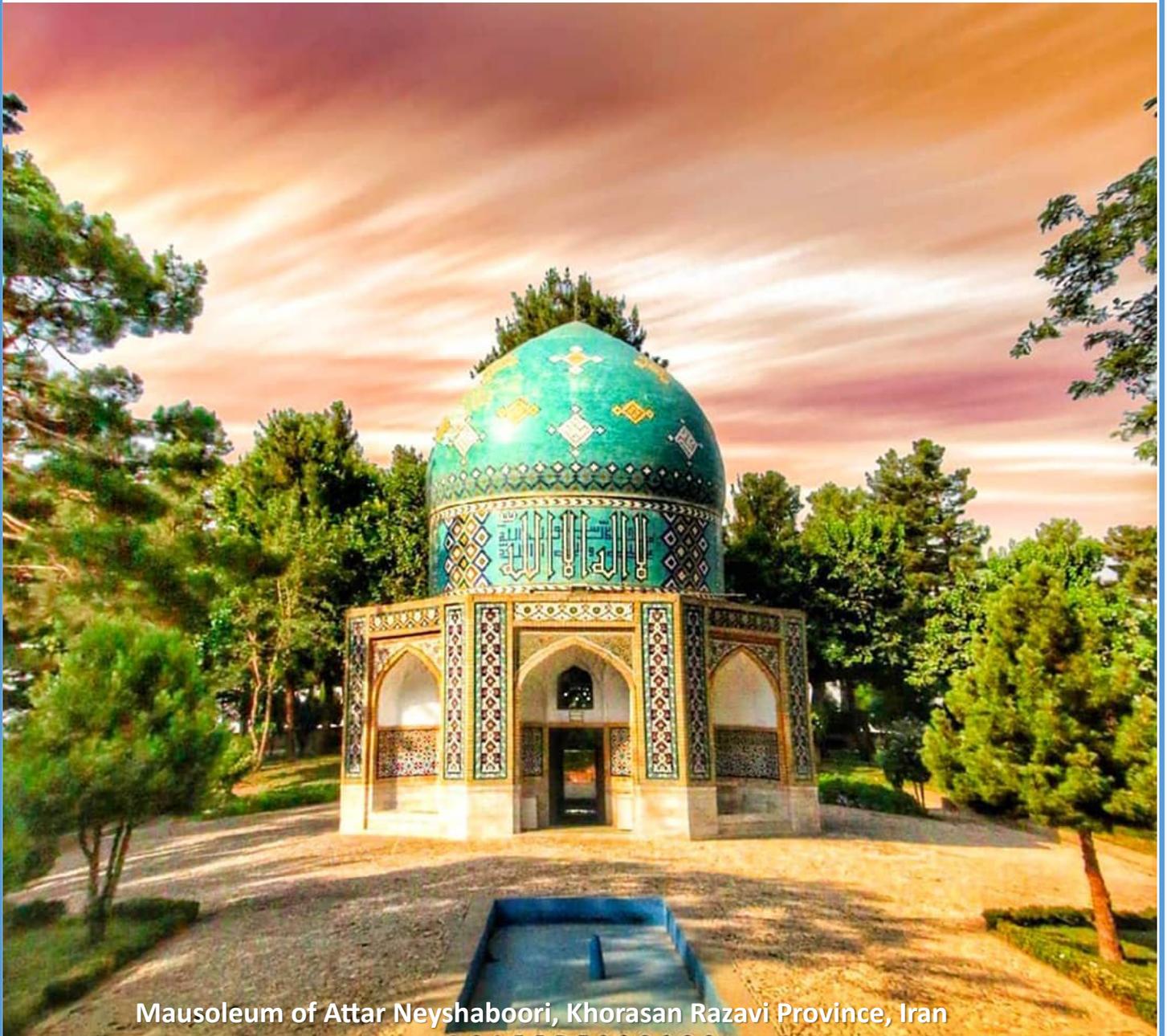




Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Mausoleum of Attar Neyshaboori, Khorasan Razavi Province, Iran

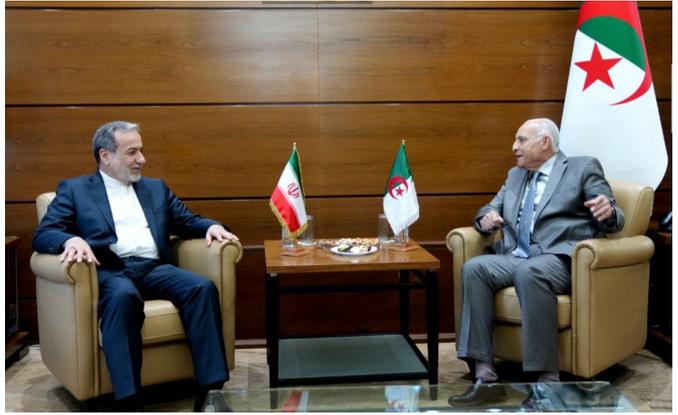
Issue #102 April 1– 15, 2025

Issue #102, April 1– 15, 2025



MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, leading an official delegation to Algeria, met with Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune. He also met with his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Attaf and visited the Great Mosque of Algiers—Algeria's largest mosque and a national symbol of independence and anti-colonial resistance.



The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who has traveled to Muscat at the head of a delegation to participate in indirect talks with the US regarding nuclear issues and the lifting of unjust and illegal sanctions met with the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi upon his arrival.





MFA NEWSLETTER

Foreign Minister Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi held talk with his counterparts from Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Myanmar, and Netherlands. They discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.





Iranian Luminaires

ATTAR OF NEYSHABOOR: POET-PHILOSOPHER'S ENDURING IMPACT



Attar of Neyshaboor was a poet, theoretician of Sufism, and hagiographer from Neyshaboor who had an immense and lasting influence on Persian poetry and Sufism. On April 14 Iranians commemorate this great Persian poet.

The literature of Iran (Persian Literature) is among the oldest in the world, spanning thousands of years, and has influenced the literary works of many other cultures.

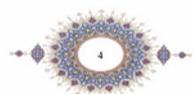
Persian art and literature or Iranian art has one of the richest art heritages in world history and has been strong in many media including architecture, painting, weaving, pottery, calligraphy, metalworking and sculpture.

Persian literature is the jewel in the crown of

Persian culture. It has profoundly influenced the literature of Ottoman Turkey, Muslim India and Central Asia and has been a source of inspiration for Goethe, Emerson, Matthew Arnold and Jorge Luis Borges among others.

Biography of Attar

Aboo Hamed bin Aboo Bakr Ebrahim, (c. 1145 – c. 1221) better known by his pen-names Faridoddin and Attar, was a Persian poet, theoretician of Sufism, and hagiographer from the City of Neyshaboor who had an immense and lasting influence on Persian poetry and Sufism. *Manteq-o Teyr* [The Conference of the Birds] and *Elahi Nameh* (The Book of Divine) are among his most famous works.





Iranian Luminaires



As a young man Faridoddin traveled widely, visiting Egypt, Syria, Arabia, India, and Central Asia. He finally settled in his native town, Neyshaboor, in northeastern Iran, where he spent many years collecting the verses and sayings of famous Sufis. His name, Attar, which literally means a perfumer or apothecary, may indicate that he, his father, or his grandfather practiced that trade.

Attar means ‘apothecary’ and this nickname was given to him due to his profession. He was probably the son of a prosperous chemist, receiving an excellent education in various fields. He practiced the profession of pharmacy. The people he helped in the pharmacy used to confide their troubles in `Attar and this affected him deeply.

Eventually, he abandoned his pharmacy store and traveled extensively, seeking wisdom in Baghdad, Basra, Kufa, Mecca, Medina, Damascus, Kharazm, Turkistan, and India, before finally returning to his birthplace Neyshaboor.

Attar's significance in Persian Literature

Attar is one of the most famous mystic poets of Iran. His works were the inspiration of Rumi,

Hafiz, Jami, Nava'i and many other mystic poets. Ealahi Nameh, Mokhtar Nameh, Mosibat Nameh, Javaher Nameh, Sarh al-Qalb, Divan, Tazkerat-ul-Awliya (Memorial of the Saints) and Manteq-o Teyr (The Conference of the Birds) are among his major works.

Attar's Legacy

The prominent Argentine poet, essayist, and short-story writer, Jorge Luis Borges, has compared Attar's *The Conference of the Birds* with the *Divine Comedy* of Dante. “That anyone has ever been able to surpass one of the great figures of the *Divine Comedy* seems incredible, and rightly so,’ he says in his *Nine Essays on Dante*, adding that nevertheless, the feat has occurred. The poet has been valued by Iranians throughout the history.

Also, great French literary figure Victor Hugo became familiar with Attar through Ernest Fuin Baudiya’s translation of Attar's works. He mentioned Attar in his *Les Orientales* book. In Victor Hugo’s “*The Legend of the Ages*” Attar’s influence is clear.

In contemporary Iran, April 14 is designated as Attar's National Day in the Persian calendar to mark the contribution his works have made to the Persian literature.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

IRANIAN, ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES INK MOU TO BROADEN SCIENTIFIC TIES



Allameh Tabatabaei University of Tehran and the University of Salento, Italy, have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance scientific collaborations in social and human sciences.

During a meeting held in Tehran, Shoja Ahmadvand, the chancellor of Allameh Tabatabaei University, and Fabio Pollice, the chancellor of the University of Salento, discussed ways to expand scientific cooperation.

Teaching Persian and Italian languages, holding short-term courses, exchanging students and professors, launching an archaeology major and a Persian-Italian journal, conducting Erasmus+ projects in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, and donating books to the libraries of the two universities were among the points proposed by Ahmadvand, which was well-received by the Italian side.

For his part, Pollice suggested holding virtual Persian and Italian language courses, organizing online meetings among faculty members of the two universities and the two peer scientific groups to help them become more familiar with the existing capacities, fostering interactions between professors of the two universities, and exchanging professors and students for short-term courses with the aim of paving the way for long-term exchanges.

UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN, BEIJING INTL. EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION INK MOU

The Caspian International Campus of the University of Tehran and the Beijing International Exchange Association (BIEA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to foster scientific ties.

Since University of Tehran is a member of BRICS Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) cooperation, the MOU also aims to establish relations with universities and research centers in BRICS member states, IRNA reported.

During a meeting that was held online on Saturday, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation on developing joint strategies for the expansion and exchange of education, research, science, technology, and entrepreneurship; establishing and expanding a communication network among experts at the university and research and technology centers; participating in organizing annual BRICS technology competitions with a focus on an innovative environment and knowledge-based start-ups in order to further expand scientific and technological achievements in University of Tehran and other universities in the country.

According to the MOU, University of Tehran can introduce other institutions and research centers to cooperate with BIEA.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN, JAPAN UNDERSCORE BOOSTING TECHNOLOGICAL TIES



The deputy minister for information, communications, and technology (ICT), Ehsan Chitsaz, and the Japanese vice-minister for international affairs and communications, Imagwa Takuo, have highlighted the need to expand technological cooperation in key sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), digital economy, and the development of sustainable communications infrastructure.

During a meeting held on Wednesday in Tokyo, the officials explored avenues to further enhance collaborations, IRNA reported.

Establishing the ‘Iran-Japan digital innovation center’, cooperating on policymaking for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and platform regulation, as well as training experts in the digital economy through holding joint university courses were among the discussed topics.

Takuo, for his part, announced Japan’s readiness to foster digital ties with Iran, saying that Iran is pursuing digital transformation path focusing on local and long-term considerations. Japan supports this approach and is fully prepared to implement cooperation projects by evaluating Iran’s constructive proposals.

The two sides also agreed to establish a joint executive working group to follow up on the implementation of the reached agreements.

IRAN TO FOSTER SCIENTIFIC TIES WITH CHINA, RUSSIA IN LINE WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Iranian universities are exploring the potentials for developing scientific and research collaborations with Chinese and Russian institutions under the strategic partnership with the two countries.

During a meeting held on Thursday in China, Saeed Habiba, the deputy minister of science, research, and technology, and Sheng Jianxue, the secretary-general of the China Scholarship Council, discussed ways for developing scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Iranian official also paid a visit to one of the Chinese technology parks to become more familiar with their technological capacities and scientific achievements.

On Wednesday, Elham Aminzadeh, the vice president of the University of Tehran for international affairs, and Sergey Andreushin, the vice-rector for international affairs at St. Petersburg State University, met in

Tehran to explore avenues for expanding scientific collaborations between the two universities.

The Wednesday meeting focused on exchanging professors and students, holding in-person, and virtual educational programs, supervising postgraduate students jointly, conducting collaborative conferences, establishing joint research projects, and technology parks, as well as implementing formerly reached agreements.



IRANIAN DESSERTS: FALOODEH



Faloodeh is a traditional and dearly loved Persian dessert made from frozen vermicelli rice noodles in a rose and lime syrup. Often called a “Persian granite,” this vegan, gluten-free dessert recipe has a satisfyingly crunchy texture and uniquely refreshing flavor. No specialty equipment needed!

This ancient dessert is commonly referred to as Faloodeh Shirazi, since it originates from Shiraz in Iran along with the famous Salad Shirazi.

Faloodeh is often served side-by-side with a Persian saffron and pistachio ice cream known as *Bastani Sonati*. These two Persian desserts are quickly devoured by many Iranians on hot summer days. Faloodeh is the perfect way to end a rich Persian-style feast, or simply cool off on a hot summer day!

Ingredients:

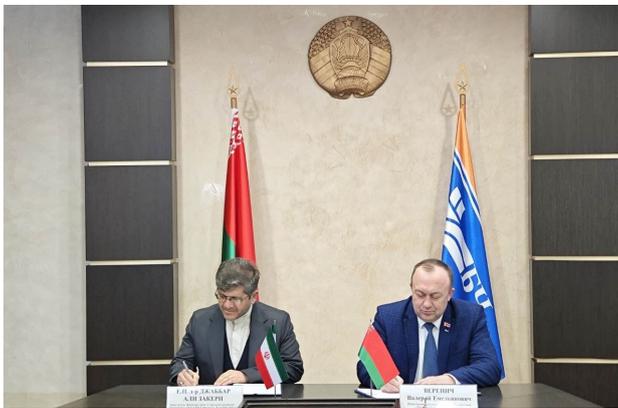
Sugar, Limes, Rose water, Sea salt, Rice noodles (vermicelli style), white rice vermicelli





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, BELARUS SIGN RAIL PACT TO BOOST NORTH-SOUTH TRANSIT



Iran and Belarus have signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen international rail transport and expand the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), according to Iran's state broadcaster.

Jabarali Zakeri, Deputy Transport Minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), and Valery Verenich, head of Belarusian Railways, signed the memorandum of understanding, highlighting plans to deepen bilateral cooperation on the Belarus–Iran trade route.

The agreement aims to boost rail-based exports and imports between the two countries and expand transit capacity along the corridor.

The two sides also committed to working with the railways of Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan to facilitate freight movement via the INSTC.

Key provisions of the agreement include launching regular, cost-effective freight train services between Iran and Belarus, engaging traders and cargo owners to increase freight volumes, optimizing transportation tariffs to make rail shipments along the Belarus–Iran route more competitive, and developing rail infrastructure to enhance cargo handling capacity along the corridor.

IRAN, AZERBAIJAN SIGN BILINGUAL MOU AT 16TH JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Iran and Azerbaijan signed Persian and Azeri versions of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Tuesday during the 16th Joint Economic Committee meeting, co-chaired by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister.

According to the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the meeting between Iranian Minister Farzaneh Sadegh and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev focused on reviewing bilateral projects and cooperation in economic, transport, trade, energy, and banking sectors.

The two sides also finalized agreements and action plans to be highlighted during the upcoming visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Azerbaijan.

The signed Persian and Azeri texts of the memorandum were appended to the English version of the MOU, which had been previously signed in Tehran in February 2025.

As part of her official visit, Minister Sadegh is also scheduled to inspect joint transport infrastructure projects between the two countries.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN'S EXPORTS TO THE AMERICAS QUADRUPLE IN A YEAR



Iran's exports to the Americas surged 4.5 times in the Iranian year 1403 (ended late March 2025) compared to the previous year, while a free trade agreement with Venezuela is just one step away from full implementation after two decades, a senior trade official said.

Ahmad Firouzi, Director General of the Europe and Americas Office at the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran, said on Sunday that while imports from the Americas saw a slight decline in 1403, Iranian exports to the continent grew significantly. Notably, official exports to Brazil rose by a staggering 8.5 times compared to the previous year.

Firouzi noted that in line with the Iranian government's push to access new markets, several specialized meetings were held in 1403 targeting countries such as Canada and Mexico. He added that under the policies of the 14th administration, Iran has actively pursued the signing of trade agreements, and most of the groundwork for a free trade deal with Venezuela has already been completed.

FIRST GATHERING OF IRAN-LATIN AMERICA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Iran-Latin America Friendship Association's inaugural meeting is being held in Tehran, with Latin American ambassadors, parliamentarians, and foreign affairs officials in attendance.

The gathering marks a significant step in strengthening diplomatic and cultural ties between Iran and Latin American nations, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

As Iran seeks to expand its influence and partnerships beyond traditional allies, this event highlights the importance of building relationships with Latin American countries. The participation of high-profile officials underscores the commitment to enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including trade, culture, and politics.

The establishment of the Iran-Latin America Friendship Association reflects Iran's strategic efforts to diversify its international relationships amid ongoing geopolitical challenges. By engaging with Latin American nations, Iran aims to create new avenues for economic cooperation and cultural exchange, potentially reshaping alliances in a multipolar world.





SPORTS

IRANIAN WUSHU CHAMPIONS SHINE AT WORLD SANDA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



Ramin Movahednia and Shahrbanoo Mansourian secured gold medals for Iran at the World Sanda Championships, strengthening the nation's standing in international wushu.

Iran continues to demonstrate its dominance in martial arts, with victories in the prestigious World Sanda Championships held in Jiangyin, China. The wins by Movahednia and Mansourian not only highlight the skill and dedication of Iranian athletes but also serve as a reminder of the country's growing prominence in the global wushu scene.

The World Sanda Championships are one of the most prestigious events in Wushu, and the strong performance by Iranian athletes underscores the country's commitment to nurturing top-tier martial artists. With several gold medals already secured, the Iranian delegation is setting a high bar for the future of wushu in the country.

IRAN , TAJIKISTAN SIGN SPORT COOPERATION DOCUMENT

Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, hosted the Regional Forum of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for West and Central Asia on April 6, 2025. During the meeting, a sports cooperation document was signed between the National Olympic Committees of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Signing the cooperation document reflects Iran and Tajikistan's efforts to boost relations, including in sports. The document can help both Persian-culture countries improve the quality of sports activities.

In line with boosting Tehran-Dushanbe ties, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian traveled to Tajikistan in January 2025 and met his counterpart Emomali Rahmon. Pezeshkian described the trip as a privileged relationship between the two countries and called for the development of cultural, scientific, economic, and security relations between the two nations. Emomali Rahmon called for the deepening of the relations.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

ABARKOOH TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Abarkooh is an ancient Iranian town located about 140 kilometers to the west of the city of Yazd, and bordering the province of Fars. Some 400 historical monuments have been listed in the county, of which 147 are registered in Iran's National Heritage List, and 129 of which are immovable cultural monuments of national significance. Twelve are intangible cultural heritage.

