



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Musical performance shows resilience, resistance by Tehran's iconic Azadi Tower

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MFA NEWSLETTER

Iranian FM meets with Vladimir Putin President of the Russian Federation in Moscow



Iranian FM visits Ashgabat, meets with Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister



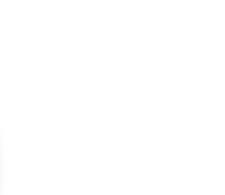
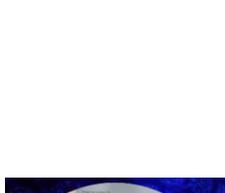
Iranian FM meets with Turkish President in Istanbul





MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi held telephone talks with his counterparts from Armenia, Egypt, Greece, India, Britain, Turkmenistan, Poland, China, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, France, Italy, Canada, Pakistan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Japan, Spain, Russia, Jordan, Kuwait, Australia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and the President of Iraqi Kurdistan to discuss the latest developments following the military aggression by the Zionist regime against Iran.





MFA NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS OF IRAN FM ON THE SIDELINES OF THE OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL



Meeting with Turkish FM



Meeting with Saudi FM



Meeting with Qatari FM



Meeting with Jordan FM



Meeting with Malaysian FM





MFA NEWSLETTER

MEETING WITH IRANIAN FM, ON THE SIDELINES OF THE OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE



Meeting with Algerian FM



Meeting with Pakistan FM



Meeting with Egyptian FM



Meeting with Iraqi FM

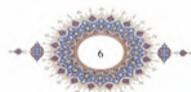
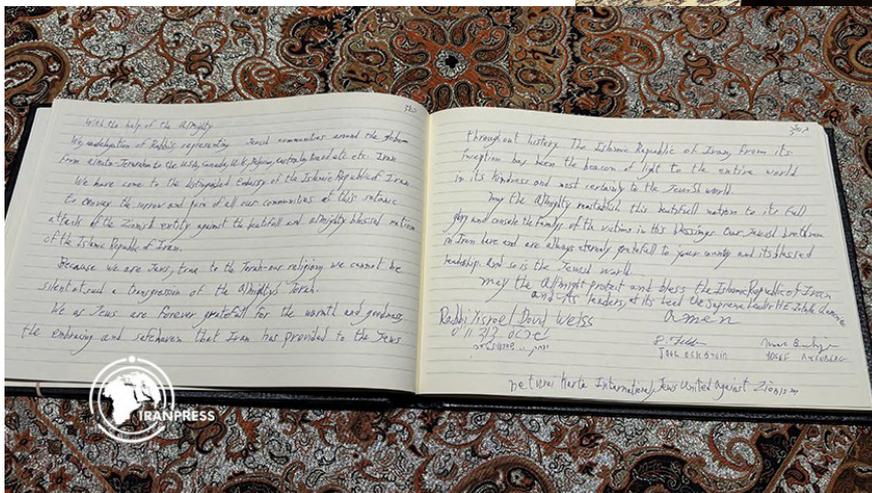




CULTURE & SOCIETY

ANTI-ZIONIST RABBIS EXPRESS SYMPATHY WITH IRANIANS FOLLOWING ISRAELI AGGRESSION

A delegation of anti-Zionist Rabbis express sympathy and solidarity with the Iranian people at Iran's Mission to the United Nations in NYC, following the vicious, unprovoked aggression by the Israeli regime that killed hundreds of Iranian men, women, and children.





CULTURE & SOCIETY

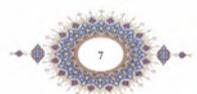
CARTOON EXHIBITION OPENS IN TEHRAN AS ARTISTIC RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL AGGRESSION



A collective exhibition of cartoons and caricatures titled “Muzzle” (“Poozehband”) opened at the Aali Gallery of the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran, serving as an artistic tribute to the resilience and resistance of the Iranian nation amid external threats and aggressions by the Zionist regime and the United States.

The event showcases 82 impactful works by some of Iran’s most prominent satirical artists, reflecting themes of patriotism, resistance, and defiance.

The opening ceremony was attended by cultural officials, artists, and journalists. The gathering underscored the importance of art as a means of resistance and a tool to convey powerful messages during challenging times, the report added.





Iranian Rituals

MOHARRAM, ASHOORA IN IRAN



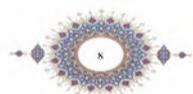
Moharram and its rituals especially Ashoora and Tasooa are to honor a man who never wanted to yield to any tyranny.

Moharram mourning is a collection of Shiite (and sometimes non-Shiite) rituals in the month of Moharram in mourning the martyrs of Karbala. Ali ibn Hussein Zayn al-Abidin, Sayyida Zaynab, Umm ul-Banin, and Al-Rabab were the first to mourn Imam Hussein ibn Ali and call on others to mourn.

Ibn Athir writes: Al-Rabab did not live for more than a year after Karbala. She refused to sit in the shadows because Imam Hussein ibn Ali, her

husband, was killed and beheaded under the burning sun. Eventually, she died of grief and sorrow.

Mourning for Moharram in Iran began with weeping and poetry, and then Marsiya, fasting, icon-painting, chest-beating for mourning, and Tazieh ceremonies began. Most of these rituals were formed during the Buyid dynasty, Safavid, and Qajar periods. When the Safavid came into power, the official religion of Iran changed from Sunni to Shia. Therefore, mourning for Imam Hussein ibn Ali became more serious.





Iranian Rituals

MOHARRAM AND CHEST-BEATING FOR IMAM HUSSEIN

Mourning for the martyrs of Karbala began in the first days after Ashoora in 61 AH and continued. What happened in Karbala, especially on the tenth day called Ashura, was the battle between Imam Hussein ibn Ali and his companions and the army of Yazid ibn Mu'awiya. Karbala took place on the 10th of Moharram of 61 AH when Imam Hussein ibn Ali refused to pledge his allegiance to Yazid. As predicted, on that day, Christ would be crucified in Nineveh once again. Imam Hussein ibn Ali denied Yazid, promised himself to Allah, and this action led to his martyrdom and beheading and his companions. Then his family, women, and children were captivated.

Karbala is the most tragic event in the history of Islam; Hence, the Shiites hold their most respectful mourning ceremony on its anniversary every Moharram.

With the Buyid dynasty coming to power in 352 AH for the first time, the government declared Ashura a public holiday and public mourning. They ordered butchers not to slaughter in honor of the day, cooks were not allowed to cook, and people sat up mourning tents in markets.

Tazieh, Alam (a large flag), Nakhil Gardani, preparing votive food, Nawhakhwani (citing and mentioning the hardships with grief for the great religious leaders), and Marsiya are among the ceremonies of Moharram in Iran.

Marsya: composing and reciting poetry about the martyrdom of Imam Hussein ib Ali and his companions. Marsya and lamentation have been popular among Shiites in different periods.

Chest-beating for mourning: This is the most common type of religious mourning of Shiites in different countries, especially in Moharram. Chest-beating for mourning can be held anywhere, in mosques, Hussainiya, and homes.





Iranian Rituals

Tazieh: Tazieh is a play. Some actors and actresses dress up as a character present in Karbala and play what happened there. This play is usually performed in the first ten days of Moharram and on the streets for any audience. The script includes lamentation. Tazieh is a mutual performance in Islamic and Shiite countries, including Iran, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.

Fasting: Fasting is the expression of the events of Ashura with sorrow and grief, which is also called mentioning the tragedy of Sayyid al-Shuhada, and is usually accompanied by chanting and weeping.

Chain-beating for mourning: One of the rituals of Shiite mourning is that they form groups of several parallel columns. Chain-beating for mourning is the act of beating the chains in harmony and order with the sound drums on their shoulders to show the mourner's grief.

Alam Gardani: Alam means a flag but with metal and unique decorations, and it should be heavy. As Abbas ibn Ali held the banner and streamer of Hussein bin Ali's caravan and gave his life to protect his brother, the ritual of carrying an Alam in Moharram mourning groups is to honor him. This Alam is very heavy, and young men who wanted to obtain magnanimity and chivalry volunteer to carry the Alam.

Sham-e-Ghariban: There are many resemblances to the story of Christ and Imam Hussein. The last supper where Christ gave the Apostles bread and wine as his blood and flesh, and Hussein is the Blood of God, both innocent and knew they would end up alone. Sham-e-Ghariban means the night of the expatriates. It is a tradition, a ritual on the night of the 11th of Moharram, to mourning the sufferings of the captivated children and family of Imam Hussein. As they were in chains and all of their loved ones were killed before their eyes, in Shame-Ghariban women, and children light up candles and walk around in the dark crying.





Iranian Rituals

Nakhl Gardani: One of the mourning rituals on the day of Ashura, in which a group of young and strong men turns the embellished black-clad Nakhl in a certain way with etiquette. Nakhl Gardani is the symbolic gesture of carrying Imam Hussein's body in a coffin. Nakhl means palm tree, and some say those who buried him used a palm tree trunk to move him.

Per region of our country has its style and context in mourning and holding mourning ceremonies. On the other hand, there are many similarities in many mourning traditions of different cities. Citing the tourists who have seen these rituals, they believe that: if one attendest these rituals, you are participating in something bigger than life.





Iranian Rituals

MUSLIMS MOURN IMAM HUSSEIN IN TASOOA



On the occasion of Tasooa, the ninth day of Moharram month, Shia Muslims thoroughly go into mourning for Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the World's Shias.

The mourning of Tasooa will be held today, Jul 15, 2024, in the presence of millions of Shia Muslims, lovers, and followers of Imam Hussein (AS) around the world in a spiritual atmosphere.

Today (Monday) coincides with the ninth day of Moharram (Tasooa) 1442 AH (Jul 15, 2024). On this day, many places in Iran are covered with black banners, and people mourn for Imam Hussein (AS).

Tasooa is named after Imam Hussain's (AS) brother Abul Fazl al-Abbas (AS) who was martyred by Yazid's troops while he was bringing water for Imam Hussain's (AS) children.





Iranian Rituals

Ashoora Special Ritual across Iran Southern cities

One of the rituals that impress others is the ritual the people of Abadan, Khorramshahr, Bandar Genaveh, Booshehr, and Bandar Abbas mourn Imam Hussein.

On the nights of the first ten days of Moharram, these cities hold a type of mourning known as “Booshehri” with lamentation. Traditional southern chest-beating for mourning is a kind of ritual founded by Nakhoda Abbas. People come together in nested and concentric circles. The lamenter stands in the center. The mourners hold the next person’s back with their left hand while they do the chest-beating with their right.

By beating with the lament’s rhythm, the movements of the hands and feet form a sort of unity and harmony. They move in a counterclockwise direction on the path of the circle.

After finishing the chest-beating for mourning with epic laments, on special nights, people shape two columns. They hold the shoulder of the person in front of them. They move in a way between loping and trotting and walking hurry while one person sings short laments in the middle of two columns, and the chest-beaters respond. After a while, they stand and face inwards (two columns facing each other) and hit their chest hard with grief.





Iranian Rituals

Ilam

In the city of Ilam, they hold a ritual called Chamar. Chamar is a mourning service not specific to Moharram. However, the most sorrowful Chamar is the one they perform in that month. Chamar is a chant, a tune, a cry of grief with an afflicted voice. Women perform this service. Generation after generation, they have learned how to do it as a tradition.

Tabriz

Another glorious ceremony held during the mourning days of Imam Hussein in Iran is the “Shah Hussein” ceremony in Tabriz. This ritual, called “Shakhsi” in the local dialect, begins a few days before Moharram and continues until the noon of Ashura.

In this ceremony, the mourners in the black form a human path. They move a special stick from head to toe. These movements follow a chant “Shah Hussein” (Shakhsi) and “Vay Hussein” (Vakhsi) of the mourners. Shah Hussein’s religion is a symbolic behavior; It seems that the mourners are leaving for Karbala and standing next to the companions of Imam Hussein.

Zanjan

The mourning of the people of Zanjan has been the center of attention these years. Zanjan was entitled the capital of the Hussein Passions. The people mourn like no other place and show their love for Imam Hussein as if he was the last piece of truth and they have lost it. No one should shed the blood of an innocent. Those capable of such murder are damned forever.

Yazd

Nakhl Gardani is one of the most famous Moharram customs in the days of Tasooa and Ashura in Yazd. Nakhl is a large wooden structure that is covered with mirrors and decorated with colorful shawls and fabrics. Nakhl Gardani is a symbolic ritual that takes place at noon or evening of Ashura. The Nakhl carriers allegedly carried the body of Imam Hussayn on the afternoon of Ashura to bury it.

Tashtgozari ritual in Iran's Ardabil: In Tashtgozari, mourners fill large bowls with water to symbolize how Imam Hossein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred while being thirsty in the Battle of Karbala in October 680 (10th of Moharram 61 AH).



FOOD DIPLOMACY

IRANIAN FOOD: KHORESH GHEYMEH; VOTIVE FOOD IN MOHARRAM



Khoresh Gheymeh is the most popular Votive food in Moharram (Nazri dish) in Iran.

Khoresh Gheymeh, also called Gheymeh Polo (polo means rice) is a Beef and Split Pea Stew which is a very traditional and popular Iranian stew with saffron potatoes that is served over either white rice or aromatic rice.

The word Gheymeh comes from how the meat is cut into small cubes in this recipe and unlike other Persian khoreshes that have larger chunks of meat, Gheymeh meat is usually cut into about one-inch cubes.

Iranians cook Votive food usually in Moharram which is a special month for Shia Muslims. They mourn the martyrdom of Imam Husain (Hussein ibn Ali) the third imam of Shia. Khoresh Gheymeh is the most popular Votive food in Iran.

Ingredients:

onion, olive oil or ghee, turmeric, stew beef, tomato paste, water, Limoo Omani, salt, black pepper, Advieh, Persian spice mix, optional, ground saffron



FOOD DIPLOMACY

IRANIAN COOKIES: HALVA



Halva which is originally an Arabic word meaning 'sweet' has a very special place in Iranian culture.

In Iran, the application of this dessert has changed a lot throughout history. In the past, it was cooked at weddings and ceremonies and it was also offered as a gift. Today, Halva is mostly served at funerals, or cooked and given to others as a religious treat but it is still one of the most favorite, delicious, and nutritious sweets among Iranians alongside other sweets.

Ingredients: white flour, oil, cardamom powder, Shahd (in an additional recipe, preparing Shahd has been explained),



IRAN ECONOMY

IRAN'S NON-OIL EXPORTS NEAR \$11.7B IN Q1



Iran exported \$11.655 billion worth of non-oil goods in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21), according to Faroud Asgari, deputy economy minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The volume of non-oil exports stood at 34.476 million tons, representing a 9.3 percent decrease in weight and a 14.4 percent drop in value compared to the same period last year.

The average customs value of exported goods was \$338 per ton, down 5.6 percent year-on-year.

Petrochemical exports during the quarter totaled 11.133 million tons, valued at \$4.684 billion, which marks a 28.7 percent decline in weight and a 24.5 percent decrease in value from the year before.

The top non-oil export items were liquefied propane at \$874 million, liquefied butane at \$611 million, methanol at \$576 million, petroleum bitumen at \$574 million, and natural gas at \$456 million.

China was Iran's largest export destination with purchases totaling \$3.511 billion. It was followed by Iraq at \$1.905 billion, the United Arab Emirates at \$1.592 billion, Turkey at \$937 million, Afghanistan at \$510 million, Oman at \$437 million, and Pakistan at \$420 million.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

A CONCERT FOR IRAN BY THE TEHRAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Nasir Heidarian and featuring 70 musicians plus vocalist Mohammadreza Safi, performed a concert at Azadi Square in Tehran on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

