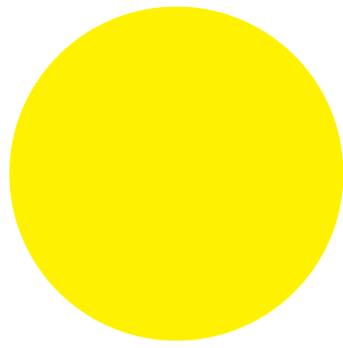




Martyred Leader's legacy casts cultural heritage as pillar of Iran's identity

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Pezeschkian vows to hold US, Israel accountable for their crimes

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Iran's dignitaries, world leaders, delegations pay tribute to Ayatollah Khamenei

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The combo shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeschkian (3rd L), Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Eje'i (3rd R) and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (2nd R) as well as other senior Iranian officials pay their respects to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, whose body is lying in state in Tehran's Grand Mosalla on July 3, 2026.

president.ir



Minister says US food purchases conditional on meeting Iran's terms

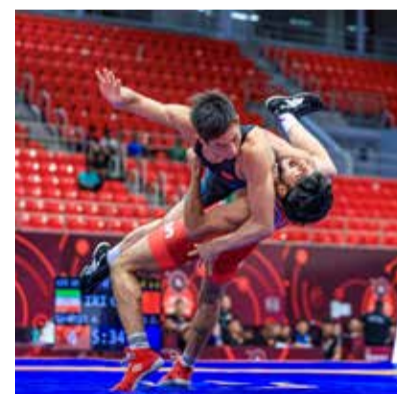
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Resistance identity in martyred Leader's strategic vision

By Ali Rahbar
International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

From the perspective of international relations theory, the concept of resistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran can be understood as one of the most significant alternative paradigms to the liberal international order and the security structures shaped under the hegemony of Western powers. It is not merely a temporary political stance or a tactical response to regional developments. Rather, at a deeper level, it represents an

intellectual and strategic framework for defining the role and position of peripheral actors within the international system. Within this framework, the "Axis of Resistance" has emerged as a transnational network of state and non-state actors that can be analyzed through their shared perception of threats, historical experience of foreign intervention, and a common identity formed in opposition to the dominance of hegemonic powers. Within the intellectual framework of Iran's martyred Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, resistance is viewed not as a temporary choice but as a structural

necessity in a world that continues to be governed by the logic of anarchy, unequal power distribution, and hierarchical relations. Accordingly, political actors operating in the international arena must develop new forms of both hard and soft power to ensure their survival, security, and influence. From this perspective, security is not simply the product of the balance of power among states but the outcome of a combination of strategic depth, ideological bonds, social mobilization, and transnational networking capabilities. Consequently, the Axis of Resistance is understood not merely as a military alliance but

as a complex political, security, and even identity-based structure in which states and non-state actors are interconnected through a multilayered network. From a theoretical standpoint, this phenomenon can be interpreted through the lens of neorealism as an effort to balance threats and strengthen deterrence. Within this framework, peripheral actors turn to informal and asymmetric alliances to counter pressure from dominant regional and extra-regional powers. Nevertheless, reducing the Axis of Resistance solely to the power-centered logic of neorealism fails to capture its full signif-

icance. From a constructivist perspective, the importance of this axis lies primarily in the construction and reproduction of a shared political identity founded on concepts such as independence, opposition to occupation, and resistance to foreign domination. This common identity enables collective action that transcends the traditional boundaries of the nation-state and fosters a form of transnational solidarity that has received comparatively little attention in conventional international relations analyses. Strategic depth is a central concept in the late Leader's intellectual framework. In this view, stra-

tegic depth extends far beyond geographical reach or a military presence beyond national borders. It refers instead to expanding political, cultural, and security influence through a network of allies and partners. This approach elevates national security from the domestic sphere to the regional and even transnational levels, transforming it into a multilayered and network-based phenomenon. On this basis, the Axis of Resistance functions as an informal security architecture in which ideological ties, security cooperation, and political objectives are closely intertwined.

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Iran's dignitaries, world leaders, delegations pay tribute to Ayatollah Khamenei

International Desk

Iran has begun dayslong funeral ceremonies for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, with foreign dignitaries and religious figures paying their respects at Tehran's Grand Mosalla.

Top Iranian officials, heads of state, foreign dignitaries, and high-ranking delegations from across the world paid their respects to the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who was assassinated in a US-Israeli strike on the opening day of the recent 40-day war on February 28. Iranian officials and their families, representatives of religious minorities, families of martyrs of the resistance front and Arab tribal leaders also joined the solemn tribute.

The Leader's body, along with those of his companions, was transferred to Tehran's Grand Mosalla early Friday and placed in the main prayer hall ahead of a two-day public farewell ceremony. Religious scholars and cultural figures from Indonesia and Afghanistan were among the first foreign guests to pay tribute.

Iran's Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and President Masoud Pezeshkian, key officials in the country's gov-

ernment, all paid their respects.

Turkmenistan's chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Iraqi President Nizar Amedi, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief General Asim Munir and Iraq's Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani were among foreign dignitaries who paid their respects to the late Ayatollah Khamenei.

Parliament speakers of Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, foreign ministers of Nicaragua, Congo and Burkina Faso, president of Egypt's Senate, the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement, and Omani parliament speaker also paid tribute to the martyred Leader. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said Friday that delegations from nearly 100 countries, along with public figures and civil society groups, would attend the farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader.

"We have high-level delegations from neighboring countries. At least eight heads of government, including presidents or prime ministers, and parliamentary speakers from 12 countries will attend," Baqaei said. "Many other



Members of Indian delegation walk past the coffins of Iran's martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and his family members after paying their respects at the Tehran's Grand Mosalla on July 3, 2026.

● AFP

countries will be represented at the level of foreign ministers, other ministers, or special envoys."

He added that public groups and prominent figures from around 100 countries would also participate in the ceremony. Baqaei said official delegations, public figures and members of parliament from Eastern European countries would attend the farewell ceremony. However, he said countries in Europe that had officially supported the military aggression by Israel and the United States against Iran had not been invited to attend the ceremony.

The public farewell, beginning Friday, follows a private ceremony held Thursday evening. Families of those killed in the recent war and relatives of staff members from the Leader's office gathered to bid farewell to the late Leader. President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Iranians from all backgrounds to take part in the funeral ceremonies.

"As heroic Iran prepares to bid farewell



to the sincere servant of Islam and the Revolution, I invite all people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, political taste or orientation, to participate with enthusiasm, dignity and in historic numbers, demonstrating a lasting image of national unity and loyalty to the lofty ideals of the Islamic establishment," he wrote in a message posted on X. The multi-day funeral is expected

to draw between 15 and 20 million mourners, according to Iranian officials. Ceremonies will continue on Saturday and Sunday with the body lying in state at the Grand Mosalla before a funeral procession through Tehran on Monday. Further rites are scheduled in the holy city of Qom, followed by ceremonies in Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf in Iraq, before burial in Mashhad on July 9.

Pezeshkian vows to hold US, Israel accountable for their crimes

International Desk

Iranian president said on Friday that the US and Israeli aggression against Iran constituted a clear violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, vowing that Tehran would hold them and their supporters accountable for their crimes.

Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in separate meetings with foreign delegations from China, Namibia and Afghanistan and officials who traveled to Tehran to attend the funeral ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Pezeshkian said the US and Israeli attacks killed a number of military commanders, government officials, scientists and innocent civilians. He said strikes on civilian facilities and the killing of civilians represented a blatant breach of internationally accepted rules.

"The actions taken against the Islamic Republic of Iran were a clear violation of the fundamental



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walks along Emomali Rahmon who arrived in Tehran on July 3, 2026 to attend the funeral ceremony for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

● president.ir

principles of the UN Charter, pre-emptory norms of international law, the principle of respect for national sovereignty, and all international humanitarian law standards," Pezeshkian said.

He said Iran will pursue the crimes and hold perpetrators and their supporters accountable in international forums and institutions using all legal and diplomatic capacities.

The Iranian president emphasized that Iran remains committed to expanding relations with its neighbors based on good neighborliness, mutual respect and shared interests.

"No country should allow its territory, facilities, or capacities to

be used by aggressors against the Iranian nation," he said.

The Chinese, Namibian and Afghan delegations, in their meetings with Pezeshkian, conveyed condolences from their leaders, emphasized respect for Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and called for expanded bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural and other fields.

The Iranian president also held separate meetings with the leaders of Armenia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Iraq.

During the meetings, Pezeshkian thanked the leaders for their presence in the funeral ceremony of Ayatollah Khamenei and appreciated their empathy and the countries' support for the Islamic Republic during the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Araghchi: Armed Forces proved outsiders cannot even protect themselves

Bahrain military dialogue a 'show' to cover up US destabilizing policies: FM spokesperson

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reacted to a military conference held by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) in Bahrain, saying that Iran's military forces have proven that outsiders cannot even protect themselves.

"Has CENTCOM brought security or insecurity to our region?" "The answer is clear," Araghchi asked in a post on his X account on Thursday after CENTCOM announced that it had held a regional security meeting hosted by the Bahrain Defense Force with senior military officials from 11 Middle Eastern countries. According to the CENTCOM statement, Commander Gen. Brad Cooper and senior military officials from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen discussed the region's current security situation and opportunities to enhance military cooperation.

"Equally, our Powerful Armed Forces have proven that outsiders cannot even protect themselves. Peace in our region can only be sustained when comprehensive and inclusive, with no outside interference," Araghchi wrote. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also on Thursday lambasted the US over the security meeting, warning neighboring countries not to be deceived by Washington's security initiatives and to remain alert to its destabilizing role in West Asia.

"The US administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it places no value on the peace and



● CENTCOM

security of the countries of the West Asia region," he said in a post on X on Thursday.

"Such gatherings are nothing more than a show and a window dressing aimed at covering up the United States' destabilizing policies and unlawful actions in West Asia," Baqaei stressed, responding to a US statement announcing the so-called "Regional Security Dialogue" in Bahrain. "The countries of the region must remain extremely vigilant and cautious, and they must not forget the clear lessons of the consequences of the recent US-Zionist regime military aggression and their destructive actions, which violated the security of the entire region," the spokesman further said.

Iran's warning comes weeks after a US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, during which Iranian armed forces launched powerful retaliatory strikes and imposed restrictions on traffic through the strategic waterway before a ceasefire and a fragile memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington eased tensions.

Resistance identity in ...

From the perspective of critical international relations theory, this model

carries dual implications. On the one hand, it may enhance the deterrence capabilities of peripheral actors and contribute to balancing unequal power structures. In this sense, the Axis of Resistance serves as an instrument for reducing dependence and strengthening strategic autonomy. On the other hand, this same structure may intensify regional security competition, deepen mistrust among actors, and make conflict-resolution processes more complex. In other words, the very network that some actors regard as a mechanism of deterrence may be viewed by others as a source of instability and a factor

perpetuating cycles of mutual securitization.

At the regional level, the Axis of Resistance can be viewed as a form of informal security order that operates either in competition or in interaction with formal regional security arrangements. By bringing together states and non-state actors, it has established a flexible network capable of adapting to changing regional dynamics. This adaptability constitutes one of its defining characteristics. Unlike conventional alliances, it is not dependent on rigid legal or institutional frameworks but operates primarily through political and ideological ties.

Ultimately, within Ayatollah Khamenei's worldview, resistance is viewed

not merely as a response to external pressure but as a proactive project aimed at redefining the regional and international standing of independent actors. Through the Axis of Resistance, this project seeks to shift the regional balance of power away from a unipolar or hierarchical structure toward a multilayered and network-based equilibrium. Consequently, any understanding of the Axis of Resistance that overlooks its theoretical, identity-based, and strategic dimensions remains incomplete. It should instead be understood as a synthesis of power politics, transnational identity-building, and informal security architecture that continues to shape the evolving dynamics of the contemporary Middle East.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Minister says US food purchases conditional on meeting Iran's terms



Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh
ISNA

Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh said on Thursday that any purchase of essential goods from US-linked multinational companies will proceed only if Iran's conditions are met, and that alternative supply sources will be pursued if those conditions are not satisfied. In a post on X, Nouri-Qazaljih said the continuation of recent years' practice of sourcing part

of Iran's essential goods from multinational companies with American shareholders would depend on Iran's conditions being met.

"In addition to the conditions stipulated in the memorandum of understanding [between Iran and the US], price, quality, and health indicators will be taken into consideration."

"If any of the conditions are not met, supply will be sourced from other origins," he added. The remarks came after Iran

and the United States signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding on June 18 extending their ceasefire for 60 days to allow negotiations on Iran's nuclear program and other key issues. The agreement includes lifting the naval blockade on Iran's southern ports and commercial vessels, granting sanctions waivers, and releasing part of Tehran's frozen assets. According to ISNA, Nouri-Qezeljeh had earlier said that using unfrozen funds to secure

essential goods would be a positive opportunity for Iran, allowing the country to preserve its hard currency reserves. "If conditions allow us to use blocked resources for essential goods, this would be a good opportunity. Instead of using cash and the country's fresh foreign exchange resources, we would use frozen funds and save cash reserves for other purposes," he said. However, he stressed that there is no obligation to do so, and that agreements contain

no requirement for such purchases.

Indirect technical talks between Washington and Tehran, mediated by Qatar and Pakistan, were held in Doha on Wednesday, focusing on Iran's frozen assets and the Strait of Hormuz. President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that "\$6 billion out of the total \$12 billion of Iranian resources in Qatar will be released and returned to the country," adding that the necessary follow-up steps were underway.

US President Donald Trump said on June 23 that any Iranian funds unlocked under the arrangement would be used to purchase American corn, soybeans and wheat. The money, he said, would be held "in escrow, controlled by" Washington and spent "exclusively" on American food and medical supplies.

Nouri-Qezeljeh, speaking to reporters on Wednesday, reiterated that claims of Iran being forced to buy from US companies are unfounded. "If the conditions offered by these companies do not align with the Ministry of Agriculture's standards, no purchase will be made, and supplies will be sourced from other origins," Tasnim quoted him as saying. He emphasized that "health, quality, and price" are the ministry's key red lines for essential goods imports. "All imported consignments are carefully inspected, ship by ship, and genetically modified organism (GMO) content is examined by spe-

cialized centers," he said, adding that while importing GMO products with legal permits is not prohibited under current law, "cultivation of these products inside the country is not permitted."

The minister said Iran aims to secure essential goods at the most competitive prices. "On equal footing, friendly and aligned countries—especially those that have stood by Iran in difficult times—will be given priority for cooperation," he added.

He said that about 15% of Iran's food security needs are met through imports, while more than 85% are produced domestically, although part of domestic production depends on imported inputs. According to Nouri-Qazaljih, Iran imports about \$16 billion worth of essential goods annually.

The minister said part of Iran's financial resources had been frozen abroad for years and, because of sanctions-related restrictions, those funds could only be spent through companies approved by the US side, a practice that predated the latest agreements and was unrelated to the new understandings.

"If it becomes possible to use frozen assets to supply essential goods, it will benefit the country's economy because, instead of paying with cash currency, resources that have been inaccessible for years will be used, preserving the country's cash reserves for other needs," he said.

Iran in talks with Turkey to import power for petrochemical plants damaged in war

Economy Desk

Iran has begun negotiations with Turkey to secure electricity imports for its petrochemical industry after power plants serving the sector were damaged during the recent US-Israeli war, a senior energy official said Thursday.

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, deputy energy minister for electricity and energy, traveled to Turkey on Thursday for preliminary talks on importing up to 450 megawatts of power through the Khoy-Van transmission line, according to remarks he made before departure.

"The transfer of 450 megawatts of electricity through the Khoy-Van transmission line is on the agenda of the talks," Rajabi Mashhadi said, as reported by the government's information website, dolat.ir.

The visit aims to assess technical conditions and pricing, with a view to reaching a tripartite agreement between Iran's Energy Ministry, Iranian petrochemical industries, and the Turkish side, facilitated by a private intermediary company.

"Fortunately, we have a very advanced 'back-to-back' power substation at the border," he said, adding that the plan remains in its early stages and no contract has been signed. "The main objective of this trip is to conduct preliminary negotiations and agree on electricity



IRNA

pricing."

"If the parties reach a final agreement, a tripartite contract will be signed among the Energy Ministry, Iran's petrochemical industries, and the Turkish side, with the cooperation of a private intermediary company, to operationalize the power transfer process."

The push for imports comes after power plants supplying electricity and steam to petrochemical complexes were targeted during the 40-day war that began in late February. Some ancillary facilities were directly hit, and production units at multiple companies were struck and taken out of production, according to previous statements by industry officials.

According to Hassan Abbaszadeh, managing director of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company, who spoke in mid-June, about 38% of production capacity knocked out during the conflict has since been restored. The deputy oil minister added that polymer and plastics mar-

kets have now stabilized.

Air strikes over several days hit facilities in Mahshahr, in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, and in Asaluyeh, in the southern province of Bushehr, damaging installations at multiple companies in April. The Tabriz and Marvdasht (Shiraz) plants were also hit.

The petrochemical industry plays a vital role in development, job creation, and supplying raw materials for many essential goods in Iran. The country's nominal annual production capacity stands at roughly 100 million tons, with actual output at about 80 million tons.

"In line with the Energy Ministry's efforts to compensate for the power shortfall at damaged petrochemical industries, preliminary planning has been done so that, if an agreement is reached, we can supply the electricity needed by these industries through imports from Turkey with the participation of the private sector," Rajabi Mashhadi said.

Conflict-damaged vehicle claims accelerate as 71% compensated

Economy Desk

The assessment and compensation process for vehicles damaged in the American-Israeli war that began in late February has accelerated in recent weeks under the supervision of Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, with approximately 71% of claimants having received payouts so far, official data showed.

A total of 34,573 vehicle damage claims have been registered across 29 provinces as of June 23, according to the latest statistics from IRNA. Of these, 30,786 cases have been assessed to date, indicating that the majority of claims have been reviewed and prepared for compensation in a short period.

In the 16th, 17th, and 18th rounds of compensation payments, conducted on June 22 and 23, damages for 1,685 vehicles were paid to their owners. With these payments, the total number of vehicles that have received compensation has reached 24,856.

The latest data on insurance industry payouts for vehicle damage during the 12-day Israeli war in June 2025 show that the conflict damaged 4,486 vehicles.

According to IRNA, the Min-



IRNA

istry of Economic Affairs and Finance has sought to utilize insurance companies' capacity and coordinate among executive bodies to ensure that the claims filing, damage assessment, and compensation process is completed in the minimum possible time. The aim is to allow citizens to return their vehicles to use as quickly as possible and resume daily and economic activities.

The insurance industry, having obtained necessary permits from the ministry, has so far paid over 21,000 billion rials (\$12 million at an exchange rate of 1,750,000 rials per dollar) in compensation to owners of more than 29,000 vehicles damaged in the two wars, according to

the Mehr news agency.

The measure is part of the government's policy to manage the economic impacts of the war and support victims. Alongside compensating for financial losses, the policy seeks to strengthen societal psychological peace, reduce livelihood concerns, and accelerate the reconstruction process in affected areas.

The continuation of compensation payments and the processing of remaining cases remain on the ministry's agenda, ensuring that all victims benefit from the planned support in the shortest possible time, thereby facilitating the swift return of people to their normal lives and economic activities.

A historic farewell to martyred Leader



By Zia Hashemi

Deputy for scientific and cultural affairs to Iran's first VP

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The ceremonial procession and valediction for the martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution is not merely a commemorative observance, but rather a historical event for the reexamination and representation of the multifarious dimensions of the character of a preeminent figure who dedicated over six decades of his existence to endeavor in furtherance of disseminating religious and revolutionary ideologies and the elevation of the Islamic system. The exalted social station and the singular facets of his personality, as a Leader who devoted his life to struggle and fight for the actualization of the lofty aspirations of the Islamic Revolution within Iran and across the globe, and who presented to the world an exemplary paradigm of an indefatigable fighter, necessitate that the funeral ceremony for his purified remains transform into an arena for extensive discourse concerning his ideals and methodologies. This magnificent ritual is, in truth, an invaluable opportunity for the general populace within Iran and other societies to become, more than ever before, acquainted with his intellectual and cultural legacy.

The martyred Leader represented a peerless figure who, throughout the preceding decades, not only occupied the apex of official authority within the Islamic Republic of Iran but also, simultaneously, as an eminent jurist, a poetical litterateur, a well-read teacher, a poetical litterateur, and a historian well-aware of his era, served as the originator of momentous occurrences and transformations across diverse spheres.

The story of his political existence extends far beyond the years of formal responsibility within the Islamic system and harkens back to the era of opposition to the Pahlavi regime; from those days when he stood in the vanguard of the Islamic movement, endured incarceration and exile, and, through perseverance and intellectual work, evolved into one of the most conspicuous figures within the domain of revolutionary Leadership. During that period, as a sagacious cleric, a formidable orator, and a trusted figure among the citizenry, he had acquired a distinguished position in Mashhad, Tehran, Iranshahr, and other locales throughout Iran, among disparate segments of society — including Shias and Sunnis, academics, seminary scholars, and other constituencies.

Subsequent to the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, his instrumental role and efficacious presence in various positions and responsibilities became increasingly pronounced; in such capacities as representation of Imam Khomeini upon the Supreme Defense Council, the Friday Imamate of Tehran, the Presidency, and thereafter nearly four decades of Leadership over the Islamic Republic of Iran, he inscribed indelible pages upon the annals of contemporary Iranian history.

Throughout all these years, he remained perpetually immersed within the most consequential political, social, and cultural developments of the country and, along the path of discharging his revolutionary duties, became the target of assassination attempts and terrorist machinations by adversaries, advancing even to the threshold of martyrdom. Nevertheless, that which renders the martyred Leader's character particularly preeminent and distinctive is the fact that heavy political and executive responsibilities never overshadowed his scholarly, juridical, and cultural stature.

The martyred Leader was universally acknowledged as a comprehensively qualified mujtahid, a source of emulation, a distinguished professor of advanced jurisprudence, a profound researcher, an unparalleled bibliophile, a litterateur well-



A woman holds a poster of the martyred Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei that reads, "The God of Khamenei is Alive, O' People!" during a commemorative nightly gathering in the Enqelab Square of Tehran, Iran, on March 7, 2026.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (r) receives a group of poets and experts in Persian literature on April 5, 2023, on the eve of the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Hasan (ؑ).
Khamenei.ir

versed in Persian poetry and letters, and a cultural devotee who, despite bearing the weightiest political obligations in the administration of the state, sustained his unbroken connection with religious seminars, universities, research institutions, and cultural assemblies. His particular distinction in these arenas, in comparison with numerous politicians and even religious scholars, resides in his encouragement of and advocacy for critical dialogue and the exchange of perspectives within scientific, theoretical, and social domains. Within the intellectual constellation of the martyred Leader, science, technology, and freedom of thought constituted fundamental pillars of national power and civilizational advancement. For this reason, concepts such as the "scientific movement," the "software movement," and "scientific jihad" emerged as foundational strategies within his thought and were repeatedly emphasized. His profound conviction held that the future of Iran depends upon scientific growth, the fortification of universities, the expansion of research, the support of elites, and the attainment of scientific authority — a station wherein the Persian language might evolve into one of the principal languages for the production and transmission of knowledge across the world.

A substantial portion of the scientific and technological progress achieved by the

Islamic Republic of Iran in recent decades materialized under the aegis of this strategic outlook. The remarkable proliferation of universities, the development of research centers, the expansion of knowledge-based enterprises, and the elevation of the nation's scientific capacity laid the groundwork for the augmentation of national power across various domains. The concrete manifestation of this long-term investment may be observed in the defense capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran; wherein advancements in missile, drone, and advanced defense technologies — particularly during recent conflicts — have demonstrated that Iran's defensive strength rests, above all and before anything else, upon the knowledge, technology, and scientific prowess of the children of this land.

Alongside this scientific standing, the martyred Leader consistently enjoyed a preeminent status among the community of culture, art, and literature. His perpetual engagement with the Holy Qur'an, juridical deliberations, assemblies of Persian poetry and literature, and his intimate and sustained dialogue with writers, poets, artists, university professors, and religious scholars throughout all his years of responsibility evinced that science, culture, and spirituality constituted not the periphery but rather the very substance of his life and agency. It is

in light of such facts that one anticipates the funeral procession and farewell to the martyred Leader to be similarly distinctive — and to represent not merely the funeral of a former head of government or a political Leader but rather the valediction of a personality who, across the domains of jurisprudence and ijthad, thought and culture, science and art, administration and politics, and, finally, struggle and Leadership, has bequeathed an enduring legacy.

It is inevitable that the loss of such a figure has plunged millions of Iranians and numerous admirers across diverse nations into mourning and has assembled them for participation in this historical ceremony. This magnificent rite, in addition to honoring the station and dignity of a great Leader, will constitute an invaluable occasion for the more precise analysis and introduction of his intellectual and personal dimensions to the global community — a figure who embodied the synthesis of jurisprudence, rationality, science, culture, resistance, and popular orientation, and who may continue to serve as an inspirational model for future generations and for the freedom-seeking peoples of the world, warranting ongoing examination and discussion.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Iran.



The exalted social station and the singular facets of his personality, as a Leader who devoted his life to struggle and fight for the actualization of the lofty aspirations of the Islamic Revolution within Iran and across the globe, and who presented to the world an exemplary paradigm of an indefatigable fighter, necessitate that the funeral ceremony for his purified remains transform into an arena for extensive discourse concerning his ideals and methodologies.

Asian U20 Wrestling Championships: Iran wins nine medals to secure Greco-Roman title

Sports Desk

Iran dominated the Greco-Roman competition at the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships, collecting nine medals – including five golds – across the 10 weight classes to claim the team title in Pattaya, Thailand.

It would have been an even more emphatic campaign for the Iranian team had Amir-Mahdi Saeidi-Nava not been disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct following his 7-3 semifinal victory over Kazakhstan's Bakdaulet Tursynbek in the 77kg division.

The medal haul still saw Iran fin-

ish atop the standings with 190 points, 22 clear of runner-up Uzbekistan, while Kyrgyzstan placed third with 166.

Amirsam Mohammadi brought the curtain down on a glorious campaign for Iran on Thursday by defeating India's Akshay Rana by technical superiority (8-0) in the 97kg final, outscoring his opponents 30-0 across four bouts.

Alireza Mohammad-Hosseini claimed Iran's fourth gold medal earlier on Thursday, cruising past Kazakhstan's Yerkebulan Anapiya 10-1 in the 82kg final. Mohammad Kazemi, meanwhile, had to settle for silver in the

72kg division after suffering a technical fall while trailing 4-1 against Kyrgyzstan's Yrlybek Khamdamov in the final.

Thursday's results came after Iran had claimed three gold medals through Armin Shamsipour, Ali Gharibi, and Amirhossein Abdevali on the opening day of the competition.

Shamsipour thrashed Uzbekistan's Otabek Tursanov 8-0 in the 55kg final, while Gharibi defeated China's Zhaojian Wang 8-1 to take the title in the 63kg category.

Abdevali, meanwhile, maintained Iran's traditional dominance in the super heavyweight



Iran's Ali Gharibi (red) is seen in action during his Greco-Roman 63kg final victory against China's Zhaojian Wang at the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships in Pattaya, Thailand, on July 1, 2026.

● IAWFIR

division by defeating Turkmenistan's Aslan Agadadayev 7-1 in the 130kg final.

Elsewhere, Amirali Heidari (60kg), Mohammadreza Gholami (67kg), and Amirhossein Nematzadeh (87kg) added three bronze medals to Iran's tally.

Heidari bounced back from a 6-3 quarterfinal defeat to Kyrgyzstan's Alkham Abdirasulov to edge China's Lijun Bi 2-1, while Gholami – who had suffered a 9-1 semifinal defeat to Uzbekistan's Ogabek Mukimov – beat Mongolia's Otgonnasan Tseren-

puntsag 5-2 in the bronze-medal bout.

Nematzadeh recovered from a 6-3 semifinal loss to Kazakhstan's Alikhan Tagayev to defeat China's Qiangle Wang by technical superiority (8-0) and secure the bronze medal.



Iran captain Arsalan Kazemi (14) goes up for a basket during a victory over Jordan in the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan, on July 2, 2026.

● FIBA

Sports Desk

Iran avenged its February defeat to Jordan with a commanding 67-49 victory at Prince Hamza Arena in Amman, leading for more than 37 minutes and never allowing the hosts to mount a serious challenge after the opening exchanges.

The victory lifted Iran to the top of Group C with a 4-1 record in the first round of the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers.

The turning point came early in the opening quarter. With 7:07 remaining, forward Arsalan Kazemi finished a fast-break layup to tie the game at 2-2. Just over a minute later, with 6:05 left,

Seyyed Mahdi Jafari drove baseline and converted a reverse layup to give Iran a 5-2 lead – an advantage it would never surrender.

During a decisive stretch from 8:36 to 5:30 of the first quarter, Iran outscored Jordan 7-2, controlled the boards with five rebounds, and committed no turn-

FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers:

Iran avenges Jordan loss in style to go top in Group C

overs. Jordan managed just one field goal from five attempts and failed to record either an assist or a turnover during that span, as Iran's composure set the tone for the remainder of the contest. Kazemi anchored Iran's effort at both ends of the floor, finishing with seven points, 11 rebounds, and seven assists in 32:04. His 20 efficiency rating and +11 plus/minus reflected his influence whenever he was on the court. Guard Mohammad Mahdi Heydari led all Iranian scorers with 17 points, adding two rebounds and four assists in 28:41 while shooting 7-of-11 from two-point range. Mobin Sheikhi contributed 13 points, four rebounds, one assist, and three steals in 26:14, knocking down four of his nine three-point attempts. Off the bench, Salar Monji chipped in five points and seven rebounds, posting an efficiency rating of 11 and a game-best +20 in just 15:41.

For Jordan, Ahmad Al Dwairi recorded a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds in 34:44, while also adding one assist, one block, and a 20 efficiency rating. However, his efforts were not enough to ignite a comeback. Iran's biggest run came in the first quarter, when it reeled off seven unanswered points in just 1:37 to overturn a 2-0 deficit into a 7-2 lead. Kazemi sparked the surge with five points on perfect 2-of-2 shooting while grabbing a rebound. Jordan's only lead was 2-0 with 8:36 remaining in the opening quarter. Iran's largest advantage reached 25-16 with 4:37 left in the second period before the visitors steadily extended the margin. Iran led for 37:07, while Jordan was in front for only 1:29. The game was tied for 1:24.

Iran held a 17-11 advantage after the opening quarter before extending its lead to 29-22 at halftime. The visitors effectively

put the game away in the third quarter by stretching the margin into double digits, and although Jordan edged the final period, the outcome was never in doubt. Iran will conclude the first round of qualifying against Syria in Amman on Sunday.

In a rescheduled second-window fixture, Iran defeated Syria 72-68 in Amman last Monday to secure a top-two finish in the group and book its place in the second round.

Under the qualification format, the top three teams from each of the four first-round groups advance to the second round. The 12 qualifiers will be divided into two groups, with Group A paired with Group C and Group B with Group D, while carrying over results against fellow qualifiers. The top three teams from each second-round group, along with the best fourth-placed team, will qualify for the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup in Qatar.

Bam Khatoon to face Al Nassr in AWCL preliminaries

Sports Desk

Iranian top-flight champion Bam Khatoon has been drawn alongside Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr Club, Tajikistan's FC CSKA Dushanbe and Jordan's Etihad Club in Group E of the preliminary round of the upcoming AFC Women's Champions League.

The draw for the new season of Asia's premier women's club competition took place at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday, with 24 teams divided into six preliminary groups. All Group E matches will be played in Hisor, Tajikistan.

Khatoon will open its campaign against CSKA on Aug. 17 before facing Al Nassr three days later at Hisor Central Stadium, followed by its final group match against Etihad on Aug. 23. The six group winners will join the

six clubs that qualified directly for the competition: defending champion Naegohyang Women's FC (PRK) and the five highest-ranked teams—Melbourne City FC (AUS), Hwacheon KSPO WFC (KOR), INAC Kobe Leonessa (JPN), Beijing Jingtan Football Club (CHN) and Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC (VIE). Khatoon, the dominant force in Iran's domestic league with a record 11 titles, is set for a new era following the departure of AFC Women's Coach of the Year Marziyeh Jafari.

Under Jafari, Khatoon reached the quarterfinals of the inaugural edition of the competition in the 2024-25 season before suffering a 1-0 defeat to South Korea's Incheon Red Angels. Last season, however, the Iranian champion fell to an early exit after finishing bottom of Group B with three points. Elsewhere, Group A, to be host-

ed by Malaysia's Sabah FA, also features India's East Bengal FC, Guam's Rovers FC and Bangladesh's Rajshahi Stars FC, while Kyrgyz Republic's FC Ilbirs will host Group B, which includes the Philippines' Kaya FC-Iloilo, Hong Kong's TSL FC and Cambodia's Phnom Penh Crown FC. Group C will see the UAE's Banaat FC, hosts PFC Nasaf of Uzbekistan, Laos' Master FC and Bhutan's Royal Thimphu College FC compete for the lone qualifying berth, while hosts College of Asian Scholars of Thailand, DPR Korea's 4.25 SC, Mongolia's Kharaatsai FC and Timor-Leste's S'Amuser FC make up Group D.

Group F consists of Chinese Taipei's New Taipei City Hang Yuan FC, hosts Ayeyawady FC Women of Myanmar, Singapore's FC Jurong and Lebanon's No Limits FC, with only the group winner advancing.



● AFC

Martyred Leader's legacy casts cultural heritage as pillar of Iran's identity

Arts & Culture Desk

A renewed review of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's remarks during the days leading to his funeral shows his longstanding view that Iran's cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts are strategic national assets that strengthen Iranian-Islamic identity, foster economic development and project the country's civilization to the world. Across speeches delivered over more than two decades, Ayatollah Khamenei consistently described Iran's historical legacy as a source of national confidence and a foundation for future progress, CHTN reported. "Iran deserves a far higher standing than that of a second-rate country," he said in

an August 17, 2011 address. "Our history, our cultural heritage, our people's capabilities and our natural potential all dictate that Iran should rank among the world's leading nations." He repeatedly linked the preservation of historical sites to strengthening national identity, describing cultural heritage as a well-spring of self-confidence for future generations. Speaking to provincial officials in Fars Province in 2008, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted tourism as a powerful engine for economic growth, saying that proper planning and promotion could generate enough revenue to make provinces "independent of many other sources of income." He urged officials to capitalize on the country's reli-



● khamenei.ir

gious shrines, literary icons such as Hafez and Sa'adi, and its rich historical land-

scape, calling tourism "a very important issue" with untapped potential.

Ayatollah Khamenei also advocated presenting Iran's historical achievements

more effectively to international audiences. Referring to the rock relief near Kazerun depicting the Roman Emperor Valerian kneeling before the Sassanian king Shapur I, he said the monument should be showcased as evidence of Iran's historical grandeur. "They show visitors an empty field and say the Persian army was defeated there," he remarked, referring to a visit to Greece recounted by an acquaintance. "Here we have the statue of Valerian, the Roman emperor, kneeling before the King of Iran. Show them this. That answers it." Discussing ancient sites such as Persepolis, Ayatollah Khamenei said their value extended beyond political history, describing them as masterpieces created by "the Iranian mind" and "the

hands of Iranian artists." "The true creators of these monuments are the Iranian people," he said. "They reflect Iranian ingenuity, creativity and artistic excellence, and that is a source of pride for the nation." Handicrafts also occupied a prominent place in his vision for national development. During visits to several provinces, he called for greater investment in traditional industries, particularly carpet weaving and other crafts, saying they could improve livelihoods while expanding Iran's presence in global markets. Ayatollah Khamenei further warned against attempts to diminish nations' historical identity, arguing that cultural and civilizational achievements should be protected and promoted rather than overlooked.

Persian carries 5,000 years of human civilization: *Envoy*



Iran's Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi speaks during a seminar marking the 105th anniversary of the Persian Language and Literature Department at the University of Dhaka on July 3, 2026. ● IBNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi hailed Persian as a language that carries millennia of human civilization, ethics and cultural heritage during a seminar marking the 105th anniversary of the Persian Language and Literature Department at the University of Dhaka on Thursday, while announcing a new package of academic and cultural cooperation with the department. Addressing the seminar, The Persian Language and Literature Department at 105: Achievements and Prospects, Rahimi Jahanabadi described Persian as "far more than a means of communication," saying it offers access to "5,000 years of human experience in governance, ethics, civilization, literature, joy and sorrow." IBNA reported. "By entering through the gateway of the Persian language, you step into the boundless world of human history, morality, mysticism and theology," he said. "Language is not merely a tool for communication. It is the medium through which a nation's

identity, culture, thought and collective consciousness are expressed." The ambassador said Persian remains a bridge to nearly 200 million speakers across Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan while also reflecting the historical and cultural legacy of the Indian subcontinent. He praised the 11th-century epic poet Ferdowsi for safeguarding the Persian language and urged students to preserve their cultural identity. "By learning Persian, revive your past, help build human civilization and nurture the profound ideas this language has preserved," he said. On the sidelines of the event, Rahimi Jahanabadi unveiled four joint initiatives with the University of Dhaka's Persian department. The plans include expanding the department's digital library and research resources with support from Iran, organizing academic study tours to Iran for students and faculty, providing professional training programs for Persian-language instructors at universities in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong, and launching weekly cultural programs centered on Iranian cinema, literature and culture.

Iranian academic diaspora builds new research links in Europe

Arts & Culture Desk

Europe's annual conference of Persian-speaking students brought together Iranian scholars, researchers and academics in Barcelona, Spain, to strengthen academic cooperation, showcase Iran's research achievements and deepen university diplomacy, Iran's Student Affairs Organization said on Thursday. The event, attended by Iran's scientific counselor in Europe, Mohammad Mohammadi Aghdam, drew about 40 Iranian

students and researchers from across Europe to exchange scientific expertise and expand professional networks. With a history spanning four decades, the conference has become one of the largest annual gatherings of Iranian academics on the continent. Addressing the conference, Mohammadi Aghdam outlined support programs available to Iranian students abroad and urged the country's academic elite to play a more active role in presenting what he called a "truthful and accurate narrative" of

Iran's scientific progress to the international community. "Scientists and researchers can serve as effective ambassadors of Iran's scientific achievements," he said, emphasizing the importance of academic diplomacy in fostering international engagement. Specialized panels examined challenges and opportunities facing Iran, including urban management, groundwater resources and constitutional law. One of the conference's featured sessions explored the legal dimensions of Iran's position in the Strait

of Hormuz, presented by an Iranian legal scholar based in France, followed by an extensive question-and-answer session. The conference also served as a platform to broaden international academic partnerships. On the sidelines, the Iranian delegation met Prof. Francesc Pérez-Murano at the Institute of Microelectronics of Barcelona (IMB-CNM), part of Spain's National Research Council (CSIC), where the two sides discussed student exchanges, research funding and joint scientific projects. The Spanish side praised the scientific capabilities of Iranian students and welcomed greater research engagement.

Iran calls peace key to protecting environment at UN Asia-Pacific summit

Social Desk

Iran used the Ninth High-level Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Development of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok to press for stronger regional environmental cooperation while stressing that lasting peace is essential to tackling cross-border environmental challenges, Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment (DoE) Shina Ansari said. Addressing the July 1-3 gathering, Ansari outlined Iran's environmental priorities, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, waste management and regional dust storms. She also highlighted the environmental consequences of recent military attacks on Iran, saying damage to oil facili-

ties, infrastructure and fuel storage sites had increased greenhouse gas emissions and carried wider regional environmental implications, IRNA reported. "The environment is the silent victim of wars," Ansari said, adding that "global environmental goals cannot be achieved without peace and stability." She reiterated Iran's call for accountability and compensation for environmental damage caused by war while reaffirming the country's commitment to international environmental conventions despite unilateral sanctions. On the sidelines of the summit, Ansari held a series of bilateral meetings aimed at expanding regional environmental partnerships. In talks with Pakistan's minister for climate change and environmental coordination,



Shina Ansari

the two sides discussed closer cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking and protecting biodiversity, while Ansari thanked Islamabad for its support for the Islamic Republic of Iran. During a meeting requested by Armenia, officials reviewed plans to update the two countries' environmental cooperation memorandum, coordinate ahead of the COP17 Biodiversity Conference in Yerevan later this year, establish a joint Peace

and Friendship Park, and strengthen joint monitoring of the Aras River. Ansari also met Ali Shareef, Maldives' minister of climate change, environment and energy and president of the ESCAP meeting, where discussions focused on climate adaptation, coastal ecosystem management, plastic pollution and waste reduction. The Maldivian side welcomed Iran's proposals and expressed readiness to broaden bilateral cooperation.