

● License Holder
● Publisher
● Chair of ICPI Board of Directors
● ICPI CEO
● Senior Editor-in-chief
● Editor-in-chief

Islamic Republic News Agency
Iran Cultural & Press Institute
Sadeh Hossein Jafari Ansari
Ali Motaghian
Hadi Khosroshahin
Asgar Ghahramanpour

● Editorial Dept. Tel
● Address
● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
● Website
● Email

+98 21 84711560
208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
+98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir



> irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 8200 ● Monday, August 31, 2026 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Salehi-Amiri: Oral history opens living window onto Iran's heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri on Saturday called for Iran's oral-history archive to be turned into a living platform for scholarship, storytelling and cultural production at a policy council meeting in Tehran. Salehi-Amiri urged officials to move the initiative beyond an archival project and develop its material into books, documentaries, video clips and audio productions that can bring Iran's cultural heritage to contemporary audiences and future generations, CHTN reported. The ministry's Oral History Policy Council reviewed the latest progress on its projects, including 20 books nearing publication, documentary productions, oral histories of tourism and Nowruz travel, historic sites,

the war, and journalists covering cultural heritage. Plans to train oral-history coordinators across all 31 provinces were also discussed. The ministry has so far conducted 132 interview sessions with 57 people under various oral-history projects. Twenty books are at the publication and unveiling stage, while other works are undergoing scholarly review, editing and compilation. Salehi-Amiri pressed the council to set clear timelines for unfinished interviews and projects so that initiatives already under way do not remain unresolved. He also called for oral history to move beyond the book and become a broader cultural product. Some material could be published through the ministry's website, while documentary productions could be distributed through Iran's documentary television network.



Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri speaks at the ministry's Oral History Policy Council in Tehran, Iran, on August 29, 2026.

● CHTN

The tourism project will document how travel has evolved in Iranian society, including changing attitudes toward tourism and its role in everyday life. A separate focus on Nowruz travel was proposed to capture the cultural, social, economic and heritage dimensions of the annual movement of millions of Iranians across the country. The council also advanced an oral-history project on the war, with a proposed plan approved after technical and expert reviews and now ready for a contract. Members stressed the value of preserving first-hand accounts while eyewitness tes-



timony remains accessible. A separate initiative will document the experiences of journalists who have covered

Iran's cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, including the evolution of media narratives surrounding the sector. Mem-

bers discussed establishing a specialist committee to pursue the project through a rigorous oral-history methodology.

Minister: 'Tolerance' rooted in Islamic civilizational heritage



Social Desk

Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei Sarraf said Sunday that "pluralism and tolerance" are integral to Islamic civilization, urging societies to embrace cultural and religious differences at the closing ceremony of the 40th International Islamic Unity Conference in Mashhad. Simaei Sarraf criticized violence associated with extremist currents and stressed that cultural and religious differences should not become a pretext for conflict, IRNA reported. "Intellectual maturity" depends on learning how to engage ethically with differences rather than seeking to eliminate them, he said. The minister pointed to the diverse theological and legal traditions that developed throughout Islam-

ic history, including Asharism, as well as the Hanafi and Ja'fari schools of jurisprudence. "Islamic culture, by its very nature, has never been monolithic," Simaei Sarraf said, noting that these traditions evolved under a broad civilizational framework shaped by a history of tolerance. He also cited the Islamic tradition of engagement with followers of Judaism and Christianity. Drawing on the work of German Islamic studies scholar Thomas Bauer, Simaei Sarraf argued that contemporary intolerance and violence are being fueled by the disruptive effects of modernity and the misuse of technologies such as social-media algorithms. He said that diversity among peoples and tribes is intended for mutual recognition and interaction, not confrontation. "A mature culture," he said, "does not mean the absence of disagreement. It means mastering the art of living peacefully despite differences." Contemporary Islamic unity, Simaei Sarraf concluded, requires education in the ethics of engaging with difference and preventing diversity from becoming a trigger for conflict.

Iran streamlines migration management as foreign population falls below 5m

Social Desk

Iran's Interior Ministry said Sunday that the country's foreign population has fallen from an estimated 6.1 million to below 5 million as authorities tighten immigration management and align migrant presence with labor-market needs, IRNA reported, citing Nader Yarahmadi, head of the ministry's Center for Foreign Nationals and Immigrants.

Yarahmadi said nearly 1.8 million undocumented foreign nationals left Iran last year through deportation or voluntary departure. The figures mark a substantial reduction under a government-led effort to bring the country's migration framework into a more structured legal and administrative



system. "The policy is to legalize the presence of foreign nationals with a focus on labor," Yarahmadi said, outlining a new employer-based scheme that allows businesses to apply through provincial offices overseeing foreign workers to meet their staffing needs. He said the number of foreign students

in Iranian schools has also dropped from 600,000 to 320,000, while consumption of essential goods and use of public services have declined.

Yarahmadi said a bill and parliamentary proposal to establish a National Migration Organization had been consolidated and finalized following coordination between the government and parliament. The legislation will proceed through legal and administrative procedures before being sent to the Guardian Council for final review. Authorities have also tightened requirements for renewing legal residency cards, including mandatory insurance, a judicial-services registration code and verified residential addresses. Foreign nationals are barred by law from residing in certain areas, he said.

Iran, Indonesia can join forces against 'new forms of colonialism'

Iranian Cultural attaché Yahya Jahangiri called on Iran and Indonesia to exchange their experiences of independence and resist emerging forms of colonialism during a cultural forum in Jakarta, arguing that sovereignty in the 21st century must extend beyond territory to minds, knowledge, data and technology. Speaking at the "Learning from Iran" forum at Gerak Gerik Cafe & Book Store in Ciputat, South Tangerang, Jahangiri said the experience of both countries could provide a basis for broader intellectual dialogue among Muslim nations. The event marked Indonesia's 81st Independence Day and the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). "Learning from Iran," he stressed, should

not mean copying a particular model. Instead, it should open up a dialogue between national experiences and help develop shared ideas for the future. Drawing on the thought of Imam Khomeini, Jahangiri described independence as encompassing political, economic, intellectual, cultural and spiritual dimensions. A nation, he argued, can be politically independent while remaining dependent on external sources of knowledge, cultural frameworks and technological systems. He warned that contemporary colonialism can take subtler forms, shifting from territorial occupation to control over information, technology and knowledge production. In the age of artificial intelligence, he described "technological

slavery" and "epistemic slavery" as emerging forms of dependency. "If societies become merely consumers of technology, data and knowledge produced and managed by others," he said, "a new form of colonialism will emerge." Jahangiri also underscored the role of public participation, saying national strength rests not only on institutions but also on social solidarity and citizens' sustained engagement in times of peace, hardship and reconstruction. He urged Iranian and Indonesian thinkers to examine what colonialism looks like in the 21st century and develop practical pathways toward "epistemic liberation," scientific self-reliance and technological sovereignty.

Qatar pursuing preventive ...

Iran's recent positions on Hormuz also indicate that Tehran views security, economic and diplomatic issues as interconnected and is unwilling to completely separate them.

Given the economic, security and political costs of the continuing impasse between Iran and the US for both sides, as well as its consequences for regional countries, what could be the most realistic path out of the current situation? Could mediation by regional countries such as Qatar, Oman and Pakistan help

lay the groundwork for a new understanding?

The most realistic way out of the impasse is neither to wait for one side to surrender nor to hope for an immediate comprehensive and major agreement. The experience of Iran-US relations has shown that major agreements usually become possible when a limited path for crisis management has first been established. In my view, a solution could be pursued in three stages. First, the two sides should agree on an immediate reduction in tensions and cri-

sis management, particularly in the area of maritime security and preventing the conflict from spreading. Second, there should be limited, reciprocal confidence-building measures. The US should provide a practical indication of its readiness to ease its pressure policy, while Iran should declare its readiness to enter a defined political process. Third, phased negotiations should begin. Rather than attempting to resolve all disagreements in a single round, such negotiations should initially focus on manageable issues and then move on to more complicat-

ed matters. Within this framework, Qatar, Oman, Pakistan and even Turkey can play an important role. Qatar, because of its close ties with the US and its active channels with Iran; Oman, because of its long and trusted record of mediation; and Pakistan, because of its geopolitical position and ties with different parties, can create a complementary mediation network. However, it must be emphasized that no mediation effort can replace the political will of Tehran and Washington. A mediator can only open the door; walking through it requires a decision by both sides.

In my view, if Washington is genuinely seeking an agreement, it should move away from a policy of "pressure without a political horizon," while Tehran should demonstrate that it views diplomacy not as a sign of weakness, but as one of the instruments of national power. Today, there may not be the best opportunity for a comprehensive agreement, but it is possible to establish a "minimum understanding to prevent a maximum crisis." And it is precisely at this point that active mediation by Qatar, Oman and Pakistan can take on strategic importance.