



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



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PHOTO: Ali Hamed Haghdoust

Aladaghlars rainbow mountains in East Azarbaijan Province, northwest Iran

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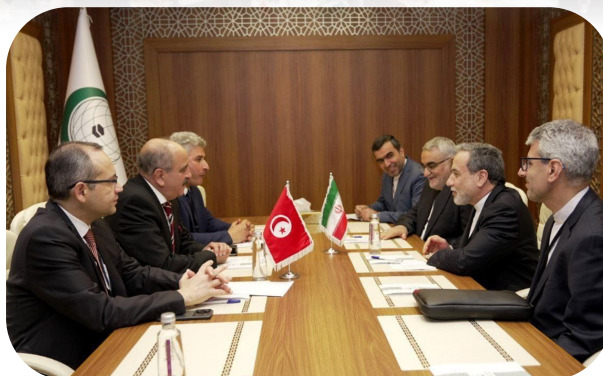


MFA NEWSLETTER

The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi traveled to Jeddah Saudi Arabia to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and met with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan on the sidelines of the event.



The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran also met with the Foreign Minister of Tunisia Mohamed Ali Nafti.



The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran conferred with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the event.



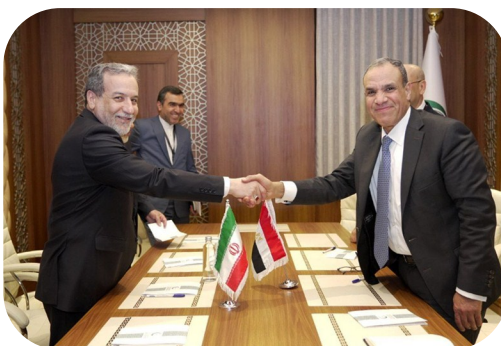


MFA NEWSLETTER

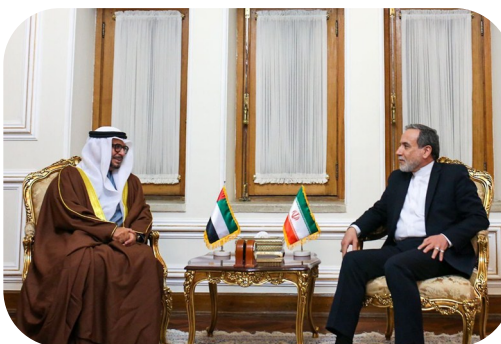
Dr. Araghchi met with the Sultanate of Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).



The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty on the sidelines of the meeting.



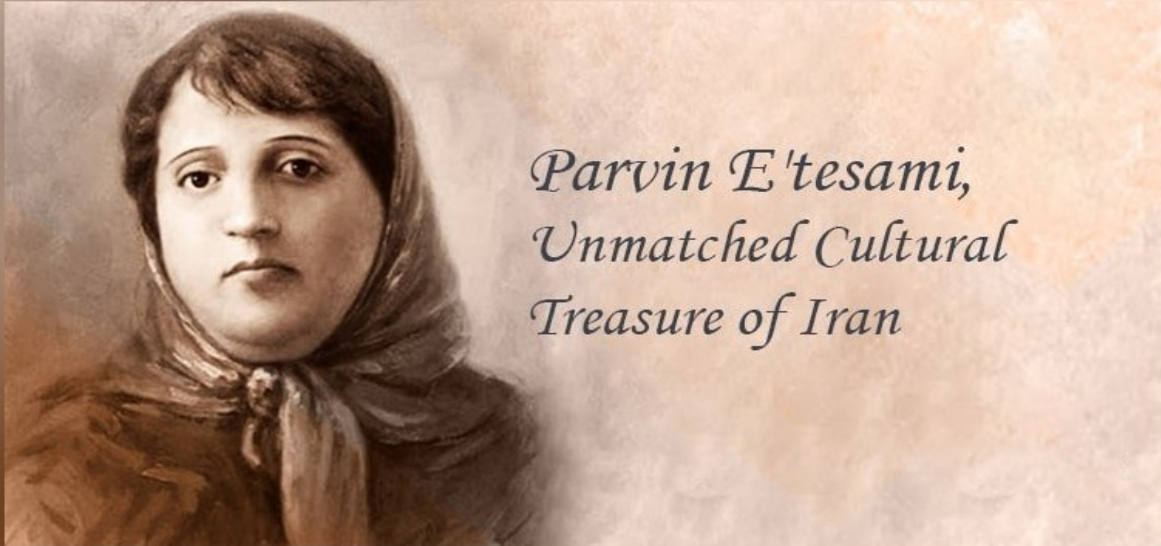
Mr. Anwar Gargash the Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the United Arab Emirates came to Tehran on Wednesday evening and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. Mr. Gargash also delivered a letter by the President of the United States.





IRANIAN LUMINARIES

PARVIN ETESAMI, UNMATCHED CULTURAL TREASURE OF IRAN



March 15th, in the Iranian calendar is marked as Parvin Etesami Day to commemorate the most celebrated female Iranian poetess. In her short life, she managed to get a remarkable reputation among the Iranians. It was appreciated in all cultural circles, not so much for its brilliant and revolutionary works, but above all for its refined ways and its free spirit.

Parvin Etesami (March 16, 1907 – April 5, 1941) was a 20th-century Persian poetess of Iran.

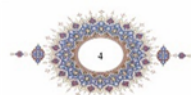
E'tesami began writing poetry from a young age. Her first published works appeared in the Iranian magazine Baharin in the early 1920s when she was just a teenager. Throughout her life, Etesami's work was a union of traditional and modern poetry; While her poetic style eschewed the new modernist styles and adhered closely to the forms and structures of classical Persian poetry.

In her short life, she managed to achieve great

fame amongst her fellow Iranians. Parvin's poetry follows the classical Persian tradition, both in form and content. She remained unaffected by or perhaps ignored the modernistic trends in Persian poetry. In the arrangement of her poetry book, there are approximately 42 untitled Qasidas and Qetas. There are also some Ghazals in her Diwan.

Parvin wrote about men and women with different social backgrounds, a wide-ranging array of animals, birds, flowers, trees, cosmic and natural elements, objects of daily life, abstract concepts, all personified and symbolizing her wealth of ideas.

Through these figures, she holds up a mirror to others showing them the abuses of society and their failure in moral commitment. Likewise, in these debates, she eloquently expresses her basic thoughts about life and death, social justice, ethics, education, and the supreme importance of knowledge.





SOCIETY AND CULTURE

ITB 2025 TOURISM EVENT OPENS IN BERLIN FEATURING KEY IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVES



The ITB 2025 International Tourism Exhibition, recognized as the most important event in the global tourism industry, opened in Berlin, Germany, with the participation of representatives and several activists from the Iranian tourism industry.

Iran's participation in ITB Berlin 2025 is not merely a symbolic display; known as one of the largest gatherings of tourism industry professionals, ITB is a strategic opportunity to engage with international tourism professionals. Iran's participation will showcase its capabilities to global markets and attract foreign tourists.

Iran has actively participated in international tourism exhibitions, including the annual Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE). These events are designed to promote the country's tourism by showcasing its diverse geographical, historical, cultural, natural, and adventure attractions. Additionally, these exhibitions enable networking and partnership opportunities through seminars and workshops, with the goal of attracting international tourists and highlighting Iran's rich cultural heritage.

IRAN, KYRGYZSTAN HIGHLIGHT TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



During his visit to Bishkek, Ali Najafi, Iran's Deputy First Vice President for International Affairs and Regional Cooperation, met with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Jeenbek Kulubaev, to discuss tourism.

Tourism is a vital source of income for countries today, and Iran has been actively working to attract foreign tourists to boost its non-oil income.

Najafi noted Iran's observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union and the finalization of its free trade agreement with the union, highlighting opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation with member states like Kyrgyzstan.

The officials underscored the need for ongoing high-level consultations and visits to strengthen bilateral relations.

Najafi's itinerary included discussions with the head of Kyrgyzstan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Temir Sariev, visiting a university to talk with deans and students, and meetings with Iranian and Kyrgyz business leaders.





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IRAN'S SHARIF UNIVERSITY WINS ICPC ASIA WEST CHAMPIONSHIP 2025



In a major achievement for Iranian academia, the Ballmer Peak team from the Sharif University of Technology secured first place at the ICPC Asia West Continent Championship, a prestigious global student programming competition.

The ICPC Asia West Continent Championship, held on March 7-8, 2025, saw top teams from eight countries in West Asia, including Iran, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, competing in a challenging programming contest. This victory underscores Iran's growing influence in the field of international academic competitions.

The ICPC is a prestigious global student programming competition that challenges university teams to solve complex problems under time constraints. This year, Iran's teams, especially the Ballmer Peak team, won first place, showcasing their technical skills and highlighting Iran's important role in advancing science and technology in the global academic community.

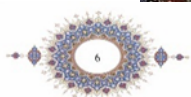
IRANIAN RESEARCHER WINS KHWARIZMI AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN HANDWOVEN CARPET PRODUCTION

A young Iranian researcher has introduced a revolutionary idea of weaving handwoven carpets without a traditional loom, aiming to reduce costs and production time while revitalizing this centuries-old art.

Iranian handwoven carpets are a significant cultural and artistic heritage. This innovation could make them more accessible to the public while preserving their authenticity, potentially revitalizing an industry facing challenges from mass-produced machine-made carpets.

Hanieh Alizadeh, a researcher in the field of carpets and a graduate of Tehran University of Art, explained that the idea stemmed from her longstanding concern about the decline of handmade carpets due to the prevalence of machine-made alternatives. Her goal was to maintain the core characteristics of handwoven carpets while making them more affordable and easier to produce.

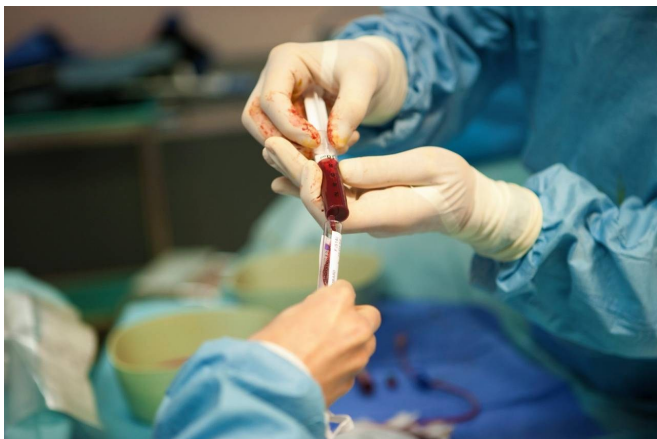
With continued refinement, this innovation could make handwoven carpets more affordable and widely available, helping sustain Iran's carpet-weaving tradition in a modernized format. Alizadeh hopes that with industry support, this method can be further developed to bridge the gap between authenticity and accessibility, ensuring that Persian carpets remain a central part of Iranian homes.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN AMONG GLOBAL LEADERS IN BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT ADVANCEMENTS



The Islamic Republic of Iran has positioned itself among the top three countries globally in bone marrow transplantation, showcasing significant advancements in medical sciences.

Iran's rapid progress in medical sciences, particularly in bone marrow transplantation, highlights the country's self-sufficiency in cutting-edge treatments and its ability to provide life-saving medical solutions at a global scale.

Mostafa Ghanei, Secretary of the Biotechnology, Health, and Medical Technologies Headquarters, stated during the unveiling ceremony of the "Destrosel" drug: "Iran is one of the leading countries in the region for bone marrow transplantation, maintaining a considerable lead over neighboring nations in transplantation statistics."

Iranian specialists have achieved breakthroughs in treating leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and immune disorders through transplantation.

A knowledge-based Iranian company has developed "Destrosel," an allogeneic cell therapy drug that significantly reduces GVHD (Graft-versus-host disease), a major post-transplant complication.

Iran has outpaced other regional nations in the number and success rate of bone marrow transplants.

IRAN, CHINA ANNOUNCE NEW TALENTED YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM

The new edition of the Iran-China Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP), announced in January, opens up 53 opportunities for young scientists from the two countries.

According to the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the two countries started the young scientists exchange program in 2017, IRNA reported.

The program, which includes scholarships and financial support by Chinese universities, as well as educational and research institutes, came to a halt following the Covid-19 pandemic. The program restarted in October 2024.

The Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP) is an international mobility scheme funded by the Chinese government aimed at cultivating future leading scientists together with other countries.

TYSP promotes cross-border exchanges of excellent young scientists, scholars, and researchers. The program also enhances cooperation among research institutes, universities, and enterprises.

It offers sponsorship for talented young scientists from other countries to work in China on a full-time basis for 6 or 12 months together with China's team.

When the program is over, participant will receive a TYSP Certificate based on their performance evaluation.

The executive agency will continue to follow up on the project management, encourage foreign experts and their host institutes to continue cooperation, and apply for bilateral intergovernmental joint research projects.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRANIAN-MADE HPV, FLU VACCINES TO BE MANUFACTURED IN INDONESIA



The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (the virus that usually causes cervical cancer in women) and the recombinant influenza vaccine are projected to be produced in Indonesia, an official with the vice-presidency for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy has said.

Biofarma, an Indonesian vaccine manufacturer, produces different vaccines at government expense. However, they have not developed these two vaccines. The vaccines will be made there, and we would get a share of the sales market, Mehr news agency quoted Mostafa Qanei as saying.

Given Indonesia's population of around 300 million, it will be a huge benefit to Iran if these two vaccines are added to Indonesia's immunization program.

The official went on to say that Iran could also transfer plasma refining technology to Indonesia, as there are two large companies in plasma refining in the country.

Providing medical services to patients with cardiovascular diseases in Jakarta takes about two to three months. "While we have the technology to provide these services in Iran, we do not prefer selling a product, but selling a service, that is, supplying the devices to hospitals in Indonesia and offering services to them at the same rate."

IRANIAN, POLISH UNIVERSITIES TO BOOST SCIENTIFIC TIES

Marcin Wilczek, the chargé d'affaires of Poland in Iran, and Elham Aminzadeh, the vice president of the University of Tehran for international affairs, have explored avenues for developing scientific interactions between the universities of the two countries.

During a meeting held on Tuesday, the two sides discussed organizing joint conferences focusing on Polish refugees residing in Iran, presenting Polish cinema, exchanging professors and students, and holding educational workshops collaboratively, IRNA reported.

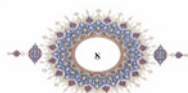


TEHRAN HOSTS IRAN-CHINA TALKS ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S SCIENTIFIC CO-OP

Female Iranian and Chinese academicians held talks at Tehran's Al-Zahra University on Wednesday, discussing ways to expand international and scientific cooperation among women.

Zahra Nazem-Bokaei, the president of Al-Zahra University, highlighted the potential of the two nations in fostering joint scientific collaborations and the scientific research capacities of women in the two countries.

For her part, LI Ying, the vice president of China Women's University, expressed optimism that genius Iranian and Chinese women would play a stronger role in promoting peace and expanding societies.



IRANIAN COOKIES: NAN-E NOKHODCHI



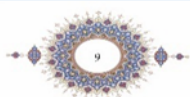
Nan-e Nokhodchi is a combination of cookies made from chickpeas originating in Qazvin, Iran. These are traditionally made from chick-pea flour and flavored with cardamom and garnished with pistachio. They come in varying shapes.

According to legend, King Jamshid discovered sugar on the Persian new year, Nowruz. Therefore, there is the custom of celebrating Nowruz with seven sweet foods, in addition to the traditional other seven foods at the Haft-sin. One of these seven sweets is Nan-e Berenji.

Nan-e Nokhodchi hold a particular significance in Iranian cuisine. They are most often served during special occasions and holidays, particularly at Nowruz (Persian New Year) or Shab-e Yalda (Yalda Night).

Ingredients:

powdered sugar, sifted; salt; vegetable oil; cardamom, ground; rosewater; roasted chickpea flour, sifted; chopped or ground pistachios





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN-EURASIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TO TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS



Iran's embassy in Moscow reported that the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will come into effect in 60 days.

According to the report, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali officially confirmed the approval of the agreement in a telephone conversation with Andrei Slepnev, the EAEU's trade minister. The formal conclusion of the legal procedures for the free trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU member countries was announced by Jalali as the agreement progresses through all signatory nations.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the upcoming implementation of the agreement, calling it a key factor in boosting trade exchanges in the region.

The Iranian embassy added that under the terms of the agreement, the free trade agreement between Iran and EAEU member states will be enforceable 60 days after all participating countries have completed their legal processes. Signed in December 2023 in St. Petersburg, the agreement will exempt 87 percent of trade goods between Iran and the EEU member countries from customs tariffs.

RAI EYES LAUNCHING TEHRAN-ANKARA TRAIN AFTER RESUMING TEHRAN-VAN ROUTE

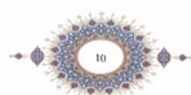
Iran's railway authority is considering launching a direct Tehran-Ankara train service if passenger demand for the recently resumed Tehran-Van route remains strong, the managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) said.

Jabarali Zakeri said the Tehran-Van train, which resumed service after a five-year suspension, is now operational following an agreement between Iran and Turkey's railway authorities.

The train consists of seven passenger wagons, a restaurant car, and a locomotive, with a total capacity of 280 passengers.

Zakari, who also serves as Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development, said all tickets for the Tehran-Van service have been sold, indicating strong demand. He expressed hope that the renewed railway link would facilitate tourism between the two countries.

Tickets for the Tehran-Van train are priced at €26 (approximately 19 million rials) after applying official exchange rate-based discounts.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, POLAND PRIVATE SECTORS DISCUSS STRENGTHENING TIES



An Iranian private sector delegation visited Warsaw to explore opportunities for expanding economic cooperation, emphasizing the need to reduce tariffs and ease visa requirements for businesspeople.

The delegation was led by Qadir Qiafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The visit aimed to promote bilateral trade, attract mutual investment, remove trade barriers, and enhance economic interactions between the two countries.

The delegation included businesspeople from various sectors, including information technology, the food industry, animal medicine, and knowledge-based and management consulting companies.

During a meeting between Qiafeh and the President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, both sides stressed the urgency of boosting bilateral trade, increasing mutual investment, and fostering sustainable private sector connections.

The Polish side expressed his country's readiness to facilitate trade with Iran and expand economic exchanges.

ECO AND IOFS FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY

ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan and Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn, met at the ECO Secretariat today to solidify a collaborative framework aimed at bolstering agricultural development and food security across the region and within the member countries of both organizations.

The meeting, marked by a spirit of mutual cooperation, culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that outlines key areas of collaboration and implementation modalities. The MoU is also expected to establish a strong foundation for future joint action plans, facilitating a dynamic partnership to address common regional challenges.

In the meeting, the ECO Secretary General reiterated the Organization's commitment to addressing food security through various initiatives, including the ECO Regional Program for Food Security, and others in the fields of veterinary, agricultural biotechnology, and seed trade cooperation.





SPORTS

IRAN WIN GOLD MEDAL AT FIVB SNOW VOLLEYBALL WORLD TOUR



Iranian men teams won a gold and bronze medal at the FIVB Snow Volleyball World Tour debut.

The first FIVB Snow Volleyball World Tour event in almost six years is over and nations that have never been on the World Tour podiums before collected all the medals.

The team of Iran 4 triumphed in the men's tournament in the winter sports resort of Erzurum Palandoken in northeastern Turkey, while Italy and Iran 2 picked up the silver and the bronze, respectively.

Home teams swept the entire women's podium, with Türkiye 1, Türkiye 2 and Türkiye 3, in that order, lining up with gold, silver and bronze, fivb.com reported.

Iran had a memorable World Tour debut. The Asian country had four teams taking to the snow courts in the men's tournament. Three of them made it to the quarterfinals and two of them earned medals.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

ALADAGHLAR RAINBOW MOUNTAINS IN IRAN

Aladaghlar Mountains are rainbow mountains situated in East Azarbaijan Province, northwest Iran. They are famous for their diverse colors presenting mesmerizing scenes for tourists visiting the mountainous area located 40 km northwest of Tabriz, the provincial capital of East Azarbaijan.

