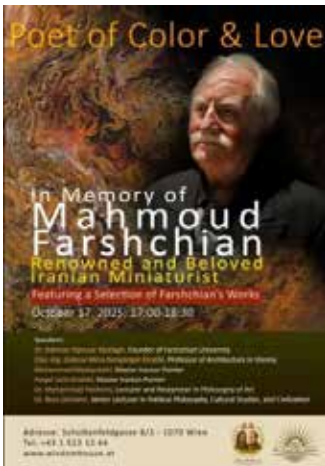
our movie industry cooperation," he said, citing recent joint productions, shared filming locations and participation in each other's film events. He added that Tehran "fully supports" the expansion of such exchanges and would follow up on the signed documents to turn plans into practice. Ahmadvand noted that the two sides discussed the possibility of co-producing films and strengthening links between VGIK and Iranian film schools, stressing that cultural understanding "is best achieved through artistic collaboration rather than words alone". The meeting took place at VGIK — the world's oldest film university, founded in 1919 — whose alumni include renowned directors such as Sergei Eisenstein, Andrei Tarkovsky and Nikita Mikhalkov. The Moscow-based institution remains Russia's premier center for film education and production training. The initiative follows the 20-year strategic partnership treaty signed by Presidents Vladimir Putin and Masoud Pezeshkian in Moscow on January 17, 2025, which entered into force earlier this year. Moscow views cultural diplomacy, particularly cinema, as a fresh lever to deepen ties with Tehran within broader BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization frameworks. Both sides agreed to set up working groups to draft the final documents for the upcoming film-production accord, expected to be completed in the coming months.

Vienna pays tribute to Farshchian, architect of modern Persian miniature

Arts & Culture Desk

A commemoration titled 'Poet of Color & Love' was held at Vienna's Avicenna Hall to honor Iranian miniaturist master Mahmoud Farshchian (January 24, 1930 – August 9, 2025) who passed away this year. The event was organized by Iran's Cultural Center in Austria and brought together art scholars, university professors and admirers of Iranian painting. Bahman Namvar Motlagh, founder of the Farshchian University and former head of Iran's National Academy of Arts, described Farshchian as "a rare individual" whose work spanned epic, myth, spirituality and ritual. He said the artist was "humble" and "never sat above others" and often quietly supported young and established artists alike. Motlagh highlighted how Farshchian's career began in the Isfahan school and later drew from the schools of Tabriz and Mashhad, then moved on to absorb European influences — a journey that, in his words, "led to a global aesthetic." Vienna-based architecture scholar Golmar-Mina Kempinger-Khatibi called Farshchian "unrivalled" in bridging classical Persian art with modern global currents. She recalled a story of the artist staying up all night as a child to draw 200 gazelles after his teacher

asked him to. She also noted that his time studying in Vienna in the 1950s, including contact with Paris Gouterlo of the Fantastic Realism school, shaped his style without severing his Persian roots. Farshchian's work frequently employed circular motifs, angels and mirror-like geometry derived from Iranian domes, and he credited a viewing of the sky under water — and even a temporary loss of sight after a ladder accident — as pivotal moments in his creative evolution. Painter Mohammad Mastandehi told the gathering his passion for art was ignited by Farshchian's bright colors and poetic spaces he encountered in school. He said the master "invested his father's inheritance entirely in learning," remained rooted in tradition and gave Persian manuscript painting a fresh voice for the contemporary world. Artist and researcher Fargol Leila Khatibi, a former student, recalled her 1970s study under Farshchian at the Tehran University of Fine Arts, stating he was the most recognized Iranian miniaturist internationally and made the genre accessible to the wider public. Philosophy of art lecturer Mohammad Hashemi analyzed Farshchian's pieces through an Islamic-philosophical lens, explaining that in his painting 'Abraham's icon-



oclastic,' Abraham stands luminous at the center destroying evil forces, while the circular forms symbolize perfection and reveal the artist's "transcendent experience." Finishing the event, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Austria, Reza Gholami, said Farshchian lived in a "spiritual world" and spoke like a great poet through color and line. He emphasized the artist's lifelong love of Iran, and his encouragement to young people, regardless of background, to progress the country. The ceremony included a curated exhibition of selected works by Farshchian — amongst them 'The Evening of Ashura' — before concluding with traditional Iranian music.

Iranian director Seiri takes flight at Iceland's Pigeon Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Saeed Seiri won the Best Director Award for short films at the 15th Pigeon International Film Festival (PIFF) in Ísafjörður for his 14-minute drama 'She Is Not Here'. Written and directed by Seiri, the film tells the story of nine-year-old Kiana, who suffers deep psychological trauma after a tragic event and

later discovers that her sketchbook has a mysterious power capable of reshaping the world around her. The cast features Sara Mayeli and Alireza Gilouri, ISNA reported. The festival, held from October 9 to 12, brought together filmmakers from across the world to showcase works celebrating cultural diversity and visual innovation. Organizers praised Seiri's direction for its "fresh visual language" and

the film's "emotional depth" that lingers long after the credits roll. "This prize validates our belief in the voice of the young," Seiri said at the closing ceremony. "Kiana's story speaks of resilience and imagination in the face of pain." Festival director Fjölfnir Baldurs-son described 'She Is Not Here' as a "quietly powerful" entry that "draws viewers into a world both fragile and limitless."

Notice of tender for export sale No Z/1404/21

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 28. Oct.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 28.oct.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %		
%Fe	65.00	Min
%FeO	1.0	Ave
%P	0.04	Max
%S	0.01	Max
%SiO2	3.5	Max
%Al2O3	0.7	Max
%CaO	0.9	Max
%MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.1%	Max 3.8	
T.1%	Min 95	
Porosity%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	