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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

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MFA DIGEST



Iran's Wrestlers Win 2026 World Championship Title in U.S.

MFA News

Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

FM Araghchi held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Brazil, Oman, Egypt, Senegal, Turkmenistan, Jordan and Spain, as well as the President of Lebanon.











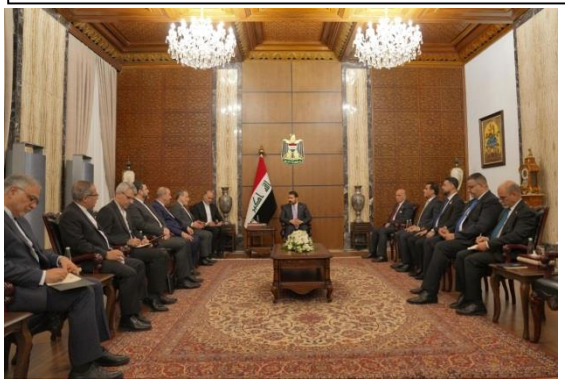






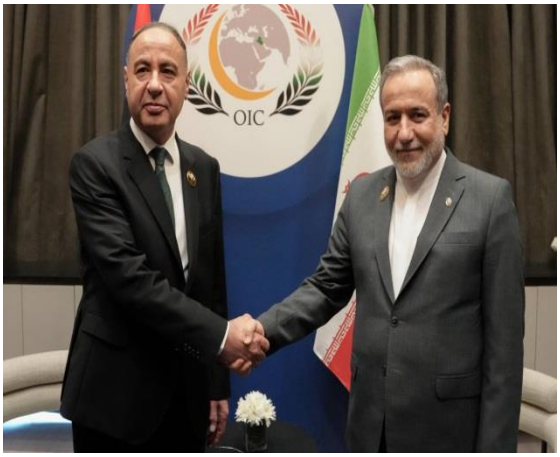


Minister Araghchi meets foreign ministers and officials from Islamic countries on the sidelines of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ministerial meeting in Baghdad











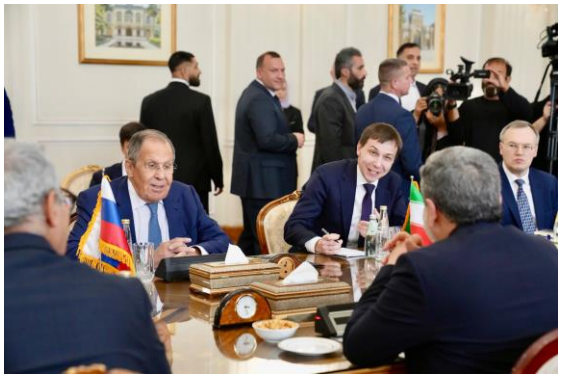




Meeting between Ministers Araghchi and Sergey Lavrov in Tehran










Foreign Minister Araghchi attends specialized session entitled "The Role of Martyr Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi, former Foreign Minister in Building Consensus in Foreign Policy















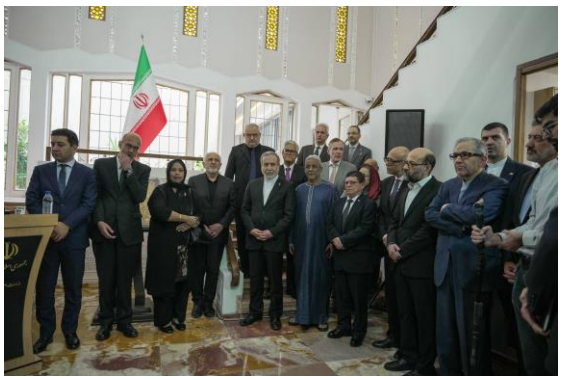


Inauguration ceremony of "Martyr Dr. Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi Documentation Center", Specialized Library and Museum of History and Diplomacy by Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi










Science & Tech

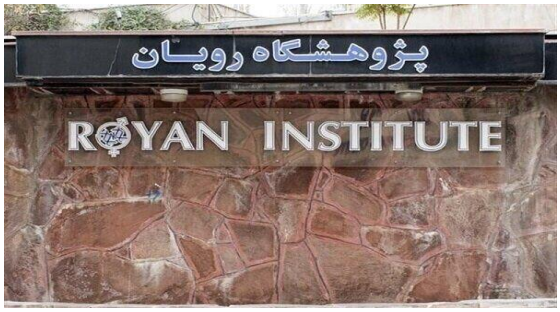
Iran's nuclear industry showcases export potential at Shiraz Expo 2026



The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has displayed its products and technological capabilities at Shiraz Expo 2026, highlighting potential export opportunities in healthcare, agriculture, nuclear medicine and radiation applications, including markets in the Persian Gulf littoral states.

The organization is exhibiting in the Hafez Hall at the international trade fair, which opened on October ۲۰۲٦, at the Fars Province International Exhibition Center.

Royan Institute Achieves National Recognition: Center for Cell Science Ranks Second Nationwide



The Center for Cell Science at Royan Institute, affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), has secured second place nationwide among 180 biomedical research centers with more than 10 years of operational experience in Iran's 2025 national evaluation of research and technology activities.

Ghalibaf warns regional states against anti-Iran use of AI



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in a post on his account on X has warned regional governments against providing resources to artificial intelligence and data companies in potential aggression on Iran.
Ghalibaf wrote that a "Persian Gulf Data Management Authority" was on its way.

Iranian delegation attends Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies in Japan

Supported by the Prosperity and Innovation Fund, an Iranian delegation consisting of 17 knowledge-based companies participated

in Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies (CEATEC) held from October 13 to 16 at Nippon Convention Center, Chiba, Japan. The event served as a great opportunity for knowledge-based firms, technology experts, and industrialists to share and become familiar with the latest innovations.

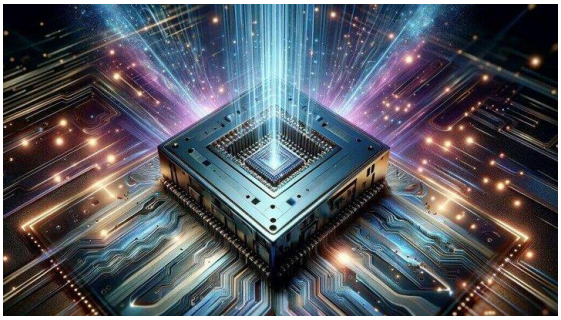


Leader: A strong Iran is founded upon scientific and technological might



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, in a message addressed to elites and medalists in scientific and athletic competitions on the global stage, highlighted the unparalleled role of these young, high-achieving individuals—who bring honor to the nation in science and sports—in fostering hope, progress, and vitality within the country. The Leader identified the act of elites pushing the boundaries of science as the key to making Iran ever stronger.

Iran unveils advanced quantum labs. at 3 academic centers



Iran has opened three advanced teaching laboratories for quantum optics and quantum information at three academic centers, including University of Isfahan, Shahid Beheshti University, and Sharif University of Technology. Quantum technologies are considered a strategic field of science and technology worldwide. Their development depends not only on advances in fundamental research but also on the training of specialized personnel and access to advanced laboratory facilities.

Iran attends World Young Scientist Summit 2026



The head of the National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences has represented Iran at the World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS) 2026.The event took place on October 24 and 25 in Wenzhou, China.

Trade & Economy

Economy minister stresses accelerating finalization of projects supported by Islamic Development Bank



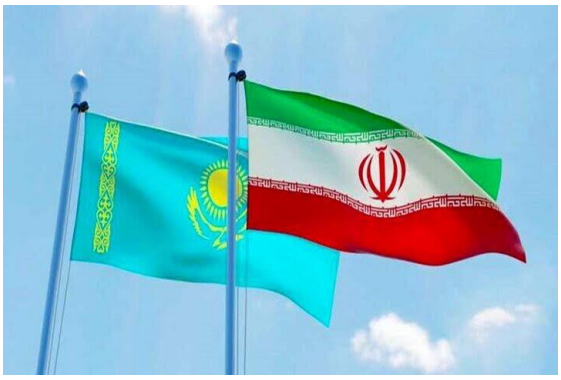
The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Bangkok, in a meeting with Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, President of the Islamic Development Bank, emphasized the necessity of accelerating the finalization of approved projects, removing implementation obstacles, and using the Islamic Development Bank's financing capacities to complete the country's priority projects.

Iranian, Algerian central banks governors discuss enhancing economic cooperation

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran met and held talks with Mohand Bouri, Governor of the Central Bank of Algeria, on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). At the meeting, the two sides discussed and exchanged views on the latest status of monetary, banking, and trade relations between the two countries. Enhancing the level of joint economic cooperation and utilizing mutual capacities to strengthen bilateral trade interactions were among the most important themes of the meeting.



Tehran, Astana eye expanded Caspian, rail cooperation



Farzaneh Sadegh Iran's transport ministers met with Nurlan Sauranbayev Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport, in Kazakhstan, while emphasizing the

development of transport routes and the use of Caspian Sea capacities, stressed the expansion of trade exchanges and the drafting of a comprehensive document on logistics and infrastructure cooperation between the two countries.

Iran's Dogharoun accounts for 52% of cargo transit to Afghanistan: Official



Mohsen Rokni, head of the Dogharoun border terminal told that the Dogharoun border terminal accounts for 52 percent of cargo transit to Afghanistan through four border crossings in Iran's northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province.

The facility ranked first in cargo transit among the province's border crossings during the first six months of the current Iranian year that started on March 21. Dogharoun also handled 70 percent of Iran's exports to Afghanistan during the period.

"Economic cooperation, AI" Iran's priorities at SCO: VP Aref

Stressing Iran's strategy for active participating in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the 1st vice president stated developing economic cooperation and artificial intelligence are among Iran's priorities at the org.Mohammad-Reza Aref made the remarks prior to his trip to the Republic of Tajikistan to attend the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) prime ministers.



Iran needs no gasoline imports anymore: President



President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that Iran does not need to import gasoline anymore through adopting proper policies. He pointed to high energy consumption and fuel supply under the economic blockade, saying the administration put saving and consumption management on its agenda to prevent further problems in energy and fuel, which led to significant savings with the cooperation of the nation.

TPO hosts final session as Vietnamese trade delegation concludes Tehran visit with agricultural MOU



The Vietnamese trade delegation, led by Mr. Nguyen Dang Dinh, concluded its 12-day mission to Iran on October 18, with a high-level meeting at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO). The delegation aimed to expand Vietnam's commercial reach in the Middle East and engage directly with the Iranian market, with the TPO hosting the final working session.

The meeting focused on introducing the investment potential of Khuzestan Province. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint-venture cooperation in the agricultural cultivation sector.

Iran, Tajikistan private sector ties strengthened with tripartite chamber memorandum



A tripartite cooperation memorandum was signed among the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture of Khorasan Razavi Province, the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce of Khatlon Province.

The memorandum was concluded with the aim of developing trade relations, facilitating communication among economic actors, identifying investment opportunities, and expanding private-sector cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan.

Dry tea production increases 23%



The head of Iran's Tea Organization said: Dry tea production in the country has reached 26,500 tons since the beginning of this year's harvesting season, showing a 23 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

He said, of the total green tea leaves purchased, about 45 percent was first grade and 55 percent was second grade, and the value of this purchase amounts to more than 4,177 billion tomans.

Iran has sufficient forex reserves to fund imports through end of Trump term, CBI chief says

Iran has sufficient foreign exchange reserves to cover the country's imports

through the end of U.S. President Donald Trump's term and beyond, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati said in an interview with Bloomberg.



In a post on his Telegram channel, Hemmati said he gave a televised interview to Bloomberg on the sidelines of last week's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Iran, Russia could build fair energy architecture together



Iran and Russia have significant potential to shape a fair global energy architecture, Tehran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali said in an op-ed for TASS dedicated to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit ."The joint presence of Iran and Russia in Moscow highlights the fact that both countries have significant potential to establish a fair architecture in the global energy landscape," he noted.

Agricultural output rises despite water cuts, reduced cultivated area



Iran's agricultural production reached 137 million tons in the past crop year despite a 15 billion-cubic-meter reduction in water allocated to the sector, a deputy agriculture minister said. Cultivated areas for vegetables, summer crops and many melons and other field crops had declined, but higher productivity and yields per hectare had helped increase overall output.

Removing export barriers to Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan on agenda: Deputy FM



Iran is reviewing regulations governing exporters' obligations to address disruptions in transportation and logistics, with proposals also under consideration to remove barriers to exports to neighboring Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, a senior Foreign Ministry official says.

Hamid Ghanbari, deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy, said the conditions created by the US-Israeli war of aggression on the country presented new challenges for exporters, making changes to domestic mechanisms necessary to address their difficulties and obligations.

Iran, Turkey's capacities pave way for expanding bilateral co-op: Iran's minister



The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey, emphasized the necessity of expanding bilateral cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the political, economic, and transport/communications fields and said: Expanding economic and transport/communications relations between Iran and Turkey, in addition to securing mutual interests, can make an effective contribution to strengthening cooperation, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.

Tehran hosting international industry exhibition



The 26th Tehran International Industry Exhibition opened on October 28 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, with the participation of 157 domestic companies, including 30 knowledge-based companies, and the presence of representatives of foreign brands from Germany, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In this edition, machinery and production lines, industrial and workshop equipment, tools, and technical and engineering services are on display to visitors.

This edition of the exhibition has been organized in an area of about 25,000 square meters to introduce Iran's industrial capacities and continue the country's economic and trade activities.

Iran Sports

Iran officials congratulate wrestlers on U23 World Championships victory in US



Iranian officials, in separate messages, have congratulated the country's Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling team on winning the U23 World Championships in the United States, praising the athletes' determination and international achievement.

Iran claimed the title of Greco-Roman with three gold medals, two bronze medals and 119 points and freestyle with four gold, one silver, and four bronze medals, collecting 180 points, at the championships held in Las Vegas from October 12 to 18, finishing ahead of Kazakhstan and Russia.



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker, Judiciary Chief, First Vice President, Sports and Youth Minister, Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in separated messages have congratulated the Greco-Roman wrestling team.

Iran marches at 2026 Asian Para Games



Iran's delegation marched in the parade at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya, with Rouhollah Rostami as flag bearer. Iran will compete with a 166-member sporting delegation featuring 104 men and 62 women across 15 sports.The Iranian delegation will carry the slogan: "In memory of the children of Hiroshima, Gaza and Minab."

Iran drops four places to sixth at Nagoya Asian Para Games

Iran concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya in sixth place, suffering a four-position decline from its

runner-up finish at the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, in 2023.



Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	207	117	111	435
2	Japan	64	60	62	186
3	Uzbekistan	45	49	51	145
4	India	30	35	49	114
5	South Korea	29	38	33	100
6	Iran	26	36	40	102
7	Thailand	19	40	66	125
8	Indonesia	15	17	36	68
9	Kazakhstan	12	16	21	49
10	Malaysia	6	7	12	25

Despite the decline in the overall standings, several Iranian athletes delivered outstanding performances, demonstrating the country's continued strength in para-athletics and swimming.

For Iran, the Nagoya Games presented a mixed picture of individual excellence and collective disappointment.

Iran crown fifth consecutive Asian Para Games sitting volleyball title



Iran's men's sitting volleyball team secured their fifth consecutive title at the Asian Para Games after sweeping past Kazakhstan in straight sets on Friday.The Iranian team delivered a commanding performance at the Okazaki Central Park General Gymnasium, defeating Kazakhstan 3-0 in the final with set scores of 25-17, 25-15 and 25-17 to extend their dominance in the continental competition. Sitting volleyball is one of the flagship team sports at the Asian Para Games.

Iran sports minister Donyamali hails Iranian participants at 2026 Nagoya



Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, issued a message praising the Iranian delegation's participation and efforts at the fifth edition of the Asian Para Games in Nagoya and congratulating the medal winners.

Iran concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya in sixth place, suffering a four-position decline from its runner-up finish at the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, in 2023.

The Iranian delegation collected 102 medals, including 26 gold, 36 silver and 40 bronze, compared with 131 medals — 44 gold, 46 silver and 41 bronze — at Hangzhou.

Iran's Greco-Roman team win 2026 World Championship

Iran have secured the Greco-Roman team title at the 2026 World Wrestling

Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, following an outstanding performance by their wrestlers on the international stage. The Iranian squad clinched the championship ahead of the conclusion of the Greco-Roman competitions, underlining the country's dominance in one of its most successful sporting disciplines.



Sports Minister Donyamali to attend Youth Olympic Games opening ceremony



Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, has arrived in Dakar on a three-day official visit to attend the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games and support Iranian athletes competing at the event.

Donyamali's visit underlines Iran's commitment to supporting its young sporting talents and strengthening its presence in international youth competitions.

The fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games will take place in Senegal from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13, 2026, marking the first time an Olympic sporting event has been staged on the African continent.

Iran come sixth at FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026



Iran finished in sixth place in the FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 on Friday. The young Persians lost to Madagascar 4-3 and came sixth in the event. The tournament features 189 national teams divided into 32 groups, with matches played in an eight-a-side format. Each match consists of two 20-minute halves, with rolling substitutions permitted. The FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 takes place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Oct. 24 to 30.

Society & Culture

Iran puts forward six proposals to boost SCO anti-drug cooperation



Iran's Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) has put forward six proposals to strengthen cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in combating illicit drugs and related crimes.

Mohammad Narimani, an official with the DCHQ, presented the proposals at the opening ceremony of the SCO International Conference of Member States, titled "For a Drug-Free World," held on October 13–14 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Biodiversity, peace and security are interconnected, DOE chief says



Environmental diplomacy can become an instrument of peace diplomacy, while the relationship between biodiversity, peace, and security should be viewed as a two-way relationship, Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, has said.

Speaking on Friday at a specialized panel titled "Biodiversity and Peace: Protecting the Environment During Armed Conflicts" at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in Yerevan, Ansari said the link between biodiversity and peace was not merely an ethical or political issue, but a fundamental concern in environmental governance, international law, and human security.

Celebration of Persian Language and Hafez Shirazi Held in Vienna; "From Rabia Balkhi to Hafez Shirazi"



The 10th annual ceremony commemorating Persian language and literature, coinciding with National Hafez Day, was held in Vienna through the initiative of the

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the participation of the embassies of Tajikistan and Afghanistan and the Diplomatic Society magazine.

Iranian official meets Asian Cultural Heritage Union head



The deputy minister for Cultural Heritage met and held discussions with the president of the Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (ACHA) on the sidelines of the alliance's fourth meeting. On Saturday, October 17, on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of the Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (ACHA)—held in Hangzhou, China, from October 15 to 17 with a focus on the exchange of experiences among member states regarding the preservation of cultural and natural heritage—Ali Darabi met with Rao Chuan, Chair of the ACHA Council, Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism of China, and Head of the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China.

Iran's Kanoon nominates two candidates for 2027 Astrid Lindgren Award

Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCY-Kanoon) has nominated writer Abbas Jahangirian and illustrator Amir Shabanipour for the 2027 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA), one of the world's most prestigious honors in children's literature.



A total of 277 candidates from 80 countries have been nominated for the 2027 edition in the categories of writing, illustration, oral storytelling and reading promotion. Of these, 85 are appearing on the list for the first time.

Exhibition of Farshchian's works underway in Paris



An exhibition of images of selected miniature paintings by the late master Mahmoud Farshchian opened on Friday at the Cultural Attaché Office of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris and will run for a week.

The opening ceremony was attended by a group of Iranian and international

enthusiasts of Iranian art and cultural heritage, as well as the Ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran to France and to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

'Psalms of Sorrow' wins Grand Prix at Tehran Short Film Festival



Iranian filmmaker Yousef Kargar's "Psalms of Sorrow" won the Grand Prix of the 43rd Tehran International Short Film Festival, receiving the Golden Leaf and a $3,000 cash prize at the closing ceremony in Tehran. The winners of the various sections of the festival were also announced.

Exquisite handwritten Quran unveiled at the TMOCA



The unveiling ceremony for the handwritten Holy Quran by world-celebrated Iranian calligrapher Mohammad Ehsai was held in the presence of Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Master Ehsai at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA).

Mohammad Ehsai, 87, is mostly famous for his numerous calligraphic paintings and works created in nastaliq, which have been showcased at exhibitions and auctions across the world. A special public exhibition of this work will be held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Pakistan's cultural heritage takes center stage at Tehran exhibition



An exhibition exploring Pakistan's historical and cultural development, from ancient civilizations to its enduring literary traditions, was inaugurated in Tehran, bringing together diplomats, cultural officials and researchers to highlight the longstanding ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Titled "Pakistan Through the Ages," the exhibition was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran in collaboration with the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI).

Iran opens university doors to Azerbaijani girls facing hijab restrictions

In a video message released, Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, announced that Iranian universities were open to Azerbaijani girls seeking to continue their education while observing their religious dress.



The invitation comes amid restrictions imposed by Azerbaijani authorities on additional clothing that conflicts with prescribed school uniforms or the secular principles of education. Although the rules do not explicitly mention the hijab, videos circulating online suggest that they target headscarves.

National event aims to raise public awareness of digital media



Media and Information Literacy Week is being observed nationwide from October 24 to 30, with the aim of promoting media literacy and raising public awareness of how to engage with media and navigate the digital space.

Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (Jahad-e Daneshgahi), and other cultural and media organizations and institutions are observing the week with a wide range of programs to popularize media literacy and empower audiences to assess the information presented in media and social media, IRNA reported.

Athens stage performance honors Minab school victims



A theatrical performance commemorating the schoolchildren killed in the US-Israeli attack on Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab has been staged in Athens, Greece, as part of a cultural program highlighting the human consequences of the tragedy.

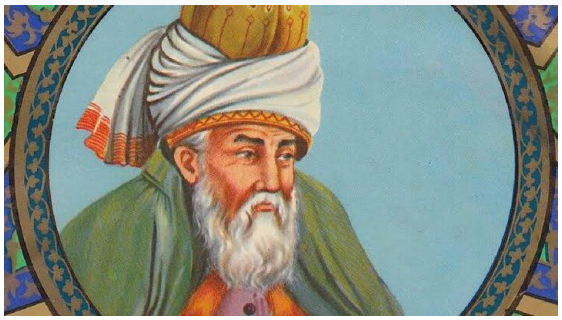
"Reading Sara's Memories from Minab," written and directed by Greek theater artist Andreas Zafeiris, was presented at the Brecht Stage of the 2510 Cultural Center in cooperation with Iran's Cultural Attaché Office and Embassy in Greece on Thursday.

Iranian embassy in Rome hosts Hafez Commemoration Day



A ceremony honoring the renowned Persian poet Hafez Shirazi was held at the Iranian Embassy in Rome, attended by the Iranian Minister of Agriculture Jihad and various cultural figures. The event was organized in cooperation with the Iranian Cultural Attaché in Rome.

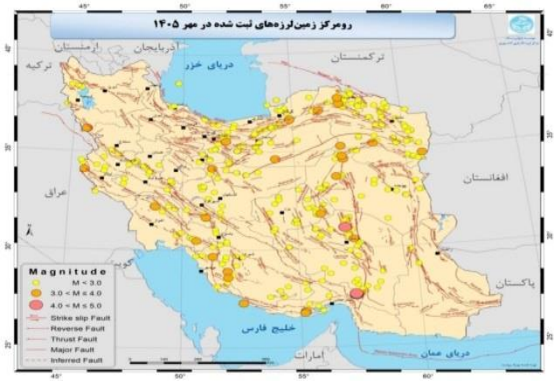
Rumi saw world through lens of love, not power: Iran embassy in London



Marking Rumi Commemoration Day, the Iranian Embassy in London released a message stating that in an era where the voice of power often drowns out the voice of humanity, returning to Rumi's poetry reminds us that what endures over time is not the fleeting glory of power, but the depth of thought and the mark one leaves on the soul of the world.

Over 355 earthquakes hit Iran in a month

A total of 356 earthquakes have been recorded across the country in a week from September 23 to October 22, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran. Statistically, 322 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, 30 earthquakes with a magnitude between 3 and 4, and four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, irsc reported.



Mexican artist honors Minab school victims with 'Butterflies of Minab'



Mexican artist María Schietekat has honored the children killed in a US airstrike on Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Iran's southern city of Minab by creating an artwork titled "Butterflies of Minab" and presenting it to Iran's ambassador to Mexico. The artwork depicts the children as butterflies fly toward a sun over Iran, with the school and the name "Minab 168" appearing at the bottom. Books and school supplies recall the childhood dreams cut short by the attack.

Tourism & Nature

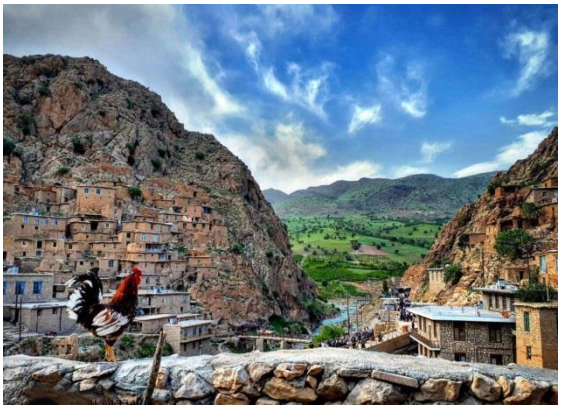
Bushehr: Where Iran's history meets the Persian Gulf



On Iran's southern coast, where the Zagros Mountains descend toward the Persian Gulf, Bushehr offers a distinctive blend of history, architecture, nature and living traditions. The sea has shaped almost every aspect of life here, from trade and fishing to cuisine, music and the design of traditional houses.

The provincial capital, Bandar-e Bushehr, occupies a peninsula extending into the Persian Gulf. For travelers interested in Iran beyond its better-known destinations, Bushehr offers an opportunity to discover a region whose identity has been shaped by maritime exchange, ancient civilizations and the resourcefulness of coastal communities.

Beyond Iran's famous cities: villages that deserve a place on every traveler's itinerary



Iran's historical cities are renowned for their grand mosques, Persian gardens, traditional bazaars and Silk Road heritage. Yet beyond the familiar destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz and Yazd, to name a few, lies another side of the country: a landscape of mountain villages, ancient mud-brick settlements and rural communities whose traditions offer a different perspective on Iranian life.Scattered across the country's mountains, valleys and desert margins, these places reveal the diversity of Iran's geography, architecture and cultural heritage.

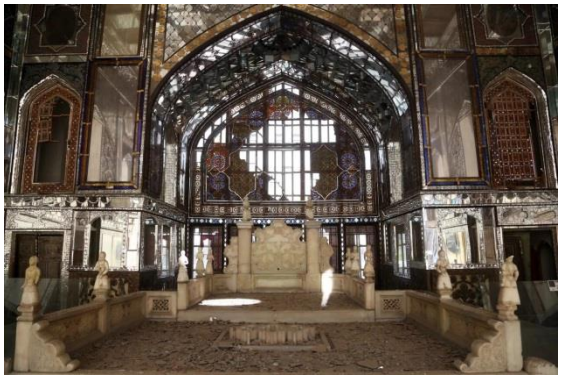
Iran proposes joint tourism packages, measurable targets to boost Chinese arrivals



Iran has proposed five practical measures to increase Chinese tourist arrivals, including joint travel packages, familiarization tours and direct cooperation between travel agencies, as it seeks to turn longstanding cultural ties with China into tangible tourism business.

The proposals were outlined in a message from Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, read at a specialized meeting on strengthening Iran-China tourism cooperation in Beijing.

Iran issues post-war tourism recovery and competitiveness strategy



Iran's tourism ministry has issued a strategic and operational plan to revive the country's tourism industry during the transition and post-war periods, with a focus on rebuilding its international tourism brand, improving competitiveness and coordinating recovery measures nationwide.

The plan aims to establish a common framework for decision-making. The plan identifies three priority tourism product groups: nature-based tourism, ecotourism and community-based tourism; health tourism, including medical services, wellness and mental and psychological recovery; and cultural and historical tourism.

National Museum of Iran highlights public role of archaeology on Intl. Archaeology Day



The National Museum of Iran has reaffirmed its commitment to making the country's archaeological heritage accessible to the public, highlighting the role of museums in communicating scientific discoveries and fostering a broader appreciation of the past on International Archaeology Day(the third Saturday of October).

Marking the occasion, Dr. Jebrael Nokandeh, director general of the National Museum of Iran, paid tribute to Dr. Ezatollah Negahban (1921–2008), widely regarded as the father of modern Iranian archaeology, emphasizing his pioneering contributions to archaeological research and public engagement.

Feast of grapes: A harvest tradition and travel experience in Iran



Held between August 21 and September 21 in different grape-growing regions of Iran, the feast of grapes is a traditional harvest celebration with roots believed to date back around 3,000 years.

When grapes reach full ripeness, the festival offers travelers an opportunity to experience Iran's agricultural traditions, folk culture and living intangible heritage. As mentioned by Visit Iran, the festival has been held in with local communities maintaining their own customs.

Spouses of six countries' ambassadors named honorary tourism envoys of Hamadan



The spouses of ambassadors from Denmark, Romania, Mexico, Uruguay, Nicaragua and Armenia, along with Romania's ambassador to Iran, have been named honorary ambassadors for cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts in Iran's western province of Hamadan.

The initiative, held in cooperation with Iran's Foreign Ministry, aims to introduce Hamadan's historical and cultural attractions to international audiences and strengthen cultural ties and tourism cooperation between Iran and other countries.

Experts highlight Lut Desert geopark bid, Kerman's geological and natural attractions



Experts have highlighted the potential benefits of establishing a UNESCO Global Geopark in Iran's Lut Desert, saying the initiative could promote sustainable tourism, create local jobs and strengthen protection of the region's unique geological heritage.

The issue was discussed at a specialized meeting on the Lut Desert, part of a series of seminars on Kerman studies held at Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman.

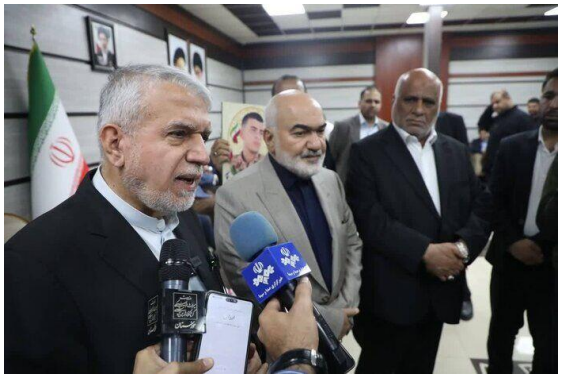
Iran calls for nationwide oral history program across all 31 provinces

Iran's minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts has called for a national program to record and document oral history across all 31 provinces, saying the initiative is essential to preserving the country's historical and cultural memory.



Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks in a message issued to mark the opening of the ministry's first practical training workshop on oral history.

Iran and Iraq aim to increase tourist exchanges to 10 million, minister says



Iran and Iraq have the potential to increase annual tourist exchanges to 10 million people, Tourism Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said, stressing the need for new planning and stronger cross-border infrastructure to achieve the target.

Salehi Amiri identified Khuzestan as a key focus of efforts to expand tourism ties between the neighboring countries, highlighting the province's potential for land travel, medical tourism and improved border infrastructure.

Fatatu Forest, a hidden natural retreat in northern Iran



Tucked away in the rural landscape of northern Iran, Fatatu Forest is a natural attraction in Khomam county, Gilan province, offering visitors a peaceful escape among lush vegetation, wetlands, rice fields and the landscapes of the southern Caspian coast. Recognized for its ecological importance and its surviving Hyrcanian forest vegetation, the woodland holds considerable potential for nature-based tourism, although limited visitor facilities remain a challenge.

For travelers seeking a quieter side of Gilan, Fatatu Forest offers an opportunity to experience the province's lowland forest heritage, rural landscapes and proximity to the Caspian coast. Its alder woodland, seasonal colors and walking routes provide a setting for a relaxed excursion, while nearby villages offer a glimpse of the region's agricultural and craft traditions.

Persian Cuisine

Tahchin (Crispy Saffron Rice Casserole Stuffed With Chicken)



Tahchin is a traditional Persian dish which is very unique in its taste and texture – a dense dish flavored with yogurt, saffron and thick yogurt and typically layered with chicken chunks. The delicious thick golden rice crust (*tahdig*) formed at the bottom and around the cooked tahchin is its shining feature.



An original tahchin is stem-cooked in a pot (a non-stick one in this case) over gas or electric stove just like any other Persian mix rice; however since the amount of liquid in the rice makes its cooking behaviour a bit different and complicated, a lot of recipes advise you to "bake" the dish instead using Pyrex dishes in the oven. Well, I never went with baking style and after many years of trying and failing the traditional pot style, last summer I finally succeeded in getting it right – thanks to my beloved auntie visiting form my old hometown Shiraz.



Ingredients (serves 5-6)

- 3 chicken breasts (about half a kilo) each cut in 2-3 pieces
- 1 onion cut into quarter
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon turmeric
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 ½ cups Basmati rice, rinsed with cold water a few times, then soaked in lukewarm water with 1 tbsp. sea salt at least 3 hours before you start cooking
- 2 ½ thick Greek-style yogurt
- 3 large eggs* (or 4 small ones)
- ¾ cup cooking oil

- ¼ teaspoon ground saffron mixed in 2 tbsp. warm water

*Some use egg yolks only to get a less sticky tahchin. I should yet try that.

Method:

In a medium pot, place chicken breast chunks, 1 cup of water, onion, salt, turmeric and black pepper. Cook until tender.



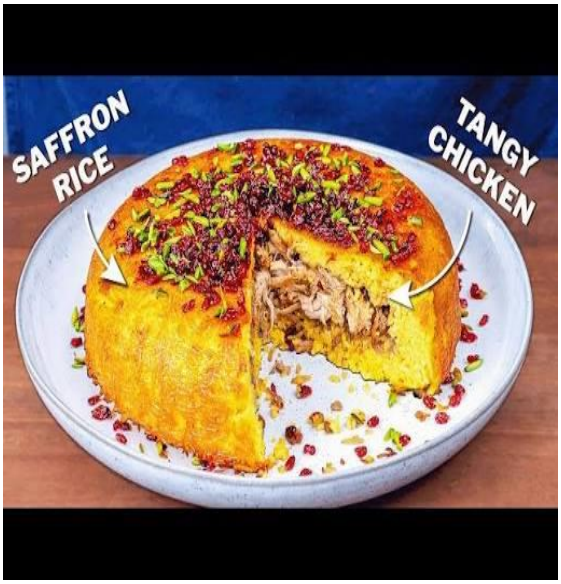
In a big bowl, beat the eggs with a bit of salt. Add yogurt, ½ cooking oil and the diluted saffron and mix well.



Take the cooked chicken breast out of the pot and place in the yogurt mix and place in the fridge for 30-45 minutes.



Bring 9 cups of water to a rolling boil in a big non-stick pot with a capacity of 18 cups of water. Pour off the salted water from the top of your rice bowl and add the rice to your boiling pot. Let the rice boil for 5-7 minutes or until cooked at the core but not soft.



For tahchin we want our rice grains to be a bit harder than normal. Drain in a fine-meshed colander and rinse with cold water. Wash the starch off the pot and put it back on the top of the hot stove to get it completely dry.



Take chicken breasts out of the yogurt mix and place them on a plate. Now transfer the drained rice to the yogurt mix and gently mix so that all rice grains are covered in yogurt-oil-eggs-saffron mix, without getting broken.

Back to your pot on the stove, turn the heat on medium and pour the remaining ¼ cup of oil in the pot and make sure the inside walls get greasy too.



Pour half your rice into the non-stick pot, then place the chicken breasts on the top of the rice evenly and gently press them down with the back of a spatula. Add the rest of the rice and flatten the surface. Cover the lid in a clean towel and put it back on the pot. After two minutes, bring down the heat to minimum and steam cook the tahchin for 90 minutes.



Remove from the heat. Take the lid off. Place a round serving plate on the top of the pot and flip the tahchin into the plate, just like when you flip a cake. Use a knife to cut through in a rectangle shapes.
An authentic well- prepared tahchin should have a reddish-golden *tahdig* which looks very appetizing and beautiful on its own and won't need any kind of topping. And it should of course be very tasty, and delicious. Because of the oil content of the dish, tahchin becomes harder and sticker after spending a night in the refrigerator.

Mountain Rams in Larestan City, South of Iran






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