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Leader offers condolences over death of senior cleric Vahid Khorasani



Grand Ayatollah Hossein Vahid Khorasani

Social Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei offered condolences over the death of Grand Ayatollah Hossein Vahid Khorasani, praising his decades of teaching and his influence on Shiite seminaries.

In a message dated November 17, 2026, the Leader described Vahid Khorasani as a leading figure in teaching Islamic jurisprudence and legal theory.

He said the cleric's two daily classes had been among the seminaries' most important academic gatherings in recent decades.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the lectures combined Vahid Khorasani's own research with close study of the views of prominent scholars from recent generations of the Najaf seminary in southern Iraq.

The cleric's command of their work and clear, structured and rigorous teaching made each session valuable to students of religious sciences, he said.

Many teachers and senior scholars at the seminary in Qom, central Iran, and at other religious schools across the country had attended Vahid Khorasani's classes, the message said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised the cleric's deep and sincere devotion to the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), saying it was evident in both his words and conduct.

He said Vahid Khorasani's sustained efforts in the service of Islamic law and Shiite religious tradition had earned him a significant place among believers and in religious seminaries.

Vahid Khorasani was a prominent teacher of Islamic jurisprudence and legal theory in Qom, one of the main centers of Shiite religious education.

Italian composer to join Tehran symphony concert

Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will perform Italian composer Antonio Pappalardo's 'Petros Enì' on Wednesday, with Pappalardo attending, in a concert highlighting cultural and religious ties between Iran and Italy.

Pappalardo arrived in Tehran on Tuesday evening ahead of the performance at the iconic Vahdat Hall in central Tehran.

Composed in 2006 to mark the 500th anniversary of the start of construction of the new St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the symphonic oratorio tells the story of the life and mission of Saint Peter the Apostle through orchestral and choral music.

The Tehran performance coincides with the 400th anniversary of the consecration of the basilica's present structure in 1626.

The site is one of Christianity's most important religious centers.

The concert is a joint project of Iran's Roudaki Foundation, the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, and the Iranian cultural mission in Italy.



Members of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra perform in an undated file photo.
M.MAHDI POURARAB/IRNA

Pappalardo's presence is expected to give Iranian musicians an opportunity to meet the composer and perform his work in his presence.

The orchestra will be conducted by Nasir Heydarian and accompanied by a choir.

Separately, a discussion titled 'From Composition to Artistic Identity: What Does Artificial Intelligence Take Away from Music, and What Does It Add?' is scheduled for November 29 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

The event will examine artificial intelligence's impact on music, including its implications for artistic identity and creativity.

Iran's solar power capacity rises more than fivefold in two years



AKBAR TAVAKKOLI/IRNA

Social Desk

Iran's solar power capacity has increased more than fivefold in two years, an environmental official said, as Tehran urged developing countries to secure greater access to climate finance and clean technologies at a D-8 meeting in Antalya, Turkey.

Ahmad Taheri, head of the National Center for Air and Climate Change at Iran's Department of Environment, said the growth reflected the country's commitment to renewable energy and low-carbon development.

Speaking at the ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the UN climate summit COP31, Taheri cited shared challenges facing D-8 members, including water shortages, drought, desertification, extreme weather, ecosystem degradation and threats to food security.

He called for stronger regional cooperation and coordinated action.

"Developing countries, despite their smaller share of historical greenhouse gas emissions, were among the most vulnerable to climate change," he said.

He commended fair and predictable access to climate finance, including grants, preferential loans and technology transfers.

Taheri also said unilateral coercive measures should not restrict access to climate funding, environmental technologies or essential equipment.

"Iran is ready to share expertise with D-8 members in clean technology, water management, climate resilience and joint projects," he added.

The meeting, chaired by Turkish Environment Minister and COP31 President Murat Kurum, addressed climate commitments, South-South cooperation, adaptation and technology transfers.

Delegates presented national climate plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and discussed a 2027-2030 climate and environmental cooperation roadmap.

The Iranian delegation was led by Saeed Mahmoudi, deputy head of the Department of Environment for human environment affairs.

The meeting also addressed implementation of the Antalya Ministerial Action Framework and the D-8 Climate and Environment Roadmap. COP31 runs from November 9 to 20, 2026.

Asian, Pacific libraries back regional AI cooperation plan

Arts & Culture Desk

National libraries from 14 Asian and Pacific countries have endorsed a regional working group on artificial intelligence and invited Iran to coordinate its initial activities, the National Library and Archives of Iran said.

The decision came at the 32nd Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), hosted online by Iran for the first time on November 17, 2026. The meeting focused on the role of national libraries in the age of AI.

Representatives from Singapore, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brunei, the Maldives, India, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Pakistan, China and Japan attended.

Participants backed a voluntary framework to identify shared priorities, exchange expertise and develop joint projects.

They asked the National Library and Archives of Iran to consult interested members and coordinate the working group's initial activities.

Proposed areas of cooperation include using AI to digitize and preserve documentary heritage, develop bibliographic metadata, improve knowledge organization and expand multilingual search and information retrieval.

The final statement also identified copyright, data governance, the reliability of AI-generated information and specialist training for library staff as priorities.



The 32nd Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania, hosted online by Iran, is held on November 17, 2026.
MEHR NEWS AGENCY

The working group will draft an operational roadmap covering priority activities, joint projects, participating institutions and implementation requirements.

It has been asked to present an initial report and proposed plans within 12 months, at the 2027 conference.

Participation will be voluntary and subject to each library's resources, capacity and national laws.

The conference also featured Iran's experience with automated thesis cataloging, an AI-powered system for issuing national bibliographic records, a research assistant drawing on National Library resources and national knowledge-management infrastructure.