

Remembering Saeb Tabrizi, Master of Self-Contained Couplet

TEHRAN -- The 10th of Tir (July 1) is observed as the National Commemoration Day of Saeb Tabrizi, one of the greatest masters of Persian lyric poetry and the foremost representative of the Indian (Isfahani) Style.

His enduring reputation rests on a remarkable achievement: transforming the Persian couplet into a complete, self-contained unit of poetic thought. More than any other classical Persian poet, Saeb is remembered as the poet of the memorable couplet.

A defining feature of Saeb's poetry is that many of his verses can stand independently of the ghazal in which they appear. Each couplet often presents a complete idea, expressed with exceptional brevity, vivid imagery, and philosophical depth.

This independence has made his poetry especially memorable, allowing individual verses to circulate widely as quotations and even as proverbial expressions in Persian culture.

This characteristic reflects the aesthetics of the Indian Style, which places greater emphasis on the individual couplet than on the overall narrative unity of a poem. Rather than developing a continuous story or argument, poets of this school sought to create a fresh intellectual or imaginative discovery within each verse. Every couplet was expected to offer its own moment of revelation, combining subtle thought with striking imagery.

Saeb elevated this approach to its highest level. He excelled at mazzmun-afarini—the creation of original poetic themes—drawing inspiration from ordinary experiences, natural phenomena, and everyday human behavior.

Through unexpected analogies and carefully crafted images, he transformed familiar scenes into reflections on ethics, society, and the human condition.

One of the most important techniques behind Saeb's artistry is oslūb-e mo'ādeleh, or the "style of equivalence." In this form, the first hemistich presents an observation, judgment, or idea, while the second illustrates the same concept through a concrete image or analogy. The two halves remain structurally inde-



pendent yet reinforce one another, allowing the couplet to function as a complete artistic statement.

A celebrated example reads: To show weakness before a tyrant is sheer folly;

The tears of the roasting kebab only make the fire blaze higher.

The second line vividly embodies the moral lesson expressed in the first, demonstrating Saeb's ability to unite philosophical insight with memorable imagery.

Many of Saeb's verses have remained alive in Persian cultural memory because they combine poetic beauty with wisdom. They often move from a simple observation to a universal conclusion, making them easy to remember, quote, and apply to everyday life. His poetry achieves an unusual balance between artistic elegance and practical insight.

Saeb's significance lies not merely in the brevity of his verses but in his ability to compress profound meaning into a single couplet. While preserving the musical richness of the classical ghazal, he gave each verse an intellectual independence that distinguished his work from that of many of his predecessors.

The commemoration of Saeb Tabrizi on the 10th of Tir celebrates a poet whose imagination reshaped Persian lyric poetry. His mastery of concise expression, inventive imagery, and self-contained poetic thought established a model that continues to influence Persian literature, ensuring that his finest couplets remain as vivid and resonant today as when they were first composed.

Ta'zieh, Regional Music Mark Sixth Night of Annual Festival

TEHRAN — Traditional mourning ceremonies from Iran's western province of Lorestan, regional devotional music, and a performance of the passion play Bazaar-e Sham highlighted the sixth evening of Kheymeh-ye Honar ("Tent of Art"), an annual Muharram cultural festival held at Tehran's City Theater complex.

The event opened with the ceremonial senj-o damam percussion performance by the Avaye Sahel ensemble, a ritual traditionally associated with Muharram commemorations in southern Iran.

The evening continued with performances by the Nasl-e Soleimani choir from Varamin and a poetry recital by Reza Yazdani, reflecting the festival's blend of music, literature and religious performance.

One of the night's central performances featured the Chamar and Rara mourning ceremony from Lorestan, presented by Hussein Moradi. The traditional ritual,

rooted in the mourning customs of communities in Iran's Zagros region, was followed by an appearance from the Naghmeh-haye Aflaki choir from Khorramabad.

The evening's theatrical centerpiece was a performance of the ta'zieh production Bazaar-e Sham, directed by Ali Saber. Veteran actor and theatre director Davoud Fathalibeigi joined the cast in the role of Yazid, portraying one of the most significant episodes in the post-Ashura narrative. A mourning recitation by Majid Abdollahi and a wind orchestra led by Sina Zakaei concluded the musical program.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Muhammad Mehdi Ahmadi, senior adviser to Iran's minister of culture and Islamic guidance and director-general of the ministerial office, described Kheimeh-ye Honar as an initiative focused on conveying the historical and cultural dimensions of Ashura



through artistic expression rather than solely through religious ritual.

He said the festival brings together visual arts, calligraphy, music, theatre and poetry around a shared theme, stating that the integration of multiple artistic disciplines strengthens public engagement and enables audiences—particularly younger generations—to experience Iran's rich artistic traditions through the lens of Muharram commemorations.

Now in its second edition, Kheymeh-ye Honar is organized by Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in cooperation with a range of cultural institutions.

The festival runs through July 7 at the City Theater complex in Tehran, presenting nightly programs featuring traditional music, ta'zieh, visual arts, calligraphy, literature and regional mourning ceremonies inspired by the culture and history of Ashura.

Bilingual Book Records Italian Solidarity With Iran

ROME (Dispatches) -- The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Italy has published a bilingual Persian-Italian volume titled The Epic of Solidarity (L'EPOPEA DELLA SOLIDARIETA'), documenting messages of condolence and expressions of solidarity from Italian officials, academics, religious leaders, cultural figures, journalists, and members of the public following the martyrdom of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The 328-page publication was produced by the embassy in collaboration with Italian pub-



lisher Anteo Edizioni and forms part of the publisher's Popoli ("Peoples") series. According to the embassy,

the volume brings together entries from the embassy's official book of condolences alongside hundreds of emails sent by Ital-

ian citizens and institutions. It also includes analytical essays by several Italian scholars and a foreword by Iran's Ambassador to Italy Muhammad Reza Sabouri.

In his introductory note, Ambassador Sabouri expresses the hope that the collection will serve not only as a record of suffering and sacrifice but also as a source of reflection for a future in which "justice prevails over force, truth over distortion, and humanity over violence."

The embassy describes the publication as more than a memorial volume, presenting it as a

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Archaeological Excavations Resume at Isfahan's Kamar Zarrin Site

TEHRAN — Archaeologists are set to begin a third phase of excavations at the Kamar Zarrin archaeological site in the historic center of Isfahan as part of a project to expand the area's open-air museum and preserve newly uncovered remains near the city's UNESCO-listed Jameh Mosque.

Rouhollah Seyedolasghari, deputy director of cultural heritage at Isfahan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the new excavations are expected to begin within the next two months following planning and coordination among the relevant authorities.

According to Seyedolasghari, the project aims to extend the existing Kamar Zarrin site museum by incorporating a second excavation area, creating a larger archaeological and cultural complex adjacent to Isfahan's historic urban core.

He said the expanded site is intended to help restore the historic landscape surrounding the Jameh Mosque while providing additional opportunities for heritage preservation, tourism and public education. Officials also expect the third excavation phase to yield further archaeological discoveries because of the area's historical significance.

The Kamar Zarrin project began after construction work on

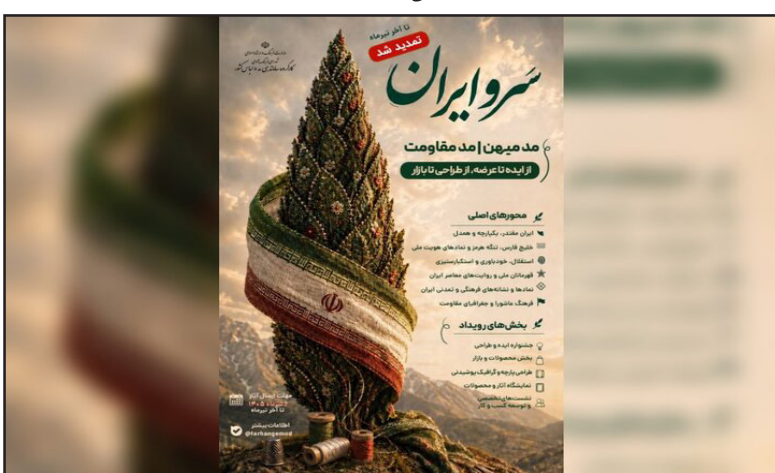
a pedestrian passage in 2023 exposed the remains of historic architectural structures, prompting authorities to suspend development and launch archaeological investigations.

Excavations during the first season uncovered the remains of

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SarvIran Fashion Competition Extends Call for Entries



TEHRAN -- Organizers of SarvIran: Homeland Fashion | Resistance Fashion, a national Iranian fashion and design initiative, have extended the submission deadline to the end of Tir 1405 (late July 2026) following strong interest from designers, artists, manufacturers, and professionals across the country's fashion and apparel sector.

Held under the theme "From Idea to Market: From Design to Production," the initiative aims to identify and support design concepts and fashion products rooted in Iranian cultural identity while fostering stronger links between creativity and the marketplace.

The program welcomes submissions across a range of disciplines,

including fashion concepts and garment design, finished products and commercial collections, textile and surface design, and fabric pattern development.

Selected works will be showcased in an exhibition, accompanied by professional talks and industry sessions intended to connect designers, producers, brands, and other stakeholders in the fashion ecosystem.

Entries may be submitted to the event secretariat in Tehran through the end of Tir 1405. Additional information is available via the organizers' official communication channel on the Bale messaging platform (@Farhange-mod).

Picture of the Day



Mourners participate in the Ashura mourning procession in Arvaneh village, Semnan province, beginning with dawn prayers before marching to outside the village spring for traditional elegies.

Photo by IRNA