



Martyred Leader founded ‘Revolution and Resistance Poetry’ school: *Minister*

Arts & Culture Desk

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi on Tuesday described martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as the founder of the "school of Revolution and Resistance Poetry," praising his longstanding engagement with Persian literature and poets. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the inaugural 'Imam Shahid' International Poetry Award, Salehi said the late Leader had played a central role in promoting poetry as a pillar of the 1979 Islamic Revolution's cultural identity. "Our insightful Leader believed that a revolution without poetry is incomplete and lacks a medium to endure," Salehi said, ac-

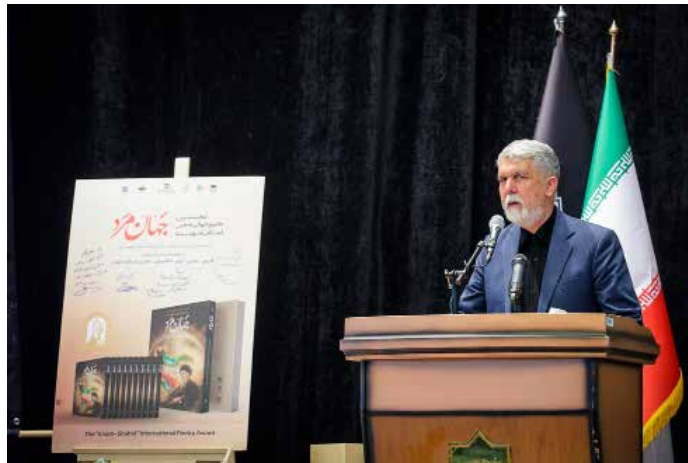
cording to the state news agency IRNA. Salehi said the martyred Leader had developed a deep appreciation for literature from an early age and possessed an extensive knowledge of Persian, Arabic and Turkish, as well as an exceptional memory for poetry. He added that the leader not only wrote poetry himself but also mentored generations of poets through regular meetings, including annual gatherings during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The minister said Ayatollah Khamenei maintained close ties with prominent Iranian poets from the early years of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, arguing that poetry was essential to preserving the revolution's ideals. Salehi said the Ministry of Cul-

ture's responsibility following the martyred Leader's loss was to safeguard and reinterpret his cultural legacy for new generations. "Our greatest responsibility is to preserve the legacy of the Martyr Imam and present it in the language of today," he said. The remarks came during the closing ceremony of the inaugural 'Imam Shahid' International Poetry Award, an international literary initiative organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in cooperation with several Iranian cultural institutions. According to organizers, the annual competition invites poets, writers and literary figures from around the world to submit works inspired by the late Leader's legacy. Winners receive



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi addresses the closing ceremony of the inaugural 'Imam Shahid' International Poetry Award in Tehran on July 14, 2026.
● ANA

a commemorative statue symbolizing resilience and growth, while selected honorees are invited to participate in the Arbaeen pilgrimage, one of the world's largest annual religious gatherings that marks the 40th day after Ashura, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of the Shiite Muslims. The poetry award was established after the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei, whom Irani-



an officials and state media refer to as the "Martyr Imam" or the "Martyr Leader." Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated, alongside some of his fam-

ily members, on February 28, the first day of the 40-day illegal war of aggression waged by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran.

UNESCO network pushes global effort to protect Isfahan heritage sites



Arts & Culture Desk

The head of a UNESCO inter-university network said efforts are underway to mobilize international expertise and support for the protection of Isfahan's World Heritage sites following damage sustained

during the recent US-Israeli war of aggression. Speaking at a meeting of Isfahan's Cultural Heritage Association, Mehrdad Hejazi said the network had established a joint UNESCO academic chair involving 11 countries to focus on cultural heritage preservation. Hejazi said the initiative was launched as wartime damage to Iran's historical monuments emerged, adding that discussions were underway to attract international financial and technical assistance for conservation efforts. "These monuments are part of the world's heritage, and we should direct both mate-

rial and non-material resources from outside the country toward their preservation," he said, according to the state news agency IRNA. Hejazi said the network had held several international conferences that resulted in expressions of interest from foreign partners. Japan has indicated its readiness to provide technical cooperation for the conservation of Isfahan's historic monuments, while Turkey has also expressed willingness to participate in preservation projects, he said. Although current restrictions have limited the direct deployment of foreign experts,

consultations are continuing on ways to implement the proposed cooperation, Hejazi added. He also called for greater engagement with Iranian cultural heritage specialists living abroad, saying many researchers and experts overseas had voiced concern over the status of Isfahan's historic sites and could contribute to conservation efforts. Hejazi said recent international discussions had also generated offers of support for preserving parts of Isfahan's cultural heritage, including Armenian historical sites. Raising global awareness of the city's historical significance could help secure

broader international backing for conservation and tourism, he said. Several of Isfahan's historic monuments were damaged during US-Israeli strikes in March. The attacks affected areas surrounding the UNESCO-listed Naqsh-e Jahan Square and the Safavid-era government building. Historic landmarks reported to have sustained damage include the Chel Sotoun Palace, Ali Qapu Palace, Ashraf Hall, the Timurid Hall, Jebel Khaneh Mansion, which houses the Museum of Decorative Arts, and Rekih Khaneh Mansion, home to the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Public donations up 400% in Ramadan War; nationwide health plans underway

Social Desk

The head of Iran's State Welfare Organization announced that public donations to the agency rose by 400% during the 40-day Ramadan War, defying what was described as normal wartime patterns. Speaking at a news conference marking the 46th anniversary of the State Welfare Organization on Monday, Javad Hosseini said the organization received 1.75 trillion tomans in cash and non-cash donations during the US-Israeli war of aggression despite expectations that charitable giving would decline because of economic uncertainty and public anxiety. "In almost every war, public participation in charitable and voluntary activities falls as people become more concerned about their own financial and personal security," Hosseini said. "During the Ramadan War, however, contributions not only failed to decline but increased significantly." He said the increase represented a sharp break from established wartime patterns observed internationally. "Based on previous experiences of wars around the world, such participation would normally have declined substantially," he said. "Instead, public support increased by 400%, reflecting the solidarity and social cohesion of the Iranian people under difficult circumstances." Hosseini did not provide comparative figures for donations before the conflict but said the total value of contributions collected over the

40-day period reached 1.75 trillion tomans. Beyond the physical destruction associated with armed conflict, Hosseini said authorities were particularly concerned about the long-term psychological and social consequences, warning that untreated trauma could place a heavy burden on individuals and public services. "The visible effects of war, including casualties and damage to infrastructure, industry and employment, are easier to identify," he said. "But one of the most significant consequences is psychological and social trauma, which often continues long after military operations have ended." He said research suggested psychological disorders become increasingly difficult and costly to treat if they are not identified during the first five to six months after a conflict. "If these psychological injuries are not detected and treated during the early months, they become chronic," Hosseini said. "That increases treatment costs, psychological burdens and social problems." To assess the impact of the conflict, the State Welfare Organization launched two nationwide surveys shortly after the fighting began. One survey focused exclusively on older adults, while the second covered other vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, people with disabilities, women heading households and people living with mental health conditions. According to Hosseini, emotional and psychological problems



emerged as the most common challenges among elderly respondents, outweighing economic concerns. He said more than half of older adults surveyed reported experiencing anxiety related to the conflict. The findings also showed that 87% reported a significant decline in their sense of security in their place of residence, while approximately 70% experienced severe anxiety. Between 37% and 47% also reported poorer sleep quality, he said, describing emotional distress as the dominant consequence for older citizens. The second survey found similarly high levels of psychological strain among other vulnerable groups. "About 70% of participants experienced anxiety during and after the war," Hosseini said, adding that the proportion was even higher among women heading households. Around half of respondents also

reported initial psychological trauma and a reduced sense of personal security, underscoring what he described as the need for rapid intervention. The organization also conducted a separate nationwide psychological screening program, known as "Rasad-e Ravan" (mental monitoring), between June 1 and June 15. Officials had initially expected participation of between 10,000 and 12,000 people. Instead, more than 435,000 people completed the screening, making it one of the largest mental health assessments carried out by the organization, Hosseini said. Women accounted for 56% of participants, while men represented 44%. The largest occupational group consisted of self-employed individuals, representing 24% of respondents. Participants holding high school diplomas made up 29% of those surveyed, while people aged 18 to 25 accounted for 17%. Mar-



Javad Hosseini, the head of Iran's State Welfare Organization, speaks at a news press conference in the capital Tehran on July 14, 2026.
● IRAN DAILY

ried individuals represented 63% of participants. Geographically, the highest participation rates came from the provinces of Fars, Tehran, Gilan, Hamadan and South Khorasan, according to the organization. The screening found that around one in five participants showed signs of severe psychological trauma. "Twenty percent of participants were diagnosed with severe trauma," Hosseini said. He added that between 10% and 11% of respondents had themselves requested specialized counselling or mental health services from the State Welfare Organization. To respond to such needs, the organization has coordinated a network of public institutions to provide professional intervention and treatment. Hosseini said services would be delivered through approximately 3,500 welfare counselling centers, alongside facilities affiliated with medical universities, the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the Ministry of Science. Each institution would provide support according to its area of expertise, with the goal of preventing

temporary psychological distress from developing into chronic mental health disorders, he said. The organization also used the news conference to announce a series of welfare and development projects to coincide with Iran's annual Welfare Week, scheduled for July 15-21. Hosseini said 11,733 projects worth a combined 5.298 trillion tomans would be inaugurated during the week. Employment initiatives account for the largest share of the program, with 9,426 new job opportunities expected to be created, he said. The projects also include 2,068 housing units valued at 2.1 trillion tomans, 57 social health projects and 35 social emergency centers. The provinces of Razavi Khorasan, Qom, West Azerbaijan and Khuzestan will receive the largest share of the new projects, according to the organization. Hosseini also announced plans to begin construction on 12 additional projects worth 500 billion tomans next week. Separately, he said 7,000 women heading households had received permanent housing through a joint program involving the State Welfare Organization, the Housing Foundation and other government bodies. He described housing support as one of the organization's most significant achievements in assisting vulnerable families, saying stable housing remained a key component of broader social welfare and poverty reduction efforts.