License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency
Publisher: Iran Cultural & Press Institute
Chair of ICPI Board of Directors: Sadegh Hossein Jaberi Ansari
ICPI CEO: Ali Motaghian
Senior Editor-in-chief: Hadi Khosroshahin
Editor-in-chief: Asgar Ghahramanpour

Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711560
Address: 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
Advertising Dept. Tel/Email: +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
Website: www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
Email: irandaily@icpi.ir

Iran Daily

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 8263 ● Thursday, November 12, 2026 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

# Pezeshkian to highlight war's environmental toll at COP31

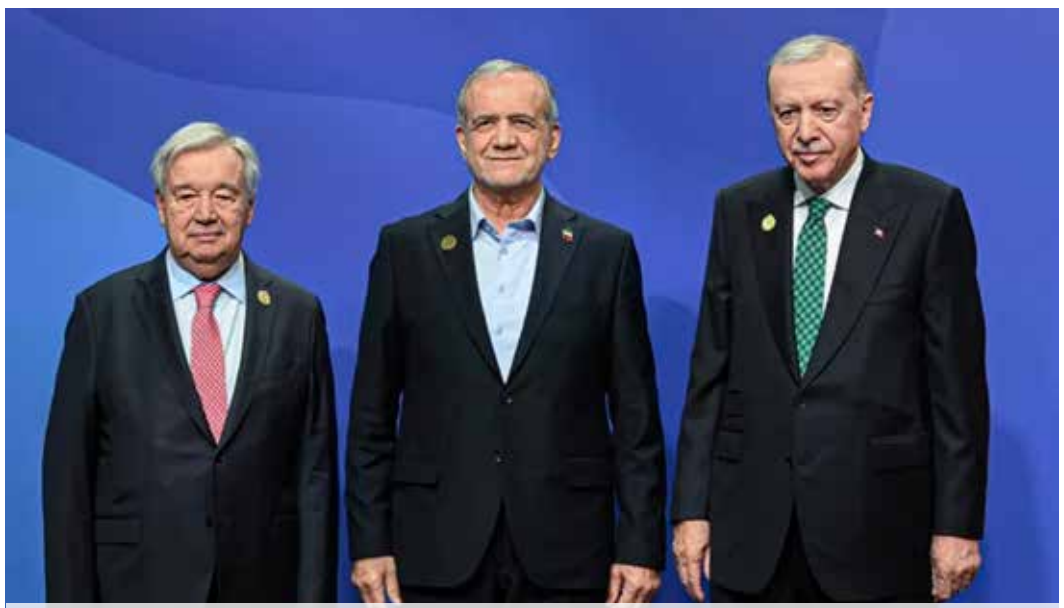
Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday he would use the COP31 summit in Turkey to highlight environmental damage from two wars waged by the United States and Israel against Iran, in June 2025 and late February 2026.

COP31 is the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference and will be held in Antalya from November 9 to 20, 2026. Speaking before departing Tehran for Antalya, Pezeshkian said the conference would provide an opportunity to discuss climate conditions, regional issues and the environmental consequences of conflict.

"The representatives of 196 countries would attend the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference, with 71 countries represented by their presidents or prime ministers," he said.

Pezeshkian said he had been invited by the Turkish president and had more than 10 meetings scheduled with foreign leaders and officials, including his Turkish counterpart.



*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C), flanked by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (R) and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, poses for a group photo at the COP31 Leaders' Summit in Antalya, Turkey on November 11, 2026.*
*President.ir*

The Iranian president said he intended to raise the impact of the war and actions by Washington and Israel that had damaged the environment in Iran and across the region.

Describing relations between Tehran and Ankara as being at a "very good level", Pezeshkian said the two countries shared interests in regional, economic, social and cultural affairs. These common interests, he added, could help deepen bilateral ties and promote regional security.

Pezeshkian said he hoped to convey the Iranian people's message to summit participants and secure positive outcomes from his visit.

COP31 is bringing together countries to discuss climate change and international efforts to address its effects.

# Leader sends condolences over actor Kourosh Zarei's death




Arts & Culture Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has sent a condolence message over the death of actor and theater director Kourosh Zarei, praising his efforts to expand performing arts in underserved regions of the country.

In the message, Ayatollah Khamenei described Zarei as a "committed and revolutionary artist" whose tireless efforts to promote theater in smaller cities and less-developed areas, as well as his steadfastness in upholding the values of the Islamic Revolution, were "admirable".

The Leader offered condolences to Zarei's family and Iran's artistic community, and prayed for divine forgiveness and reward for the late artist.

Zarei, a prominent figure in Iranian theater and cinema, died on Monday. A farewell ceremony was held at the venue of Islamic Revolution Art Bureau, in Tehran on Tuesday, before his body was taken to Qom, a religious city in south of Tehran, for burial on Wednesday.

Zarei headed the Art Bureau's Center for Dramatic Arts for years, supporting religious, revolutionary and popular theater. His work included promoting the 'Mosque Youth Theater' initiative, organizing theatrical events and supporting productions focused on religious rituals and resistance.

He also appeared in several film and television productions. One of his best-known roles was Levi in the television series 'Prophet Joseph (PBUH)'.

# Iran, Armenia seek to ease travel, boost health tourism




*The Norduz border terminal, a major land crossing between Iran and Armenia*

Social Desk

Iran and Armenia have agreed to remove obstacles to land travel, expand direct flights and develop health tourism, Iran's deputy tourism minister said on Wednesday.

Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey said they seek to increase visitor flows between the neighboring countries.

the agreements were reached at the 19th Iran-Armenia Joint Intergovernmental Commission, held in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, on November 9 and 10.

The two sides also agreed to hold their sixth joint technical tourism committee meeting in Tabriz, in northwestern Iran.

"Border crossing difficulties remain a major barrier to tourism," Mohseni-Bandpey said.

Officials plan to bring together tourism authorities from Armenia's southern Syunik Province and Iran's East Azerbaijan Province to identify obstacles and propose practical solutions.

Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, and customs authorities have pledged to help facilitate cross-border movement.

The two countries also agreed to pursue more direct flights, with the issue to be examined at future technical meetings. Mohseni-Bandpey said stronger air links were essential to expanding bilateral tourism.

Health tourism is another priority. Citing Iran's medical facilities and healthcare capacity, he said Tehran was seeking to ease the entry of Armenian patients and health tourists.

"Iran is the third-largest destination for Armenian tourists, after Russia and Georgia, while Armenia ranks fifth or sixth among destinations for Iranian travelers, depending on the year," he said.

Mohseni-Bandpey estimated that 7 million to 8 million ethnic Armenians live outside Armenia, adding that many have an interest in Iran.

He said the two countries could also develop joint tourism packages for international visitors traveling to the region.

The sixth technical committee meeting in Tabriz is expected to focus on turning the agreements into practical steps, moving cooperation beyond general commitments toward improved border access, air connections and health tourism.

# Shajarian brings Iranian ensemble to Kish Island

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian singer Homayoun Shajarian brought his 'Wherever You Are' tour to Kish Island in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday.

Followed by earlier stops in Shiraz, in southern Iran, and Isfahan, in central Iran, the concerts aimed to support an education campaign for disadvantaged students.

A defining feature of the tour is Shajarian's decision to perform with an entirely Iranian ensemble.

The Siavash Ensemble includes Azad Mirzapour on oud, Hossein Rezaeinia on daf, Mahyar Toreihi on santur, Radman Tavakoli on tar, Mehrzad Azami Kia on kamancheh and Morteza Momenian on tombak.

The lineup brings together traditional Iranian string and percussion instruments, placing the country's musical heritage at the center of the performances.

The concerts were also held in support of the 'Wherever You Are' campaign to help provide educational resources and better learning opportunities for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

The project is organized by the Homayoun Shajarian Cultural and Artistic Institute.




Born in Tehran in 1975, Shajarian is the son of Mohammad Reza Shajarian, one of Iran's most celebrated traditional singers. He began studying the tombak at the age of five and later trained in Persian classical singing under his father.

He also studied kamancheh at the Tehran Conservatory of Music. After accompanying his father as a percussionist from 1991, he began performing as a vocalist in 1999. His first solo album, 'Nassim-e Vasl', was released in 2003.