



# Iranian doctor selected for WHO cancer award

## Social Desk

Amir Ali Hamidieh, a professor at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has been recognized for pioneering work in pediatric hematology, oncology and stem cell transplantation. Hamidieh was chosen for the cancer category of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, IRNA reported on Wednesday. The prize recognizes

outstanding contributions to the prevention, control or research of these diseases. It consists of a bronze medal and a cash award, with recipients selected by the WHO's Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. The announcement came during the opening of the committee's 73rd session in Cairo, Egypt, on Tuesday. The meeting, running through October 15, brings together health ministers and senior delegations from member states. Three recipients are recognized in the categories of

cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned at the opening session that attacks on health facilities, health workers and patients had increased across the region. "Hospitals, ambulances and health workers are protected under international humanitarian law. They must never be a target," he said. Tedros also said funding cuts had affected nearly 2,000 health facilities across the region and



Iranian physician Amir Ali Hamidieh (C) poses with his award for achievements in cancer care at the WHO regional meeting in Cairo, Egypt on October 13, 2026.  
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called for greater domestic investment in health systems.

He stressed the need to end conflicts, saying, "The best

medicine is peace." The award recognizes Hamidieh's work in treating blood disorders and cancers in children and advancing stem cell transplantation, fields that play an important role in improving care for young patients.



## Tehran festival invites public to opening with their puppets

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 21st Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival has invited people of all ages to bring their puppets to its opening ceremony on October 17 in central Tehran.

The ceremony will begin on Saturday afternoon in the open-air area of the iconic Tehran City Theater, Mehr News Agency reported. Poupak Azimpour Tabrizi, the festival's secretary, has called upon art enthusiasts,

artists, university students and professors, performers and puppetry practitioners to attend with their puppets. The invitation is open to citizens from all walks of life, giving them a chance to take part in the event rather

than attend only as spectators. Families, children and other interested visitors are also welcome to join the gathering. The festival names after Mobarak, a traditional comic puppet character associated

with Kheimeh Shab-Bazi, a form of Iranian puppet theater. Known for his humor and lively exchanges with other characters, he is a familiar figure in the country's traditional performing arts.

# Iran's space program can recover from war damage, says space research chief

Indigenous expertise remains industry's main asset

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

## INTERVIEW

Iran's space research chief says the country's space program can recover from wartime damage because its greatest asset is the expertise of its specialists. Missiles can destroy buildings and disable equipment, he says, but they cannot erase the knowledge embedded in scientists' minds. On March 13, 2026, the Iranian Space Research Center (ISRC) was hit during US and Israeli military attacks, damaging parts of its buildings and laboratories. Yet amid the debris, an asset far more valuable than physical infrastructure and equipment remains intact: indigenous expertise, accumulated experience and the technical capabilities of specialists who have spent years developing the country's space technology. The damage illustrates why the destruction of hardware does not necessarily mean the loss of knowledge. Even the most destructive missiles cannot wipe out years of learning, research and practical experience.

In an interview with Iran Daily, ISRC head Nader Mokari discussed the consequences of the strike as well as the institute's achievements and plans in space technology, including the development of remote-sensing and radar satellites. Continued progress in these fields, he said,

depends above all on domestic expertise and the specialists who underpin the country's space industry. Here is the full text of the interview:

**IRAN DAILY: How would you assess Iran's position in the regional space industry?**

**MOKARI:** It depends on which aspects of the industry are being assessed. We are in a strong position in the development of space subsystems, and we have also made significant progress in developing space systems and applications. Iran currently holds a good position in the region in satellite technology. We have also begun developing satellite constellations, although this area still requires further development and the completion of supporting infrastructure. Significant steps have been taken in recent years, particularly under the current administration, to expand space services and capabilities. However, it is difficult to assign a precise ranking without first defining the criteria. Any assessment needs to take the different dimensions of the space industry into account.

**Buildings and equipment at the ISRC were damaged during the recent war. How much has this affected the country's space activities?**

Some of our buildings and equipment were damaged during the war, but our main asset is the expertise that our specialists have built up over many years. Indigenous knowledge is not tied to a particular building or piece of hardware. When knowledge has been developed domestically,

absorbed by specialists and established as a local capability, damaged equipment can be rebuilt and restored. The organization's building and some of its equipment were hit during the war, but we have managed to restore all the affected equipment. Our experts and specialists remain in place, and the knowledge has not been lost. We have been able to bring the damaged equipment back into operation, and we hope the satellites currently under development will be launched soon. So, although the physical damage has been substantial, the country's human expertise and indigenous knowledge remain intact.

**Have any steps been taken to develop the domestic space industry and export its technical and engineering services?**

Within Iran, we are working to sign various memorandums of understanding with industries so that we can make space services and achievements available to different sectors and enable them to put these capabilities to practical use. We have also begun taking initial steps toward exporting technical and engineering services to other countries. However, these efforts are not yet at a stage where we can report significant results. Progress in this area will require more time and further cooperation.

**Is the ISRC planning to develop and launch new satellites?**

We are developing the Rad series of radar satellites, which use synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging technology. Rad 1 and Rad 2 are being developed with

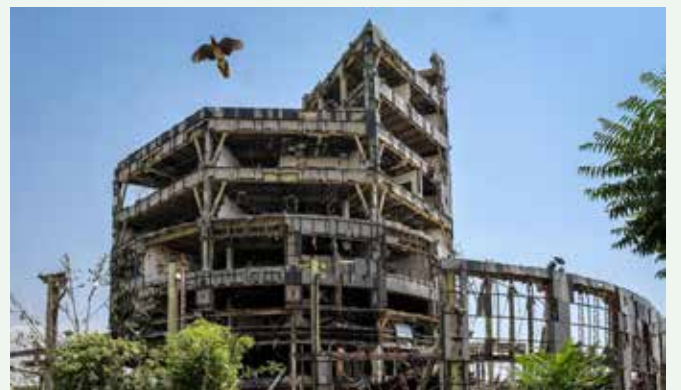
different levels of resolution and capabilities, and we hope to see them launched soon. The difference between radar or SAR imagery and optical imagery is that optical imaging is subject to limitations such as darkness at night and cloudy weather. SAR technology, by contrast, enables imaging both day and night, even in cloudy conditions. Radar data can therefore complement optical imagery and expand the country's remote-sensing capabilities. The Raz platform allows SAR and other radar data to be used alongside optical data. Combining these two types of imagery can improve analytical accuracy and enhance services in areas such as agriculture, water resources, forestry and monitoring changes to the Earth's surface. Radar data can also be used in fields beyond agriculture.

**What steps has the ISRC taken to reduce costs and improve the likelihood of success in space missions?**

One of the major costs in space programs comes from mission failures. To minimize the risk of failure, we have developed software that simulates space missions and allows a satellite's performance to be assessed before it is deployed in space. In effect, we simulate on the ground the conditions and events that a satellite might encounter in space, conducting a range of tests to reduce the likelihood of a mission failing.

After launch, the software can also serve as a support tool for operators at the mission control center, helping them manage the mission.

**What has the ISRC done to**



**develop practical remote-sensing systems?**

Iran has been active in remote sensing for many years and has developed a range of data-processing tools and applications. To help government agencies make use of these capabilities, we have brought this work together in a unified platform. The Raz platform gives industries integrated access to space-based data. It includes a range of monitoring systems covering drought, water bodies, land subsidence, forests and wildfires. The aim is to move the space industry beyond a purely technology-driven approach and turn it into an application-oriented industry focused on solving problems and meeting the country's practical needs.

**How does the space economy develop, and what plans do you have to expand the use of space-based applications in the future?**

The space economy takes shape when space-based products and services are used across different industries. Until these technologies become practical tools that can meet the real needs of



The photo shows the aftermath of a US-Israeli airstrike on the Iranian Space Research Center in Tehran that took place on March 13, 2026.  
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different sectors, it is difficult to speak of a space economy in the true sense of the term. To make these services available to users, we needed to establish the necessary platforms through which they could access the services they require and use them for monitoring, oversight, data collection and decision-making. Our plan, therefore, is to ensure that satellite development and space technology are increasingly driven by users' needs. For example, specialized satellites could be developed for seismology, geology and agriculture, each designed to meet specific requirements. Rather than developing a technology first and then looking for ways to use it, we need to start with existing needs and develop technologies tailored to address them.