

## Small Town Holds First Saruqi Medal Awarding Event



TEHRAN -- The first national ceremony awarding the Karbalaei Kazem Saruqi Medals concluded on Tuesday in the town of Saruq in Iran's Markazi Province.

The event, held at the shrine of Imamzadegan 72 Tan, aimed to celebrate the spiritual legacy of Karbalaei Kazem, a revered Qur'an memorizer believed to have learned the entire Qur'an miraculously despite being illiterate.

Muhammad Reza Jafari, executive secretary of the ceremony, described the initiative as the beginning of a long-lasting movement.

"In order for an event to become a lasting cultural phenomenon, a comprehensive process must be developed," Jafari said. "The deeply spiritual and educational value in the story of Karbalaei Kazem holds the potential to evolve into a global, enduring movement."

He explained that the event builds on years of discussion among religious scholars and academics in the region. "This is the beginning of a new chapter and a step toward establishing the Karbalaei Kazem International Foundation," he noted.

According to Jafari, the first edition of the award was developed at a national level but is expected to expand internationally over the next two years.

The ceremony included five award categories of the Qur'an memorizer, Qur'anic artist, Qur'anic researcher, Qur'an teacher, and Qur'anic family.

Jafari said, "We held expert sessions to define and select the top nominees in each category with input from a specialist panel."

In addition to the award presentations, the program featured theatrical performances, video clips, Qur'anic chants, and speeches.

He emphasized the need to share the life story of Karbalaei Kazem widely. "We must meet public expectations and launch a lasting Qur'anic movement using cultural and artistic tools," he said.

The Karbalaei Kazem Medal will continue to be awarded annually in the five Qur'an-related categories. Organizers hope the program will grow into a broader platform for promoting Qur'anic values.

Karbalaei Muhammad Kazem was born in 1300 AH (1882 CE) in Saruq, near Arak. He was a farmer and, like many in his village, illiterate. However, according to Islamic tradition, through devotion—including night prayers, avoiding unlawful earnings, and regular payment of religious alms—he was granted by divine favor the ability to memorize the entire Qur'an.

His unique ability attracted attention from prominent religious scholars in Iran and abroad, many of whom tested and confirmed his memorization.

Karbalaei Kazem passed away on the 7th of Muharram in 1377 AH (1958 CE) and was buried in a cemetery in Qom, near the grave of Grand Ayatollah Abdul-Karim Haeri.

# With Particular Focus on Leader's Thoughts, Tehran to Host Conference on Humanity, Freedom

TEHRAN -- An international conference on humanity and freedom will be held in Tehran on December 3, 2025, according to a statement released by the organizers on Wednesday.

The event will explore the themes of humanity and freedom from an Islamic perspective, with a particular focus on the thoughts of Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

According to the statement, the conference will highlight Ayatollah Khamenei's role in defending people's rights and safeguarding individual and social freedoms.

Key topics on the agenda include: fundamental human rights and social freedoms from the Islamic viewpoint; women's rights in Islam and the West; minority rights in Islam and the West; a comparative analysis of fundamental rights in Iran and other legal systems in the context of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; freedom in Islam and the West: conceptual foundations, legal frameworks, and approaches; a critical examination of Western



human rights; people's rights and freedoms: a cross-national comparative study with a focus on Iran; and the constitutional recognition of people's rights: a global comparative analysis with emphasis on Iran's Constitution.

The conference is being organized by a coalition of Iranian institutions, universities, and academic centers.

Scholars and researchers have been invited to submit their papers in line with the conference themes. Submissions are welcome in Persian, English, Arabic, French, Spanish, or Turkish.

Abstracts should be submitted to the conference secretariat via the official website [www.hoghoghmellat.ir](http://www.hoghoghmellat.ir) or by email at [icprlf@gmail.com](mailto:icprlf@gmail.com).

The deadline for abstract submission is May 20, 2025, while full papers must be submitted by August 22, 2025.

Selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal, the organizers announced.

## Iranian Hospital Uses Advanced Angiography for Open Surgery

TEHRAN -- An Iranian hospital has employed the cutting-edge angiography technology for brain vascular treatment, which obviates the need to open the skull, thus ensuring a safer and less invasive method to cure patients with brain vascular blockage.

Baqiyatallah Hospital in the capital Tehran used the latest angiography technology to treat vascular blockages in brain without the need for anesthesia or open surgery, Fars news agency reported.

As people age, they often face vascular issues, which traditionally require risky, invasive surgeries, but due to factors like advanced age or blood abnormalities, many patients are unable to undergo such surgeries.

Baqiyatallah Hospital's upgraded angiography equipment helps clear vascular blockages safely and efficiently without opening the skull, offering a less invasive solution.

According to Mahrou Taherpour, head of the Cardiac An-

giography and Post-Cath unit at Baqiyatallah Hospital, the hospital's third angiography device, known as the "Artis Q," - a floor-mounted angiography system with flexible system positioning and small footprint - allows for improved precision with its large 56-inch monitors, compared to older models with 14-inch screens.

The "Artis Q" is primarily used for non-cardiac procedures, such as treating leg artery blockages, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and acute strokes, without the need for open surgery, including the ability to clear brain vessel blockages without opening the skull, she added.

"In the past, this procedure was mainly used for blocked heart vessels, while treating other blocked vessels—such as those in the brain—required open surgery. But now, we can unblock brain vessels without having to open the patient's skull," Taherpour noted.

The device, she added, is



Baqiyatallah Hospital in northern Tehran

equipped with picture archiving and communication system (PACS), enabling surgeons to compare previous and current medical images during procedures, leading to better treatment decisions.

In addition to its vascular uses, the device is also employed in treating abdominal, liver, and uterine tumors through embolization, a minimally invasive procedure through which the blood supply to the tumor is cut

off without the need for invasive procedure by surgery.

Taherpour further said that patients undergoing procedures with this technology can expect significantly shorter recovery times. For instance, those who receive aortic valve replacement can be discharged in just two days instead of the usual 10, while the hospital's upgraded equipment also meets the growing demand for non-cardiac angiography with specialized care and reduced risk.

## Filming of Salman the Persian in Iran Concludes



TEHRAN -- Production on the much-anticipated historical series 'Salman the Persian', directed by Davoud Mir-Baqeri, nears the end of its "Ancient Iran" chapter, iFilm reported.

According to the latest updates, filming for the "Ancient Iran" chapter is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year 1404 in March 2026.

Currently, the production team is shooting scenes related

to this period at the Iran Film City studio complex.

The narrative of 'Salman the Persian' is divided into three major historical eras:

Ancient Iran: Filming expected to wrap by end of 1404 (March 2026)

Hejaz: Filming completed in Farvardin 1402 (April 2023)

Byzantium: Production to begin following the Iran segment. Planned as a 60-episode se-

ries, the show makes extensive use of modern visual effects and is being developed with international broadcast in mind.

The series chronicles the life of Salman al-Farsi, the Iranian companion of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

A talented cast brings this project to life, with Farhad Aslani, Alireza Shoja-Nouri, Daryoush Farhang, Muhammad-Reza Hedayati, Behnaz Tavakkoli, Ehteram Boroumand, Ali Dehkordi, the late Changiz Jalilvand, Mehdi Faqih, Muhammad -Javad Jafarpour, Alireza Mehran, and many others playing key roles.

Additionally, foreign actors from Armenia, Greece, Morocco, Tunisia, and over 1500 local and theater actors have also joined the cast.

The highly awaited series is scheduled for broadcast in late 2026.

Picture of the Day

Horses graze in the meadows among the foothills of Gechi Soo village in Gonbad in Iran's Golestan Province.

Photo by ISNA