

Memorial volume unveiling Former FM Kharrazi sought to recast Iran's image abroad

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that the late Iranian diplomat Kamal Kharrazi devoted much of his career to improving Iran's image internationally and pioneered public diplomacy within the Foreign Ministry, speaking at the unveiling of a memorial volume honoring Kharrazi in Tehran.

"Kamal Kharrazi's foremost concern was correcting Iran's image in the world," Zarif said, recalling decades of working alongside the veteran diplomat. He said Kharrazi helped reconnect Iranian expatriate academics and professionals with their homeland during his tenure in New York and "introduced the Foreign Ministry to public diplomacy, pursuing it with determi-



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Senior Iranian officials and diplomats gather on stage holding copies of a memorial volume dedicated to the late diplomat Kamal Kharrazi during an unveiling ceremony in Tehran's Iran Cultural & Press Institute on June 28, 2026.
● ALI MOHAMMADI / IRAN DAILY

nation." Remembering one of his final meetings with Kharrazi shortly before the recent conflict, Zarif described him as "a mod-

el of integrity and composure" whose quiet demeanor concealed a deep concern for the Iranian people. He also praised Kharrazi's wife, Mansoureh

Raeis Ghasem, saying she shared the same compassion for society. Calling on officials to preserve the legacy of those killed alongside Kharrazi, Zarif urged po-

litical figures to "set political rivalries aside, learn from these martyrs, and care for the people," adding that the sacrifices made should be used to build a better future for the next generation.

The ceremony, hosted by Iran Cultural & Press Institute, brought together senior political, diplomatic and academic figures, including IRNA Managing Director Hossein Jaber Ansari, former First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution Secre-

tary Abdolhossein Khosropanah, Persian Language and Literature Academy President Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel, diplomat Sadegh Kharrazi, and Deputy Minister of Culture for Media Affairs Mohammadreza Norouzpour.

Jaber Ansari described Kharrazi as "a symbol of forgotten virtues," citing his restraint, intellectual discipline and modest lifestyle. He said the memorial volume was intended as a small tribute to a statesman who played a formative role in both IRNA and Iran's foreign policy.

Khosropanah highlighted Kharrazi's academic legacy, describing him as a pioneer in integrating cognitive science with the humanities and a driving force behind expanding Iran's scientific diplomacy.

Jahangiri said Kharrazi's "central concern was always the national interest," recalling his pragmatic approach to policymaking and his belief that public trust is built through dialogue rather than propaganda.

Haddad Adel, who knew Kharrazi for seven decades, remembered him as a principled, nonpartisan statesman with the qualities of an accomplished diplomat, adding that he also played a pivotal role in establishing cognitive science as an academic discipline in Iran.

Pezeshkian says improving livelihoods remains government's top priority

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said improving people's livelihoods and repairing damage from the recent war remain his government's top priorities during meetings with senior Shia clerics in the holy city of Qom on Sunday, where discussions centered on post-war recovery, social unity and public welfare.

The president said his administration was working to rebuild areas affected by the recent conflict while maintaining public services and pursuing economic recovery through both domestic initiatives and diplomatic efforts, president.ir reported.

Meeting Grand Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani, Pezeshkian said repairing war-related damage and improving living standards remained at the forefront of the government's agenda, according to a statement from the president's office.

"The government has mobilized all domestic capacities as well as diplomatic avenues to help resolve the country's and people's problems," he said, adding that efforts to restore damaged areas, sustain public services and improve economic conditions would continue.

Nouri Hamedani praised the government's management of domestic markets during the recent conflict, saying people had not faced serious shortages of essential goods despite wartime conditions.



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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) meets with Grand Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani in the central city of Qom on June 28, 2026.
● president.ir

He also urged support for officials engaged in diplomatic efforts, saying negotiators working to safeguard the country's national interests "should not be undermined or insulted."

The senior cleric called on media outlets to strengthen public confidence by informing citizens about government achievements while avoiding the spread of despair. He added that any future economic opening or easing of sanctions should translate into tangible improvements in people's livelihoods.

In a separate meeting, Grand Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani said the government's responsible pursuit of agreements serving the national interest, while urging continued attention to household livelihoods, market stability and the prices of essential goods. Pezeshkian told Sobhani that alongside economic initiatives, the government was

expanding educational and healthcare equity and promoting neighborhood-based participation through mosques.

"If mosques return to their true place, a significant portion of social issues can be managed," the president said, describing them as community institutions capable of strengthening social capital, supporting vulnerable groups and encouraging civic participation.

Speaking with Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Karimi Jahromi, Pezeshkian said his administration would continue pursuing diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions, expand international cooperation and remove obstacles facing the country, expressing hope that ongoing negotiations would contribute to greater stability and improved living conditions.

Karimi Jahromi stressed the importance of keeping the public informed about the country's realities and

limitations, saying greater transparency, where national interests permit, could strengthen public trust and social solidarity. He also called for stronger efforts to curb inflation and protect purchasing power, while describing "constructive and dignified engagement with the world" as essential to national development and improving public welfare.

During his meeting with Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Saeedi, custodian of the Holy Shrine of Hazrat Masoumeh, Pezeshkian credited national unity and public solidarity with helping the country overcome the recent conflict. He said the government had worked throughout the crisis to ensure uninterrupted public services and minimize disruption to daily life by mobilizing executive agencies across the country.

Saeedi likewise praised the resilience shown by both the public and state institutions during the conflict, saying national unity and social cohesion had frustrated attempts to destabilize the country. He stressed that preserving solidarity remained essential to confronting future challenges and safeguarding national stability.

Minister urges 'ethical guardrails' for AI



Social Desk

Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei Sarraf said emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, must be developed alongside strong ethical safeguards, as he met Turkey's Minister of National Education Yusuf Tekin on the sidelines of the sixth Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (TETZ), the ministry said.

Simaei Sarraf said rapid technological progress offers unprecedented opportunities for humanity but warned that innovation detached from ethical principles could have serious consequences. He also called for closer academic cooperation between Iran and Turkey through joint research, expanded university partnerships, and broader exchanges of students and faculty members, MSRT reported.

The meeting focused on practical mechanisms to deepen collaboration in higher education, research and technology, including launching joint scientific projects and strengthening institutional links between universities in the two neighboring countries. Simaei Sarraf also extended an official invitation to Tekin to visit Iran and tour the country's universities and research centers to explore new

avenues for scientific cooperation. Tekin opened the meeting by expressing sympathy with the Iranian government and people following the recent attacks on the country. He also criticized what he described as Western double standards on human rights, arguing that the concept had increasingly been used as a political instrument rather than a universal principle.

Echoing that view, the minister said inconsistent international approaches had undermined confidence in the concept of human rights among many Muslims, while stressing that fundamental human rights values are rooted in both Islamic teachings and rational principles.

Referring to recent attacks on educational institutions in Iran, Simaei Sarraf said universities and schools had come under attack despite internationally recognized humanitarian norms governing armed conflicts. He added that hundreds of students, professors and members of Iran's academic community had been killed in the attacks.

The ministers concluded their talks by reaffirming their commitment to expanding scientific and educational cooperation through sustained academic engagement and collaborative research initiatives.