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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



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MFA NEWSLETTER

VISITING IRANIAN FM MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN IN DUSHANBE



IRANIAN FM MEETS TAJIK COUNTERPART TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



IRAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON MEETS TAJIKISTAN MINISTER OF CULTURE MEET IN DUSHANBE





MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister held talks with his counterparts from Egypt, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Iraq, Qatar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium.



Saudi Arabia FM



Egypt FM



Bangladesh FM



Qatar FM



Belgium FM



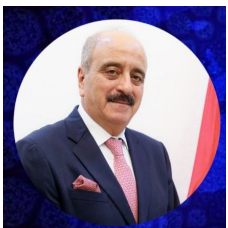
Pakistan FM



Türkiye FM



Italy FM



Tunisia FM



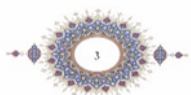
Switzerland FM



Afghanistan FM



Iraq FM





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN AMONG TOP TEN COUNTRIES IN PUBLISHING NANO-TECH ARTICLES



Having published a total of 4,615 articles in top 25 percent of journals (Q1 journals) in 2024, Iran is placed among top ten countries in publishing nanotechnology articles, ranking 12 in h-index for such articles in the world.

China, the US, and India, with 86,924, 14,473, and 11,194 articles, respectively, are the top three countries. Iran is atop England (4,360), Japan (4,022), and Spain (3,830) in the ranking, ISNA reported. The Q1 journal index is used to categorize scientific journals based on their impact; it is most commonly used in databases like Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

Q1 journal ranking is based on Impact factors, SJR, H-index, and the number of citations, ISNA reported.

Introduced by physicist Jorge Hirsch, the h-index is an important metric for measuring the scientific impact of a researcher, journal, or university. It was introduced by physicist Jorge Hirsch. It measures the number of scientific publications (many articles), scientific impact (high number of citations), and a combination of quantity and quality of research.

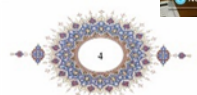
IRANIAN, ARMENIAN UNIVERSITIES TO BOOST SCIENTIFIC TIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mohammad-Hossein Omid, the Chancellor of University of Tehran, and Grigor Hakobyan, the Armenian ambassador to Iran, have explored the potential to expand scientific collaboration on critical environmental challenges.

Referring to the unique relationships between the two countries, Hakobyan said University of Tehran is a well-known university in the region and the world. The official announced Armenia's readiness to foster scientific cooperation with the University of Tehran through holding collaborative conferences, exchanging professors and students, as well as conducting research on topics like environment and water.

The official proposed launching an Armenian language literature major at the University of Tehran, saying that the Armenian National Academy of Science and most Armenian universities offer Iranian studies programs to students.

For his part, Omid highlighted boosting joint efforts on critical issues such as climate change, air pollution, environment, and water, which have already affected Iran and will soon impact other countries, including Armenia.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRANIAN STUDENTS SHINE AT INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD



Iran grabbed two gold medals, three silver, and one bronze at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2025), held from July 10-20 in Australia.

Hosted by the Australian Maths Trust, the event attracted more than 600 high school students from 112 countries.

The competition represents the culmination of many years of mathematical endeavor and hundreds of attempts at solving problems.

Bardia Khosh-Eqbal and Mehdi Aqajanloo grabbed gold medals, Mohammad-Reza Attaranzadeh, Mohammad-Sajad Memari, and Amir-Hossein Zarei secured silver medals, while Parsa Tajallaei won a bronze.

The team had ranked second in the 3rd International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 20 to July 12, 2025.

IRANIAN STUDENTS BAG 4 MEDALS AT IEO 2025

Iran won two silver medals and two bronze medals at the Eighth International Economics Olympiad (IEO) 2025, which was held from July 20 to 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

IEO is an annual competition for high school students around the world in the areas of Economics and Finance.

It aims to stimulate creative problem-solving skills among high school students with an interest in Economics, Business, and Finance, and enhance education systems by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices on school curricula and teaching methodologies worldwide.

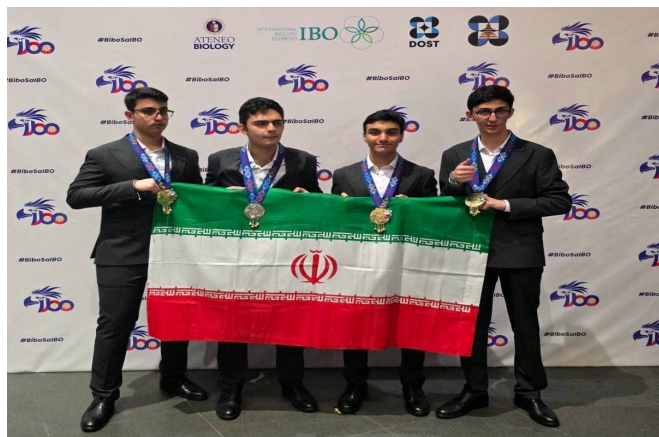
This year, 68 countries participated in the IEO. Mohsen Payandeh-Peyman and Abolfazl Modir-Roosta won silver medals, while Parsa Sedaqat and Alireza Ahmadi secured bronze medals, IRNA reported.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN RANKS SECOND AT INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD



Four Iranian students clinched three gold medals and a silver medal at the 36th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2025), ranking second among 81 countries, up from third in 2024.

Siavash Pezeshpour, Ali Soleimanzadeh Kalahrudi, and Ali-Akbar Nourollahi won the gold medals, while Radin Bayani secured the silver medal at the competition which was held from July 19 to 27 in Quezon City, Philippines, PANA reported.

IBO is the world's premier biology competition for secondary school students. This year, the competition brought together 81 delegations from 81 countries and territories (including 3 observer delegations), and a total of 298 contestants, who competed in a series of theoretical and practical examinations in the field of biology.

The Theoretical Exams of the IBO test the competitors' understanding, processing, and application of biological knowledge. There are two exams, each with a duration of three hours.

IRANIAN STUDENTS GARNER SILVER MEDALS AT IPHO 2025

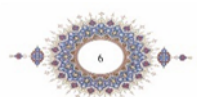
Five Iranian students secured silver medals at the 55th International Physics Olympiad, ranking 11th globally.

Mohammad-Hassan Sadeqinejad, Arya Zarabi, Ilya Qashaei, Mohammad-Hassan Golabdar, and Milad Mohammadi won silver medals, IRIB reported.

The primary goal of IPhO is to examine, to the highest level, the knowledge, analytical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in theoretical and experimental physics.

Two five-hour tests, drawn up by the host country and amended by the leaders of the teams involved, are open to candidates competing individually. The first is experimental, using equipment supplied to the candidates. The second is theoretical, focusing on phenomena and their modeling.

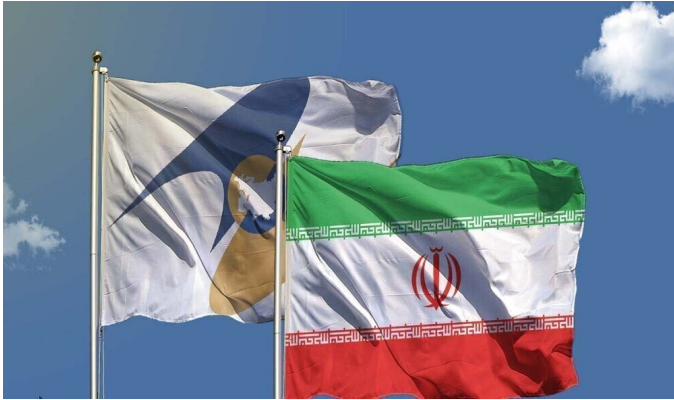
The 54th edition of the IPhO was hosted by Isfahan University of Technology, Iran. Iranian students who attended the 54th IPhO managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals.





TRADE & ECONOMY

EXPORTS TO EURASIAN BLOC RISE 22% IN Q1 UNDER FREE TRADE PACT



Iran's exports to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) grew by 22 percent in the first quarter of this year, reaching \$532 million, according to Elham Haji Karimi, head of the secretariat for the Iran-EAEU Free Trade Agreement.

She said the agreement, which came into force on May 14, has already delivered notable results, especially given that 87 percent of goods traded between the two sides are now exempt from tariffs, the portal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

Karimi highlighted the strong interest from both Iranian and Eurasian traders, calling the deal one of Iran's most impactful trade agreements to date. She expressed optimism about further deepening of economic ties, noting the support and commitment of officials from both sides, as well as from the Eurasian Economic Commission, the union's executive body.

Exports saw the biggest jump to Russia and Armenia, with increases of 33 percent and 28 percent, respectively. During the same period, Iran imported over \$380 million worth of goods from the EAEU, a three percent drop compared to last year. This brought the trade balance for the quarter to a positive \$152 million in Iran's favor, following the country's first-ever trade surplus with the bloc last year.

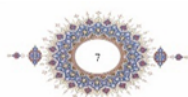
EXPORTS TO AFRICA JUMP 85% IN SPRING, TRADE SURPLUS MORE THAN DOUBLES

Iran's exports to African countries rose 85 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21) compared to the same period last year, while its trade surplus with the continent surged by 113 percent, a senior official at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Reza Safari, acting head of TPO's Africa office, said the number of African countries importing Iranian goods increased from 27 to 32 in the three-month period.

Safari attributed the sharp increase in trade to the recent Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit, adding that further implementation of decisions made by the Africa Task Force could accelerate the trend.

He also called for a shift in Iran's trade strategy toward Africa, advocating for the export of high value-added final products and offshore production investment. He said this approach—mirroring China's long-term investment model on the continent—would help Iran adapt to recent global shifts including rising energy and transport costs, reduced financial support, and new U.S. tariffs on African exports.





IRANIAN CULTURE

IRAN SEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL FOR EXPATRIATES



Seyyed Zia Hashemi, Cultural Deputy to the First Vice President of Iran, has announced efforts by the government and parliament to ease travel for millions of Iranians living abroad who wish to visit their homeland.

Speaking on Saturday at a quarterly meeting of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran, he emphasized the strong interest among expatriates to travel to Iran.

Earlier this year, the deputy tourism minister, Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, highlighted that around eight to nine million Iranians live abroad.

He stressed the importance of adopting a strategic and trust-building approach to attract them for tourism or extended stays.

Available data suggests that some 7.3 million foreign tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the past Persian year 1403, which ended on March 20, 2025.





IRANIAN CULTURE

LAHIJAN; INSIDE IRAN'S ONLY WWII MUSEUM



A private initiative has led to the creation of “Vanguard”, Iran’s first and only specialized museum dedicated to World War II, located in the city of Lahijan, north of the country.

Iran was a key transit zone for Allied supply routes and was occupied by them during WWII. The opening of this museum marks a rare grassroots effort to preserve and narrate that history in an Iranian context.

The collector of the museum, Karen Omidi: “World War II was one of the bloodiest events in human history. My goal with this museum is to present that history in a specialized and accurate way.”

“It took me eight years to build this collection. I traveled to antique stores, military memorabilia dealers, and WWII commemorations across France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States to acquire these items.”

Iran was a critical corridor during WWII, occupied jointly by the Allies in 1941, leading to the abdication of Reza Shah and a key shift in its contemporary history. The Vanguard museum offers a rare, civilian-led platform to explore that neglected narrative, bridging Iran’s place in global history with personal passion and scholarly ambition.

1000-YEAR-OLD CARVED TOMBSTONE DISCOVERED IN UNESCO-LISTED YAZD

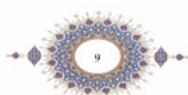
A historic tombstone dating back almost 1,000 years has been uncovered during restoration work at Dowlatshahi Mosque in the UNESCO-listed city of Yazd, central Iran.

Majid Oloumi, director of Yazd’s World Heritage base, announced the discovery on Monday, stating that the tombstone was found in the small mihrab (prayer niche) of the Dowlatshahi Mosque, located in the Charsouq Shahi section of a historical bazaar within the ancient city.

Oloumi said the tombstone bears an inscription in Kufic script dated 493 AH (approximately 1099 CE). “It was uncovered beneath layers of construction materials during ongoing maintenance at the mosque.”

The object measures approximately 80 by 40 centimeters and was embedded one meter deep in the mihrab. Following its discovery, the stone was carefully removed under the supervision of archaeological experts and heritage protection officials from the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Yazd province.

The inscription on the tombstone includes Quranic verses on its two margins. The central frame of the stone mentions titles referring to the tomb’s occupant, while the lower margin indicates the date of death as 493 AH.





IRANIAN DRINKS AND BEVERAGES

SHARBAT-E KHAKESHIR; REFRESHING SUMMER DRINK



Have you ever heard the name of Sharbat-e Khakeshir? If not, bad for you! This drink is heavenly cooling for hot summer days and can cheer you up right the moment you take a sip. The drink is made by something called London rockets. These small creatures make you unbelievably cool and you will have a moment of pleasure when it is drunk.

Sharbat (Syrup) is usually a sweet Persian drink that is used for hydrating your shrinking body in hot days. If you know nothing about this miracle, just go for it and add to your delicious information.





IRANIAN CULTURE

FARSAN TO HOST NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF IRANIAN CLANS



Farsan county in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, has been selected to host a national festival of Iranian clans, the provincial tourism chief has said.

According to IRIB, speaking at the gathering for coordination of the festival, Alireza Jeylan also said that the festival will be held with the participation of clans from various provinces during the second half of the Iranian month of Shahrivar.

He explained that the national festival of Iranian clans, which is hosted by Farsan county and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, has been registered on the National Festival Calendar.

Jeylan emphasized that this year's event should be held with better planning.

Farsan country is situated in the mountainous region of the north and northwest segment of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province. It is located 35 km from Shahr-e-Kord, and 578 km from Tehran.

The city of Farsan is one of the important summer residing places for Bakhtiyari Tribe, which has excellent weather conditions due to resting in the midst of the inner ranges of the Zagros Mountains.

MARIVAN TO HOST INTL. STREET THEATER FESTIVAL IN OCTOBER

The 18th edition of Marivan International Street Theater Festival is scheduled to be held in October.

The festival aims to strengthen street theater and facilitate the exchange of innovative experiences among performing groups in producing and executing various outdoor theatrical genres, Honaronline reported on Tuesday.

The event seeks to foster hope, solidarity, increased social vitality and participation, and heightened attention to social issues. It emphasizes direct engagement with audiences and citizens for effective communication of contemporary themes and societal matters, the report added.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's Deputy for Artistic Affairs, the Department of Performing Arts, the Kordestan Province Cultural and Artistic Department, the Iran Performing Arts Association, and the Kordestan Performing Arts Association, the festival is further supported by the Kordestan Governorate, Marivan Municipality, and the City Council.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES NAHID-2 COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE



Iran's latest space technology achievement, Nahid-2 communications satellite, was successfully launched into space minutes ago by a Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia.

This is the first satellite launched into space after the Israeli regime, backed by the U.S., launched a 12-day war on Iran. The project highlights the country's efforts to develop indigenous space technologies and establish a presence in space.

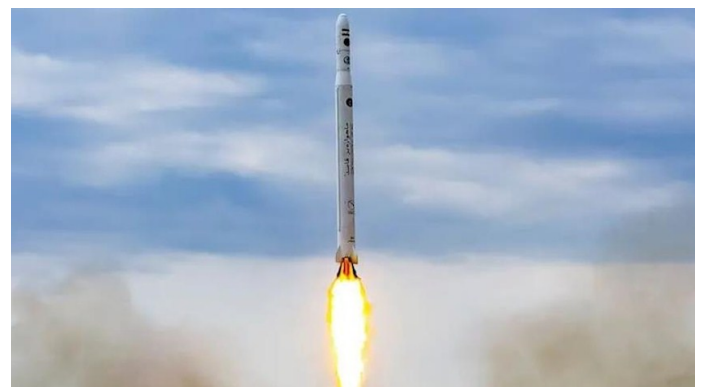
Weighing approximately 110 kilograms, Nahid-2 is a product of collaboration among Iranian research and development centers in the space industry, including the Space Research Center, and a network of knowledge-based companies. The project aims to enhance satellite communication systems.

IRAN SPACE AGENCY CONDUCTS SUBORBITAL TEST WITH QASED SATELLITE CARRIER

Iran successfully conducted a suborbital test with the Qased satellite Carrier to evaluate new technologies developed by Iran Space Agency (ISA) to improve the performance of Iranian satellites, satellite carriers, and space systems.

The tests take Iran one more step to the edge of technology and further power and independence. The advancements make Iran a more recognized power in the region and it its in the detriment of the West led by the U.S..

The Qased (Messenger) satellite carrier is an Iranian expendable orbital space launch vehicle. Qased made its maiden flight in 2020, lofting Iran's Noor satellite into orbit.



FOOD DIPLOMACY

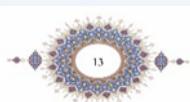
IRANIAN FOOD: AB DOUGH KHIAR; PERSIAN COLD YOGURT SOUP



The most summer-friendly Persian dish you can ever imagine is this one, Ab Doogh Khiar. The ingredients are strained yogurt, herbs and raisins and cucumbers.

The dish is so cool and making it takes less than 20 minutes. Ab Doogh Khiar is a traditional Persian dish and when the days start to become hot, the demand for eating this dish rises. You cannot believe how satisfying it could be to cool your body temperature by devouring this cuisine.

This recipe can contain nuts, such as walnuts too. The cooling temperament of the dish is very soothing in hot and boiling days. Do not wait to try this heavenly taste dish.



IRANIAN SPORTS

IRAN MOVE UP THREE SPOTS IN FIVB RANKINGS



Iran's men's volleyball team moved up three places in the latest FIVB rankings, following their recent performance in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Under the guidance of Roberto Piazza, the team have risen to 13th place with 222.91 points.

Team Melli narrowly missed qualifying for the 2025 VNL final, finishing in eighth place.

Poland reclaimed the top spot in the world rankings with 374.10 points, followed by Italy (370.22), France (363.66), Brazil (359.23), and Japan (339.16).

IRANIAN CHESS PLAYER BAGS GOLD IN TITLED TUESDAY TOURNAMENT

In a stunning display of skill and composure, 14-year-old Iranian Grandmaster Sina Movahed claimed gold at the prestigious Titled Tuesday online chess tournament on Saturday, July 19, 2025.

Movahed's triumph marks a historic moment for Iranian chess, proving that young talents can compete—and win—against the world's best.

The young prodigy dominated the competition, finishing with an impressive 10 out of 11 points in one of the strongest open online chess events in the world.

Movahed entered the final rounds with an unbeaten record, securing crucial victories against elite grandmasters, including Russia's Dmitry Andreikin and Serbia's Alexey Sarana. His decisive win over Sarana, who finished with 9.5 points, cemented his place at the top of the leaderboard.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

DARAK VILLAGE (DARAK BEACH)

Darak, a village in the Zarabad county of Konarak city (near Chabahar in Sistan-Balouchestan Province), is located where the Sea of Oman reaches the Indian Ocean. The hills and palm trees on the beach create lovely scenes. There are very few such beaches around the world. Darak in local language means settling along the sea. It is where the burning sands nestle in the arms of the free waters.

