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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

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Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei

MFA DIGEST



MFA News

Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

H.E. Mr. Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces, and counterparts from Oman, Qatar, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Cyprus Republic.



FM Araghchi Attends Funeral of Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran



FM Araghchi in Najaf, Karbala to Participate in Funeral Processions of Martyr Ayatollah Khamenei





Science & Tech



Martyred Leader's legacy for Iran's scientific development

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has consistently emphasized the importance of science and technology, describing scientific advancement as essential to Iran's dignity, independence, and national strength.



In his view, science was not merely an educational or cultural asset but the driving force behind the development of a modern Islamic civilization and a key factor in safeguarding the country's independence and progress in the face of global hegemonic powers.

He has argued that science forms the foundation of national power, independence, dignity, security, economic development, and civilization-building.

According to this perspective, no nation can secure an independent and powerful future without achieving scientific leadership. Science, therefore, is not simply a cultural or academic virtue but one of the most important instruments of power in the modern world.

Iranian students secure first place at Intl. Mathematics Summer Camp

The six-member Iranian team has shown brilliance, claiming the championship at the fourth International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 17 to July 12, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and dedication to mathematics.



Aryan Zandi, Arsha Azizoddin, Seyyed Amir-Hossein Tayeb, Alireza

Sharifi, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Ali Joonbakhsh Najafabadi won 4 gold medals and two silver medals, outperforming students from Poland and Brazil.

This year's event brought together 58 teams from 46 countries and regions, including 41 international teams and 17 teams from China, with over 500 Chinese and international students, teachers, and coaches in total.

Iranian students shine at ISPhO 2026



Iran's Physics Olympiad team, consisting of five students, has achieved an astounding triumph at the International Scientific Physics Olympiad 2026, winning two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

Hirbod Foudazi was ranked first among all participants, receiving the title of absolute winner, achieving the best result in the Theoretical Exam, and grabbing the gold medal and the national diamond.

Amir-Sam Goharpey won the other gold medal; Kian Zarrabian and Mohammad Mirmohammadi received a silver medal and a bronze medal, respectively.

The ISPhO-2026 Olympiad was held exclusively online from June 21 to June 30, 2026.

Iran, WIPO underline need to bolster ties



The head of the State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Property, Hasan Babaei, and the director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Daren Tang, have highlighted the need to expand technical cooperation and expedite the implementation of collaborative projects.

The officials met on the sidelines of the Sixty-Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, taking place at WIPO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from July 7 to 15.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed recent developments in Iran's intellectual property system, ongoing joint efforts, and explored the potential for the enhancement of interactions.

Iran chairs event at UN headquarters on Intl. Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms



Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, Amir-Saeed Iravani, chaired a high-level event held to mark the International Day for Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs) in New York on July 10.

The event was organized by the Permanent Missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, the Republic of Senegal and Mongolia, in cooperation with members of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, providing a platform to exchange experiences, strengthen partnerships

and identify actions to advance implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

At Iran's initiative, in 2023, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 12 as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, recognizing that SDSs and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern.

Iran discusses fostering ICT ties with Iraq, Pakistan, Oman



The head of the Information Technology Organization of Iran, Mohammad-Mohsen Sadr, has held separate meetings with Iraqi, Pakistani, and Omani officials to discuss ways to enhance collaborations between Iran and these countries in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

The officials met on the sidelines of the first session of the UN Global

Dialogue on AI Governance, convened by the UN General Assembly in Geneva on July 6 and 7. Holding a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Communications Mustafa Jabbar Sanad, the two sides highlighted the role of information technology and artificial intelligence in helping to address energy imbalances, developing smart infrastructure, enhancing productivity in the energy sector, and fostering cooperation in e-government and data transit. They also discussed expanding cooperation in digital transformation, exchanging technical expertise, and implementing joint projects.

Seven countries to attend Iran's FIRA Open Competition



More than 1,000 participants from seven countries are set to take part in the 13th edition of the Federation of International RoboSports Association (FIRA) Open

Competition, scheduled to be held in Tehran from July 17 to 24.

Teams from Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Oman, Cyprus, and Türkiye will compete both in person and virtually. The event will feature 392 teams competing across 21 specialized leagues.

Amirkabir University of Technology will host the event for students studying at school and university, bringing together elites, researchers, and those interested in the robotics sector.

WHO Iran representative highlights role of collaborating centers in expanding scientific capacity



The World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Iran, John Jabbour, has highlighted the important role of WHO collaborating centers in expanding the Organization's scientific and technical capacity.

He noted that, through their research capacity, technical expertise and specialized knowledge, collaborating

centers strengthen WHO's ability to provide high-quality, evidence-informed technical support at the country, regional and global level, WHO website announced in a press release in June 30.

Iranian, Cuban science ministers highlight boosting academic ties



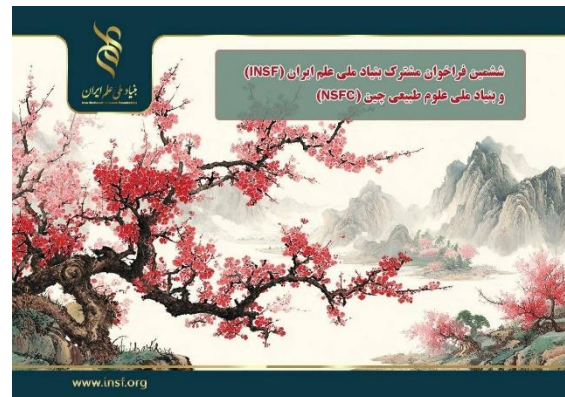
Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Cuban Minister of Higher Education, Walter Baluja García, have underlined the need to expand academic and educational relations.

The Cuban official is paying a visit to the country as a member of a delegation that is attending the funeral ceremony of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Lauding Iran's scientific and technological achievements despite sanctions, Baluja Garcia stressed the significance of enhancing research and academic cooperation between the two countries.

The official highlighted the common external pressures, threats, and sanctions faced by the two nations, noting that Iran and Cuba can benefit from each other's capacities to foster scientific collaborations.

Iran, China to support joint research projects



Following the sixth joint call by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Iran and China will support the implementation of 15 research projects by faculty members.

The grant, amounting to 50 billion rials (some \$28,800) for each research project for at least three years, will be allocated.

Iranian university inks MOUs with Italian, Cypriot universities

Kharazmi University has signed memorandums of understanding with Italy's University of Trieste, and

Eastern Mediterranean University of Cyprus, to boost scientific interactions and international cooperation.



The first MOU was signed between Faculty of Earth Sciences in Kharazmi University, and the Department of Mathematics, Informatics, and Geosciences in University of Trieste aiming to implement joint educational and research projects, and foster scientific interactions between faculty members, researchers, and students of the two universities, relying on the capacities of the two universities.



Kharazmi University has also inked an MOU with Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in Cyprus. The MOU was signed by the chancellor of Kharazmi University, Abdollahi, and the rector of EMU, Hasan Kilic.

The MOU is centered on enhancing research and scientific collaborations, and conducting joint projects.

The Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, and the Faculty of Tourism, EMU, agreed to hold dual degree educational courses in Tourism for post-graduate students.

Iran discusses developing environmental ties with UN, Pakistan, Maldives



The head of the Department of Environment (DOE) in separate meetings with the United Nations, Maldivian, and Pakistani officials explored avenues to expand collaborations in the environment sector.

The meetings were convened on the sidelines of the ninth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED9), held from July 1-3 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Trade & Economy

How Martyred Leader shaped Iran's people-centric, defense-oriented economic model



In the view of the martyred leader, independence was a prerequisite for Iran's progress. From his perspective, if a country does not have independence, it cannot achieve economic progress. Of course, there have been misunderstandings about the concept of independence in his view. Some have imagined that independence means economic isolation—that is, building a wall around the country's borders and creating an economy within those borders that has little connection with other economies of the world.



But the reality is that when we refer to the statements of the martyred leader, we see that he emphasized that independence does not mean isolation. Independence means that a country's economy becomes so large that other countries of the world cannot overlook it in major global transactions and great economic relations, and they are forced to include that economy in the game of major economies.



From this perspective, economic independence is not achieved except by strengthening national production and enlarging the economic pie. In the Second Step Declaration, we also see him emphasizing mass production. Mass and high-quality production is one of the desirable components in his view.

Therefore, national production and enlarging the economic pie are tools for the economy to reach independence—independence in the sense that the country's economy is so large that it cannot be denied or sidelined by great powers in major global equations, and it becomes a pillar in shaping the future economic order. In this sense, independence is a prerequisite for Iran's progress.



If a country does not have such independence, it essentially cannot think about economic progress and become a developed country.

New chapter opens in expanding Iran-Italy water, soil cooperation

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Water and Soil Affairs announced the development of new technical cooperation in the water and soil sector aimed at protecting fundamental resources and utilizing modern global technologies in agriculture between Iran and Italy.



Safdar Niazi Shahraki stated at a joint webinar meeting between the Department of Water and Soil of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian Agricultural Association: This meeting is in line with the implementation of macro-policies for ensuring food security and sustainable production, protecting fundamental resources, safeguarding water and soil, and achieving the goals of updating and using modern global technologies in this sector.

New opportunities identified for Iran-Tajikistan agricultural cooperation



The Commercial Attaché of Iran in Tajikistan, while introducing new cooperation opportunities in the agricultural sector, reported that the

agricultural market of Tajikistan is moving towards technology transfer, joint production, and investment.

Mohammad Ali Amirfakhrian, referring to a specialized meeting with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan, said: The capacities for cooperation between the two countries in the areas of seedling production, animal breeding, veterinary medicines, fisheries, processing industries, modern irrigation, mechanization, and investment in the value chain of agricultural products were reviewed, and the continuation of expert consultations was emphasized.

Inventory of essential goods exceeds 4 million tons



The Deputy Minister of Agriculture stated that despite disruptions caused by the war, over 4 million tons of essential goods are available in the country.

Mohamadreza Talaei, Deputy Minister for Commercial Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, told Tasnim News Agency regarding the status of essential goods supply: "At the start of the 12-day war, there were about 6 million tons of essential goods in the country, including ports, warehouses, and ships – a volume we did not even have under normal circumstances."

Over 1,800 supportive housing projects being prepared within city limits, state-owned towns



The CEO of the National Land and Housing Organization announced that the organization is in the process of preparing 1,838 supportive housing projects within city limits and state-owned towns, and stated that 19 mosques, 178 schools, and 35 police stations have been built in supportive housing sites by the organization.

Ali Nabian detailed the preparation projects currently under

implementation or design within city limits and state-owned towns, saying: "A total of 1,838 preparation projects are either being implemented or designed by the National Land and Housing Organization within city limits and state-owned towns."

Safe import route for animal feed from Kazakhstan to Iran reopens



The head of the Iran Feed, Poultry, and Aquatic Industries Association said that the strategic agreement between Iran and Kazakhstan to establish a logistics terminal at Shahid Rajaee Port will enable the direct and lower-cost supply of livestock feed inputs by eliminating expensive intermediaries. He added that the agreement will play a key role in reducing the production costs of protein products and ensuring Iran's food security in the coming years.

The signing of a \$25 million agreement between Iran and Kazakhstan to build a logistics terminal on a 15-hectare site at Shahid Rajaee Port marks a

milestone in the two countries' economic relations and the expansion of their transit cooperation. According to experts, the agreement goes beyond port collaboration, laying the foundation for increasing bilateral trade from \$500 million to \$3 billion while improving strategic industries' access—particularly the animal feed, poultry, and aquaculture sectors—to essential raw materials.

Development of alternative Persian Gulf routes continues



The Director General of Logistics and Support at the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that bottlenecks along alternative transportation routes are being resolved, and that further development of these corridors requires cooperation among domestic agencies as well as agreements with neighboring countries. Emami explained that road and rail transport companies must be able to compete with maritime shipping companies.

Wheat production to reach 13.5 million tons this year



It is projected that the country's wheat production will reach approximately 13.5 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1405 (starting March 2026).

Majid Anjafi stated that the Deputy for Crop Production is responsible for 75 percent of the country's total agricultural output. In its latest report on the status of crop cultivation, it emphasizes the sector's success in overcoming climate challenges and energy imbalances.

Over 140m tons of goods transported via roads in Q1



The Director General of the Freight Transport Office of the Road Maintenance and Transport Organization reported the issuance of 9 million waybills and the transport of 140.4 million tons of various goods through the public transport fleet on the country's road network during the first three months of the current year.

Mehrdad Hamdollahi stated that during the aforementioned period, 49.1 million tons of construction and mineral goods, and 28.1 million tons of agricultural, livestock, and food products were transported across the roads.

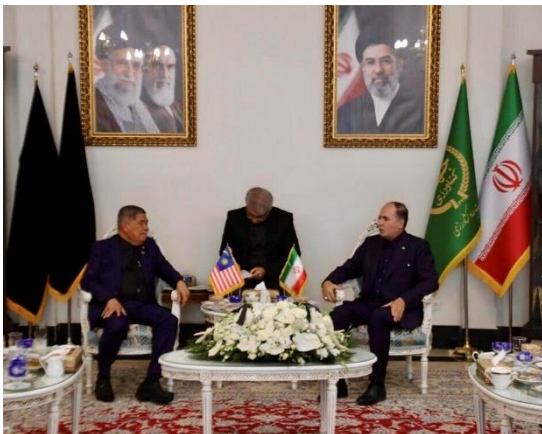
Iran-Qatar trade resumed with reopening of Al Ruwais port to Iranian goods



Iran's Commercial Attaché in Doha announced the reopening of Qatar's Al Ruwais port to Iranian goods and the resumption of maritime trade between the two countries.

Abbas Abdolkhani, referring to the resumption of Iran-Qatar trade, stated: After approximately five months of halt in the maritime transport route for goods between Dayyer Port in Iran and Al Ruwais Port in Qatar, following continuous follow-ups by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Doha and coordination with relevant Qatari officials, Al Ruwais Port has once again begun accepting Iranian goods.

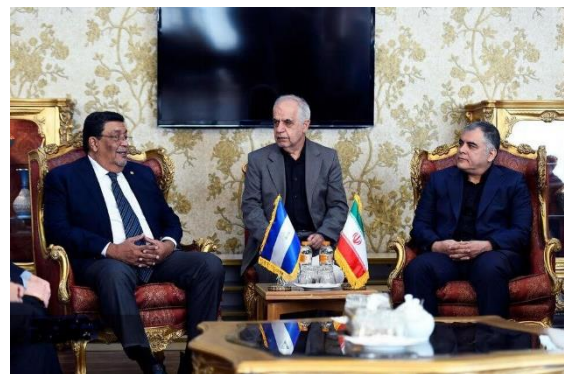
Formulating a new roadmap for food security of Iran, Malaysia necessary: Iranian minister



Iran's Minister of Agriculture emphasized the development of bilateral agricultural cooperation, trade, agricultural research, and the formulation of a new roadmap for the food security of Iran and Malaysia, stating that drafting a new roadmap for the food security of the two countries is essential.

The Minister of Agriculture emphasized the necessity of expanding relations between the two countries in the agricultural sector and its sub-sectors, and facilitating trade and agricultural exchanges.

Iran, Nicaragua emphasize development of cooperation in oil, energy sector



In a meeting between the Oil Minister of Iran and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, the development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the oil and energy sector was emphasized.

Mohsen Paknejad met and held talks on Saturday with Valdrack Ludwing Jaentschke Whitaker, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, who has come to Tehran representing his country's government to participate in the ceremony paying tribute to the late martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution.



Persian Cuisine



Albaloo Polo (Persian Rice with Sour Cherries), Iran's traditional summer dish

Albaloo Polo is a pretty delicious Persian dish that is actually a tasteful combination of Persian rice, sour cherries, and meatballs or chicken. During the end of spring and the beginning of summer, when you have access to fresh sour cherry, it is highly recommended not to miss trying fresh Albalo Polo which you will definitely fall in love with.

Albaloo Polo is a fragrant Persian saffron rice dish, topped with gently caramelized sour cherries and golden brown meatballs. You can even add more color and texture to the Albalo Polo with slivered pistachios and almonds.

Albaloo polo is also cooked and integrated into dishes in a variety of ways. One of the most famous ways to cook Albalo polo is by serving the rice mixture with meatballs.

Vegetarians can also enjoy this rice dish by simply not adding any meatballs.

To make this delicious Persian dish, you first have to deseed the sour cherries, bloom the saffron, and marinate the meat.

The ingredients you need to cook a perfect Albaloo Polo are as follows,



For the sour cherries:

- 3 cups of fresh sour cherry
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 4 tbsps. of butter
- 1 tbsp. silvered pistachio
- 1 tbsp. slivered almond



For meatballs:

- 1/2 lb. ground meat

1 onion

1 tsp salt

4 tbsp. olive oil

½ tsp for each black pepper, turmeric, cardamom, and cinnamon



For rice:

- 3 cups of rice
- 1 tsp of salt
- 8 cups of water
- 2 tbsp yogurt
- 1 pinch saffron
- 1 egg yolk



Firstly, have all the sour cherries pitted, put the cherries in a pot, and

add sugar. Stir the combination gently and simmer it for a minimum of 15 minutes. After being boiled for some time, put the mixture in a colander and let the juice drain. Have the juice on the pot again and let it vaporize for an extra ten minutes so that it'll turn into syrup.



Have two tablespoons of butter in a pot in the oven and add your spices as well. Add the cherries and stir it for a couple of minutes. Now turn off the oven, and your sour cherries are ready.



Secondly, grate the onion and mix it with all the other ingredients. Mix all

the ingredients with your hand for about 5 minutes so that it turns into a smooth mixture. Take a small amount of the mixture and roll it between your palms so that it turns into a very small meatball.



Make all the mixture into small meatballs the same size as a hazelnut. Heat a frying pan with oil and saute the meatballs so that the meats become cooked and crispy in your Albalo Polo.



Thirdly, have the rice soaked in water for one hour and then wash it several times so that the water becomes clear. Put the rice in a pot and add the water and let it boil.

After starting to boil add the salt and oil to the pot. Grind the saffron and add two tablespoons of hot water to dissolve the saffron in it. Let the mixture boil so that the rice at the ends will be soft and a little bit hard in the center.



Depending on the type of rice you are using and the time you had the raw rice soaking in water, it takes about 4-8 minutes to be cooked. Now, it's time to drain the rice in a colander and rinse it with cold water.



Mix the dissolved saffron, egg yolk, and yogurt with each other and add 4

tablespoons of cooked rice to this mixture. Put a clean pot on the oven and add two tablespoons of butter to melt in the pot. Add some salt to the butter. Put the mixture of saffron, yogurt, egg yolk, and rice as the first layer on the pot. Put some cherries and meatballs on the first layer.



Now it's time for the second layer and put some of the rice on the first layer. Then add meatballs and cherries. Place the rice, cherries, and meatballs layer by layer. Make sure to have the rice as the top layer. Besides, make some holes with the back of a spoon. It'll help it be cooked better. Mix some saffron, two tablespoons of butter, and the syrup with each other and pour it on rice. Put the lid, and let your dish be cooked for about 30-45 minutes at a low temperature. After it is done, sprinkle the pistachios and almonds on the rice. There you go, enjoy the Albalo Polo.



Iran Sports



2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships: Iran's women's beat Kenya



Iran's women battled back from first set loss to win 3-1 (21-25, 25-8, 25-7, 25-16) against Kenya at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships.

Team Melli had defeated Rwanda in straight sets (25-11, 25-11, 25-11) in their opening match.

Iran's women's national sitting volleyball team make their third consecutive appearance at the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Hangzhou, having also qualified for the 2018 edition in Rotterdam and the 2022 championships in Sarajevo.

Their place at the 2026 tournament extends the team's presence at the sport's highest level after securing

qualification through the 2025 Para Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships.

Iran defeat Bosnia and Herzegovina at 2026 Sitting Volleyball Worlds



Iran's men sitting volleyball team defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1 (24-26, 25-21 25-22, 25-21) at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships.

The World Championships, hosted at the World ParaVolley Development Centre, feature 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams. The competition opens with a three-day pool stage from 10 to 12 July, with teams divided into four pools of four in each tournament. All teams will then progress to the Round of 16 on 13 July.

The tournament is the first opportunity for teams to secure qualification for the LA28 Paralympic Games, with the men's and women's champions earning direct qualification places.

Iran beat Australia at 2026 AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship



Iran defeated Australia 3-1 (25-22, 22-25, 25-21, 25-19) at the 2026 AC Girls' Volleyball Championship.

The 2026 AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship is the 16th edition of the biennial tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in collaboration with the Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA). The competition is being held in Nakhon Ratchasima from July 1 to 7.

The tournament also serves as the Asian qualification event for the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship, with the top four teams securing places at the

global tournament as the AVC's representatives

Iran sweep Philippines at 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship



Iran defeated the Philippines in straight sets (25-17, 25-20, 25-13) in their opening match at the 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship.

The 2026 AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship is the 16th edition of the Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with China Volleyball Association (CVA).

The tournament is scheduled to take place at Haikou Wuyuanhe Gymnasium in Haikou, China from 12 to 18 July.

This tournament will serve as the qualification tournament for the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship. The top four teams of the tournament will advance to the

2027 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship as the AVC representatives.



China are the defending champions after beating Iran 3–2 at the final in Manama.

Iran are the most decorated team in the competition, having won seven times, followed by Japan with three titles.

Iran to face Kuwait at 2026 Asian Junior Handball Championship opener

Iran will open the 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship with a match against Kuwait.

Iran are drawn in Group B along with Japan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, India, and the UAE.

Group A consists of China, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.

The 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship will be staged in Chuzhou of China from 15 to 26 July 2026.

The event serves as qualification event for the 2027 IHF Men's Junior World Championship.

Republic of Korea hold the distinction of being the most decorated team overall, having won a total of 13 medals, comprising three gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals. The host nation China, claimed their lone championship title during the 2nd edition in 1990, which was held in Tehran, Iran.



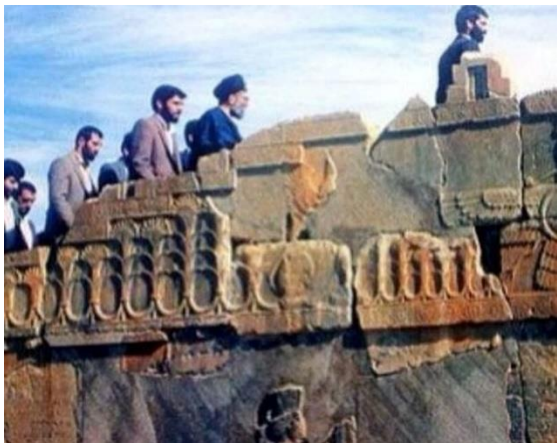
The Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is the official competition organized by Asian Handball Federation for junior men's national handball teams of Asia, and takes place every two years.

Tourism & Nature

Persepolis through the eyes of Iran's martyred leader



Ayatollah Khamenei's visit to Persepolis has been revisited as one of the clearest examples of his views on the relationship between Iran's history, national identity, and cultural heritage.



The visit took place during an official trip to Fars province in December 1988, when Ayatollah Khamenei was serving as Iran's president. Earlier that day, he addressed a large

gathering in Marvdasht, emphasizing national unity, vigilance against foreign domination, and the country's post-war.

Later, accompanied by provincial officials, he toured Persepolis, the monumental ceremonial capital of the ancient Achaemenid Empire. At the conclusion of the visit, he signed the site's guestbook, leaving behind a message that has since become one of the most significant statements outlining his approach to Iran's historical and cultural heritage.



In the note, he identified what he called two bright aspects of Persepolis. The first was the extraordinary creativity, artistic talent, and craftsmanship of the Iranian people, whose achievements have continued to inspire admiration after more than two millennia. The second was the enduring historical lesson embedded in the site: that governments founded on domination

and tyranny ultimately disappear, while the cultural and civilizational achievements of nations survive.

Referring to the divine laws governing history, he wrote that oppressive powers fade away, but the legacy of civilizations remains as a source of knowledge, reflection, and inspiration.



Ayatollah Khamenei concluded by emphasizing the importance of protecting historical monuments, describing them as a valuable treasure and reserve in which one can observe history, humanity, and the divine traditions governing societies, and stressing that they must be preserved for future generations.

His remarks have long been viewed as a concise articulation of his cultural vision—one that regarded Iran's historical monuments not merely as archaeological remains, but as enduring symbols of the nation's identity, civilizational continuity, and collective memory.

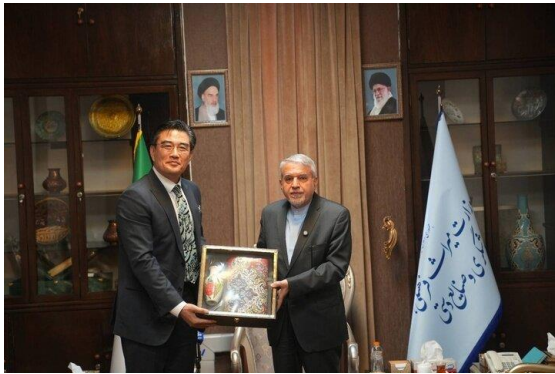
Persepolis, also known as Parseh or Takht-e Jamshid (“Throne of

Jamshid”), is situated on the fertile plain of Marvdasht in Fars province. Founded by Darius the Great around 518 BCE, it served as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire and hosted Nowruz celebrations as well as delegations from across the empire.



Renowned for its monumental palaces, audience halls, towering columns, and intricate stone reliefs, Persepolis ranks among the world's greatest archaeological treasures. It was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979 in recognition of its Outstanding Universal Value. Although the city was sacked by Alexander the Great in 330 BCE, its majestic ruins continue to attract scholars and visitors from around the globe, standing as a lasting testament to the artistic, architectural, and cultural achievements of ancient Persia.

Tehran, Seoul discuss broader cooperation in culture and tourism



Tehran and Seoul discussed expanding cooperation in culture, tourism, handicrafts and creative industries during talks between Iran's minister of cultural heritage and the South Korean ambassador.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri met Kim Junpyo and said Iran was pursuing programs to develop cultural and creative industries in coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Alamut cited as a historic evidence of political, cultural and engineering ingenuity in UNESCO



Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, manager of the UNESCO nomination

dossier for the Cultural Landscape of Alamout, said the site represents evidence of political, cultural and engineering ingenuity during a specific period of Iran's history, as the country seeks inscription of the property on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Talebian said a technical evaluation by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) had confirmed one of the criteria for the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial nomination, which consists of seven strongholds and related fortifications linked to the Nizari Ismaili state of the 11th to 13th centuries.

Historical altar discovered at Pasargadae World Heritage site



A historical altar has been discovered during restoration and conservation work at a caravanserai within the UNESCO-listed Pasargadae archaeological site in southern Iran.

Seyyed Abdolmajid Abedi, the head of the Pasargadae World Heritage site, said the altar was identified during protective and restoration operations at the caravanserai and was immediately documented by specialists.

He said the find could provide new information about the site's religious history, historical developments and architectural styles.

Citizen donates three Iron Age artifacts to Iran's Ilam cultural heritage authority



A resident of Chavar county in western Iran has donated three historical artifacts from the Iron Age to the provincial cultural heritage authority in Ilam.

Farzad Sharifi, director-general of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts in Ilam province, said the donated objects included a ceramic teapot, a ceramic bowl and a ceramic goblet. Expert examinations

identified the items as belonging to the Iron Age, he said.

Ardabil plans permanent venue for nomad migration festival



A permanent venue for the Shahsavan nomad migration festival will be established in Bileh Savar county in Iran's northwestern Ardabil province under a project to create a nomadic Ecocamp.

Jalil Jabbari, director-general of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts for Ardabil province, announced the plan during a meeting to review issues and development needs in Bileh Savar county.

Jabbari said the Ecocamp would be developed in cooperation with relevant government agencies and would serve as the permanent site for the Shahsavan nomad migration festival.

Iranology research institute to be established in Fars province

The Fars provincial department of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts and Shiraz University of Art signed a cooperation agreement to establish a self-funded Iranology research institute in the southern province of Fars, officials said.



The agreement was signed during a ceremony attended by university officials, faculty members, researchers and cultural heritage authorities, according to statements released by the provincial cultural heritage department.

Yazd governor-general links protection of historic fabric to sustainable tourism

Yazd Governor-General Mohammadreza Babaei said that preserving the historic fabric of the UNESCO-listed city of Yazd would be pursued alongside “identity-based economic development” and sustainable tourism initiatives.

In a message marking the anniversary of Yazd's inscription on the UNESCO

World Heritage list, Babaei said the provincial administration was committed to protecting the historic district while using tourism and local cultural assets to support economic activity.



The anniversary is observed on the 18th day of the Iranian month of Tir, which commemorates the inclusion of Yazd's historic core on the World Heritage List.

Restoration begins at UNESCO-listed Chehel Sotoun after blast damage

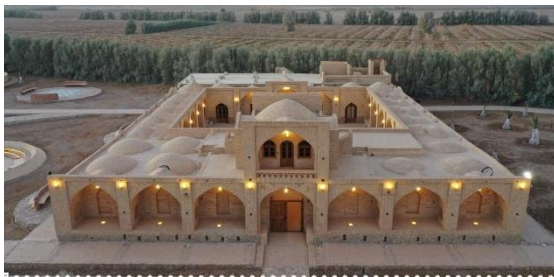


Restoration work has begun on damaged sections of the UNESCO-listed Chehel Sotoun World Heritage site in Isfahan following blast damage sustained during the recent

war with the US-Israeli regime, the site's director said.

Mostafa Hadipour, director of the Chehel Sotoun World Heritage Base, said the damage was caused by the blast wave from a US-Israeli attack on a building, which is located within the protected buffer zone of the historic complex.

Centuries-old caravanserai to become astrotourism hub in central Iran



The centuries-old Moshajari Caravanserai in eastern Isfahan province will be developed into an astrotourism hub, a provincial tourism official said, as authorities seek to expand nature- and science-based tourism in the region.

Davoud Abyan, deputy director for tourism at the Isfahan's provincial directorate of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, announced the plan during a summer stargazing event held at the caravanserai, saying the site would serve as a base for astronomy tourism in eastern Isfahan.

He said eastern Isfahan was among Iran's most suitable regions for astronomy tourism because of its low levels of light pollution, open night skies, favorable climate and quiet desert environment.

Sanandaj Church: A testament to faith, history, and Kurdish heritage



Hidden within one of the oldest quarters of Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kordestan province, Sanandaj Church stands as a remarkable symbol of religious coexistence, cultural diversity, and architectural beauty.

As the only surviving historical church in the province, it offers visitors a unique opportunity to discover an often-overlooked chapter of western Iran's history while exploring one of the country's most important centers of Kurdish culture.

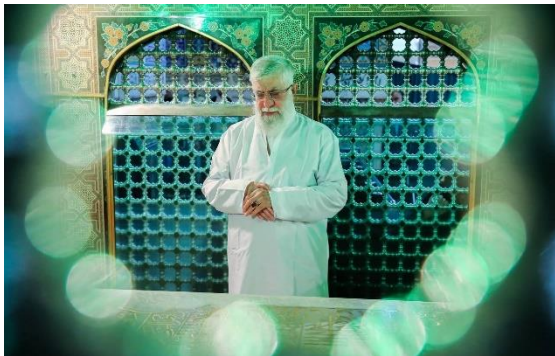
The Long Road to Light



Society & Culture



From Tehran's dark gates, where the
mourners assemble, the black tide
moves east, hear the iron wheels
tremble.



Each turn of the axle, a sob on the
track,
Each city left grieving, not calling
him back
But sending him forward, where
mercy is poured,
To the feet of the King, to the shrine
of the Lord.



The dust of Qom rises, the cypresses
sway,

Kashan's old gardens have wept into
gray.

Neishabour whispers his name on the
wind,

As the caravan halts and the faithful
begin

To beat their chests, to tear at their
clothes,

For the kind-hearted man who in
service arose.



O servant of Reza, your footsteps are
worn

On the stones of the path that the
blessed have borne.

You swept every threshold, you
healed every tear,

Now the end of your journey is
finally here.

Mashhad unveils her gold dome to
the sky

The gates swing open, the angels
draw nigh.

Imam, stretch Your hand through that
radiant space

Embrace him, O Reza, with infinite
grace.



Let Tehran's farewell be lost in Your
light

The kind-hearted man rests in Your
arms tonight.

Artists from Iran, Lebanon, Yemen create mural in Tehran



Coinciding with the farewell and funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the international event “Abna al-Sayyid” (children of the Sayyid) was held in Tehran, organized by the Art Bureau.

During the two-day event, held on Saturday and Sunday at the Vali-e Asr junction, artists from Iran, Lebanon, Yemen created a mural titled “And Allah will surely support those who support Him,” to depict their grief and devotion to the Martyr Leader and the cultural and artistic solidarity of the Resistance Front.

“Eyes of Minab” art installation greets foreign dignitaries at Leader’s farewell ceremony



A memorial dedicated to the martyred children of Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school in Minab was placed at the entrance of the hall where foreign officials are paying their respects to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Seyyed Ali Khamenei, at the Tehran’s Mosalla.

Positioned beside the portrait of the martyred Leader and his 14-months-old grandchild, the installation was infused the atmosphere of the ceremony with a sense of mourning and reflection.

New painting by Abdolhamid Ghadirian bids farewell to Martyr Leader



The latest artwork by Iranian painter Abdolhamid Ghadirian, titled “In the Path of Light,” has been unveiled.

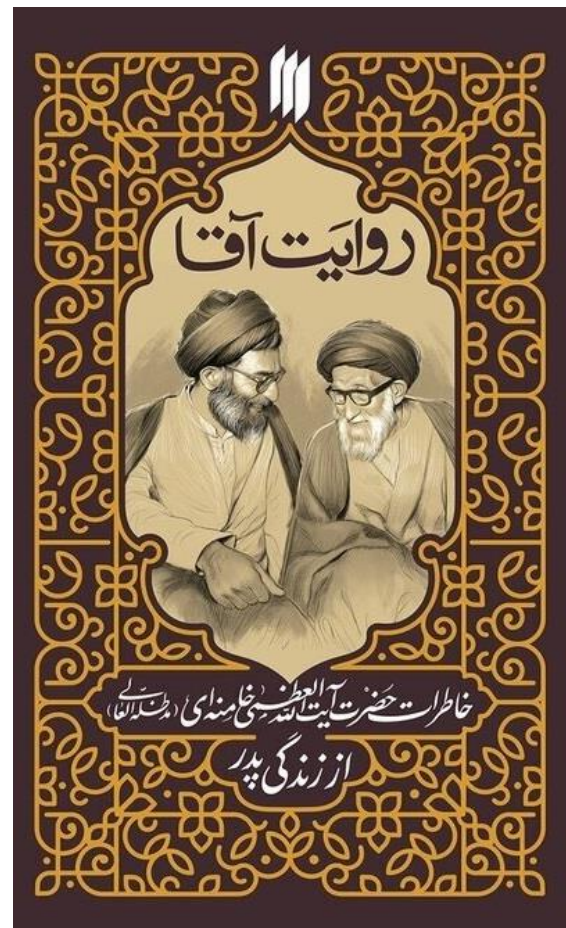
Using oil on canvas, with dimensions of 190 by 150 cm, the painting narrates the magnificent yet heartbreaking moments of millions of people from all walks of life bidding farewell to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Russian translation of “Caring Father” about Martyr Leader unveiled in Kazan



The Russian translation of the book “Caring Father,” which recounts the life and conduct of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was unveiled in a ceremony in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, Russia.

The ceremony was held simultaneously with the funeral and burial rites of the Martyr Leader in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province.



The event was attended by the Iranian Consul General, representatives of the publisher, various consuls general and resident diplomats, the Deputy Director of the

National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan, academics, translators, Iranologists, cultural activists, students, and enthusiasts of Iranian culture and civilization.

Seven singers release “Farewell” album for Martyr Leader



Simultaneously with the farewell and funeral ceremonies of the martyred leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the music album “Farewell” will be released.

The album, featuring seven singers, has been produced with the aim of honoring the Martyr Leader’s memory and sacrifices.

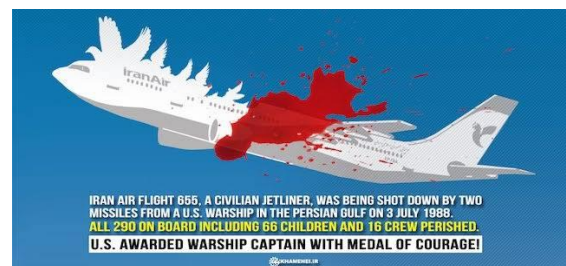
In this collection, Alireza Eftekhari, Mohammad Motamedi, Parvaz Homa, Mostafa Ragheb, Reza

Sanatgar, Reza Shiri, and Hossein Haghighi have performed pieces in tribute to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Foundation for Sacred Defense works preservation condemns Western silence on Flight 655 anniversary



The Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values has issued a statement commemorating the anniversary of the brutal US naval attack on Iran Air Flight 655, condemning the enduring silence of Western societies regarding the atrocity.



In its statement, the Foundation described the events of July 3 as a reminder of one of the most painful and inhumane crimes of contemporary history.

The statement highlighted that 290 innocent lives were martyred in an act of extreme cruelty and a blatant violation of all international legal norms.

Swedish Iranologist Bo Utas elected as honorary member of Academy of Persian Language and Literature

The Academy of Persian Language and Literature in Iran has elected Bo Utas, a prominent Swedish Iranologist and Professor Emeritus of Iranian Languages at Uppsala University in Sweden, as an honorary member in recognition of his scholarly contributions.



Hojjatollah Faghani, the Ambassador of Iran to Sweden, visited Bo Utas's home to convey the appreciation of the Iranian scientific and literary community for his services to the Persian language and literature, and officially presented him with the certificate of honorary membership

in the Academy of Persian Language and Literature.



During the meeting, which was also attended by Mojtaba Norouzi, the Cultural Attaché of Iran in Sweden, Bo Utas described his honorary membership in the Academy and the Dr. Mahmoud Afshar Literary-Historical Award as a sign of Iranian gratitude toward his efforts and those of all who cherish Iranian culture.

Referring to the positive relations between Iran and Sweden, he stated, "We must not allow certain transient issues to affect the brilliant history of cultural and scientific relations between the two countries."

ECO Cultural Institute launches international mobile photography festival

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) has officially announced a call for entries for the first-ever ECO International Mobile Photography Festival, titled "Our Heritage."

Centered on the theme “Passing on Heritage,” the festival seeks to capture the living essence of cultural transmission.



Citizens of ECO Member States are invited to submit mobile photographs that document the passing of traditional knowledge, ancestral skills, customs, and cultural practices from one generation to the next.

Five Iranian films win awards at Russian festival

Five films from Iran were among the award winners of the 21st In the Family Circle Film Festival, which was held in the Yaroslavl Region, Russia.



In the Main Feature Film Competition of the festival that concluded last week, the Grand Prix of the main feature film competition went to the Iranian film “Whisper My Name,” directed by Rasoul Sadrameli, and the joint production of Iran and Tajikistan, “Fish on the Hook,” directed by Muhiddin Muzaffar, won two awards, including the Best Actor Award for Abdullah Abdulrahimzoda and the Best Sound Design Award.

Iranian films, series receive awards at Spain’s FICIMAD 2026



Several Iranian films and series were among the winners of this year's edition of FICIMAD (Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Madrid), an international film festival held annually in Madrid.

The series "Aban" directed by Reza Dadooi received two awards at the festival, which was held late June in the Spanish capital.



Renowned Iranian pop singer Mohsen Chavoshi received the FICIMAD Altisidora's Serenade Award for Best Original Song for "The Wall Clock and the Gypsy," the standout musical piece from the series "Aban". In this haunting composition, Chavoshi delivers a w

Iran, Indonesia call for new narrative of Asian history

The Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Indonesia, has

called for a new global narrative of Asia to challenge the monopoly of major powers over world history.



Delivering his address at the 2026 Asian-African Conference Festival, hosted by the Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Yahya Jahangiri emphasized that nations in Asia and Africa must move beyond the legacy of territorial colonization to overcome the "colonization of their narratives."

He posited that while the physical colonization of lands in Asia and Africa was a tragedy of the past, a more insidious form of domination persists today: the monopoly over how history is told.

He clarified that multi-narrativity does not imply a denial of truth, but rather a dismantling of the monopoly over it, asserting that every civilization must be granted the dignity to narrate its own journey through its own language and perspective.

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei

The new Leader of the Islamic Revolution

In Pictures





“Our martyred Leader was an insightful jurist; a tireless mujahid as firm and steadfast as a mountain; a practicing, pious scholar; and a man who would constantly remember God. He truly believed in divine promises from the depths of his soul.”

Imam Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei