



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Mausoleum of Ferdowsi, Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, Iran

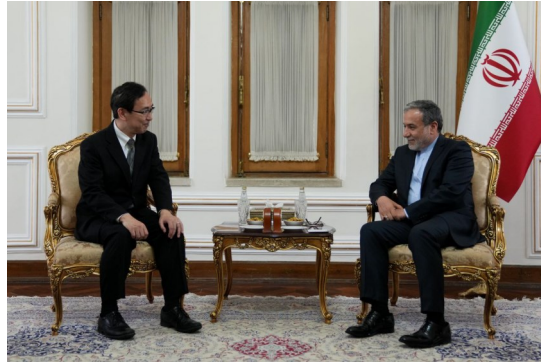
Issue #104 May 1— 15, 2025

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MFA NEWSLETTER

Hiroiyuki Namazu Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan who was visiting Tehran to participate in the 33rd round of Iran-Japan political consultations met with Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.



Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi who traveled to Abu Dhabi met with his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



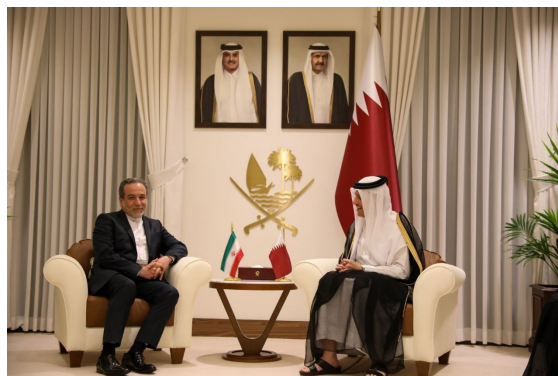
Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who was leading a delegation to Oman for the fourth round of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States, met and held talks with Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, upon arrival in Muscat.





MFA NEWSLETTER

The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, who traveled to Doha to attend the Fourth Iran-Arab World Dialogue Conference, met and held talks with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who was visiting Saudi Arabia at the head of a diplomatic delegation met in Jeddah with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan.



Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araghchi who was visiting New Delhi for consultations with senior Indian officials and participation in the Iran-India Joint Commission met with his Indian counterpart as well as the President of the Republic of India.





MFA NEWSLETTER

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who was visiting Islamabad at the head of an official delegation met and held talks with Asif Ali Zardari the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan General Syed Asim Munir , and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif.





MFA NEWSLETTER

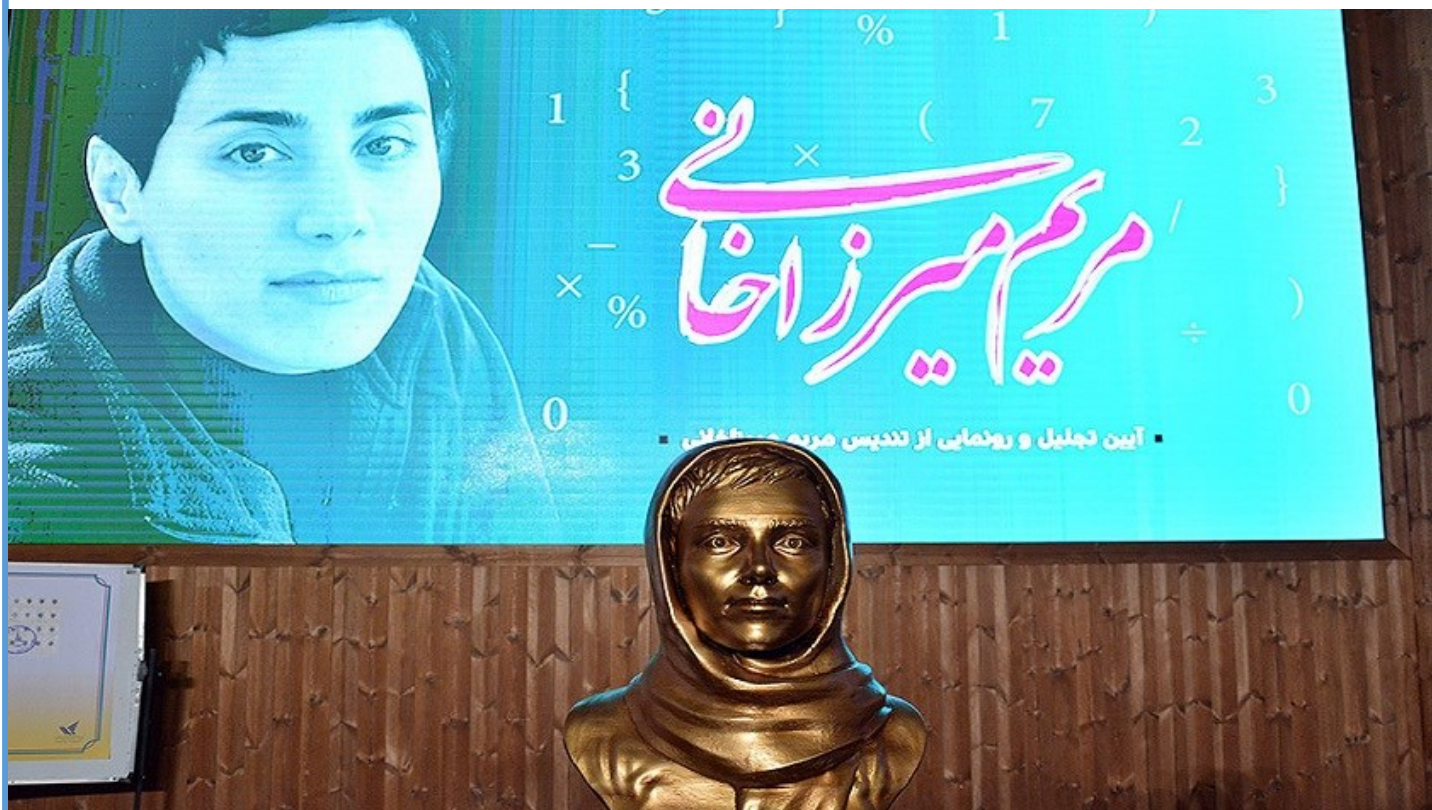
Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi held talk over the phone with his counterparts from Egypt, Sweden and Pakistan as well as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi, and EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas. They discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.





Iranian Luminaires

MARYAM MIRZAKHANI; THE ONLY WOMAN WINNER OF FIELDS MEDAL



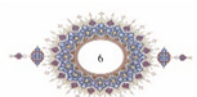
Maryam Mirzakhani was an Iranian mathematician who became the first woman to be awarded a Fields Medal in 2014.

Maryam Mirzakhani, who was a professor of mathematics at Stanford University, is the first woman in the world as well as the first Iranian to be awarded the Fields Medal in 2014, known as "Nobel Prize of mathematics", since the award was established in 1936.

International Mathematical Union (IMU) has designated the birthday of Iranian maths genius Maryam Mirzakhani as 'Women's Day in Mathematics'.

Biography

Mirzakhani was born in Tehran, Iran in 1977. Her childhood dream of becoming a writer was replaced by another passion: maths. As a high school junior, she was among the first Iranian women to qualify for the International Mathematical Olympiads, where she won two gold medals.





Iranian Luminaires



In 1994 despite the fact that Iran's International Mathematical Olympiad team had never fielded a girl, Mirzakhani, when was 17, and made to the Iranian math Olympiad team. Mirzakhani's score on the Olympiad test earned her a gold medal. The following year, she returned and achieved a perfect score. Here then Mirzakhani emerged with a deep love of mathematics.

After graduating from the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, she moved to the United States where she worked under the guidance of Fields Medal recipient Curtis McMullen. She received her PhD from Harvard in 2004. In 2009, she became a professor of mathematics at Stanford University in California.

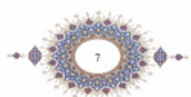
Her research interests include Teichmüller theory, hyperbolic geometry, ergodic theory, and symplectic geometry.

Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman and first Iranian to win the Fields Medal, often described as the rough equivalent of a Nobel prize for mathematicians, died of metastatic breast cancer on July 14 at the age of 40. She had been a professor at Stanford University since 2008.

Mirzakhani's legacy

Described as one of the greatest mathematicians of her generation, several mathematics prizes have been named after her, including the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize and the Maryam Mirzakhani Price in Mathematics, and her birthday is commemorated by the May12 initiative which brings together events celebrating women in mathematics.

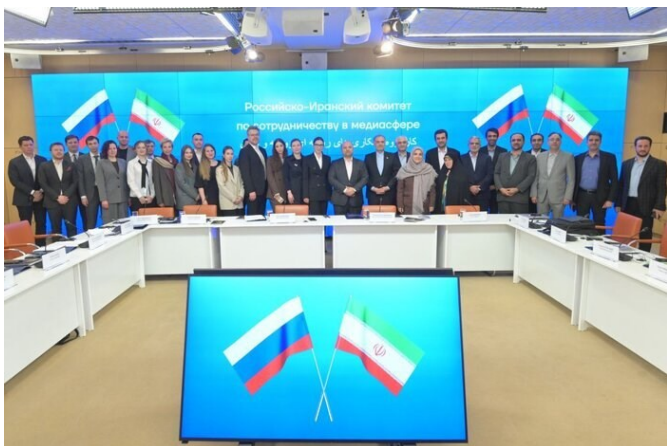
She will be commemorated in scientific community for her outstanding contributions to the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

IRAN-RUSSIA JOINT MEDIA COOPERATION WORKING GROUP HELD IN MOSCOW



The Iran-Russia Joint Media Cooperation Working Group was held in Moscow, with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Media and Advertising of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Deputy Minister of Communications and Mass Media of Russia.

The meeting began with the opening remarks of Mohammadreza Norouzpour and Bella Cherksova, the heads of the Iranian and Russian delegations. The discussions were summarized with the presence of Kazem Jalali, the Iranian ambassador to Russia.

In his opening speech, Norouzpour elaborated on the capacities and capabilities of Iranian media. He emphasized that one of the main missions of the Iranian and Russian media is to enhance mutual understanding between the two nations.

The official pointed out that Iranians' understanding of Russia over the past two centuries has been shaped through the works of great Russian writers and poets, stating that Iranians know old Russia better than modern Russia.

"Information about modern Russia mainly comes through Western media sources, which is partly due to the lack of strong connections between the media of the two countries," he added.

IRAN, QATAR DISCUSS EXPANSION OF CULTURAL TIES



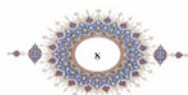
The Qatari Ambassador to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad Al Mahmoud Al Sharif met with the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi at the Ministry of Culture in Tehran.

"Fortunately, the people of Iran and Qatar have always enjoyed good and historical relations. The governments have also benefited from excellent relations over different decades, which continue to this day. Moreover, we have had consistent and strong cultural relations," Salehi was quoted as saying by Mehr.

"Recently, we witnessed the successful holding of Iran's Cultural Week in Qatar. It was a well-organized program that demonstrated how cultural events can strengthen relations between nations and improve governmental ties," he added.

For his part, Saad Abdullah Saad Al Mahmoud Al Sharif said: "The purpose of today's meeting is to strengthen the cultural and artistic relations between the two nations of Iran and Qatar. Given that we are neighboring countries, we can have even broader relations. As you know, the southern regions of Iran have close connections with Qatar."

"One of the results of this agreement was the holding of Iran's Cultural Week in Qatar, which attracted significant attention and was well received by both Qataris and Iranians residing in Qatar," the Qatari ambassador noted.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

IRAN, UZBEKISTAN READY FOR THEATRICAL COOPERATION



The Iranian Deputy for Artistic Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Nadereh Rezai, on the third day of her visit to Tajikistan, met and held discussions with the representative of the Minister of Culture of Uzbekistan and the head of the Grand Theater of Samarkand.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the International Festival of Professional Theaters, an event in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, that Rezai attended, ISNA reported.

During the meeting Rezai mentioned that due to important historical cities like Samarkand and Bukhara in Uzbekistan, Iranian cultural and artistic figures are always looking for cultural and artistic commonalities that have been presented to the audience in the form of various works so far.

For his part, the Uzbek official said that Iran and Uzbekistan have many cultural and artistic commonalities.

This path can be the prelude to a new season of joint activities between the two countries in the field of theater, he added.

"What is of great importance to me is the planning and execution of various programs, especially in the field of theater, which can be the beginning of new activities in the field of artistic commonalities between the two countries."

EXHIBITION OF TORRES STRAIT ISLAND MASKS UNVEILED AT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN

The Australian Embassy in Tehran hosted an art exhibition showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Torres Strait Islands.

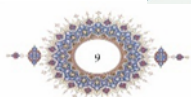
Entitled "Evolution: Torres Strait Masks," the event was inaugurated by the Australian Ambassador to Tehran Ian McConville, who emphasized that this exhibition is the first of its kind to be held in Iran.

He highlighted the rich culture and civilization of Iran, stating that this exhibition also reflects the culture of Australia's Indigenous peoples and their ancient traditions.

The event was attended by a distinguished group of gallery owners and Iranian artists, highlighting the importance of cultural exchange between the two nations.

The exhibition, developed by the Gab Titui Cultural Center on Waiben (Thursday Island) in collaboration with the National Museum of Australia, features 12 ceremonial masks, known as Kuyuku Zamiyak. These ancient masks are not only unique to the world but also embody a spiritual significance.

Traditionally worn by esteemed spiritual leaders, they were believed to possess powers that facilitated communication with the ancestors of the spirit world.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UZBEKISTAN SEEKS TO BOOST TIES WITH IRAN ON CHILD EDUCATION



Uzbek Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Kongratbay Sharipov, in a meeting with Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, has underscored the need to enhance scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries, particularly focusing on children's education.

The two officials met on the sidelines of the 9th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Education Ministers, held on May 12 and 13 in Urumqi, China.

Referring to the joint technology park established in Uzbekistan, Sharipov underlined the need to expand such technological centers, IRNA reported.

The official highlighted a former agreement between Sharif University of Technology and Uzbekistan, saying that the country is willing to expand these collaborations further. He expressed optimism that the cultural commonalities between the two countries help them enhance ties.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf underscored the need to establish more technology parks and international innovation zones collaboratively.

IRANIAN, IRAQI OFFICIALS DISCUSS FOSTERING EDUCATIONAL TIES

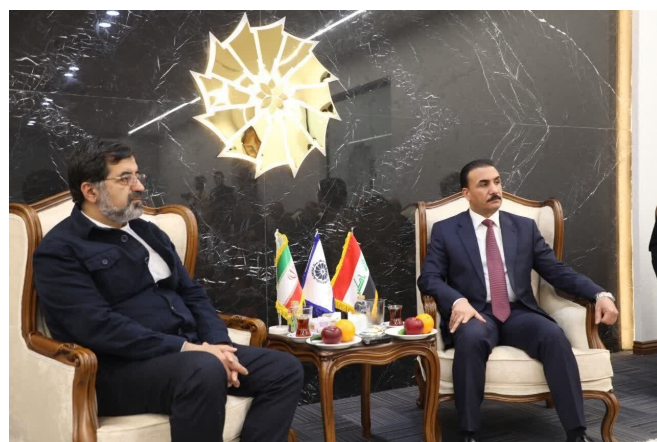
Iran's deputy minister of education, Hamid-Reza Sheikholeslam, and Iraqi minister of education, Ibrahim Namis Yassin, have discussed avenues for expanding educational cooperation between the two countries.

During a meeting held on Thursday in Qom, the officials highlighted the significance of enhancing educational interactions between the two nations, IRNA reported.

Iraqi ambassador to Tehran, Naseer Abdul Mohsen Abdullah, also attended the meeting. Addressing educational problems of Iraqi nationals residing in Iran, further facilitating their access to education, as well as holding identity development camps, were among other issues discussed.

The two sides also agreed to establish a joint working group to follow up on issues and develop collaborative cultural, religious programs.

The Iran-Iraq scientific and educational cooperation meeting was held in Tehran on February 9, exploring avenues for further promoting friendly relations between the universities of the two countries.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ST. PETERSBURG UNIVERSITY TO OPEN BRANCH IN TEHRAN



St. Petersburg State University of Russia will open a branch in the International Innovation Zone, northeast of Tehran.

The measure will be taken in line with an initiative by the cabinet of ministers to establish a branch of a foreign university in the International Innovation Zone in cooperation with Iran University of Science and Technology.

To this end, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the representatives of Pardis Technology Park, Iran University of Science and Technology, and St. Petersburg University.

Based on the comprehensive agreements between the top universities of Iran and Russia, the two sides are committed to furthering long-term and constructive relations in higher education, technology, and innovation.

The establishment of the secretariat for communication between the universities of the two countries is one of the major measures taken.

On May 2, the head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Mehdi Safarinia, in a meeting with Russian Presidential Aide Andrei Fursenko, said Iran is committed to promoting international scientific cooperation, highlighting that Russia is among the first countries Iran is willing to expand ties with.

IRAN EXPORTS OVER 700,000 DOSES OF BCG VACCINE TO VENEZUELA

Pasteur Institute of Iran has exported more than 700,000 doses of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine to Venezuela.

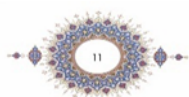
The BCG vaccine has a documented protective effect against meningitis and disseminated tuberculosis in children.

Highlighting the significance of boosting science diplomacy, Ehsan Mostafavi, president of Pasteur Institute of Iran, said this is a successful example of health-based international interactions, which can be recognized as a model for the expansion of Iran's scientific and technological impacts in the global health sector, ILNA reported.

Pasteur Institute of Iran has been developing the BCG vaccine since 1947. It is one of the strategic products with international standards manufactured in the institute, the official noted.

By recognizing the international capacities and identifying the health needs of other countries, the institute is planning to develop a variety of vaccines to export, Mostafavi added.

The global vaccine market serves as a good opportunity to enhance Iran's role in the global health chain. Pasteur Institute of Iran intends to play a more active role in promoting public health in the country as well as in developing countries, in line with its historical mission.



IRANIAN COOKIES: SOHAN ASALI



Sohan asali is a traditional Iranian brittle prepared with a base of sugar, honey, saffron, rose water, oil or butter, and slivered almonds. They are usually round, and before they set, the top is decorated with ground pistachios. This sweet, crispy candy is a staple on Persian New Year, and it is often altered with the addition of various flavorings, other nuts, or flavored honey.

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



TRADE & ECONOMY

VENEZUELA TO UTILIZE IRAN'S EXPERTISE IN NANOTECHNOLOGY



The preparation of a document for the development of nanotechnology in Venezuela using Iran's knowledge and expertise has been discussed by officials from the two countries.

Emad Ahmadvand, the secretary of the headquarters for the Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council; Venezuela's Ambassador to Iran, Carlos Antonio Alcalá Cordones, and Alberto Quintero, the Venezuelan deputy science minister, met in Tehran to foster scientific and technological ties, ISNA reported.

During the meeting, Quintero highlighted educational cooperation in the nanotechnology sector over the past two years, saying that Sharif University of Technology has held one-month intensive courses in Venezuela in this regard, IRNA reported.

As part of the program, Venezuelan researchers will participate in advanced laboratory courses, which are planned to be held in Iran, the official noted.

The two sides agreed on organizing collaborative scientific conferences and symposiums, publishing joint scientific articles, and indexing Venezuelan publications in international databases. Venezuelan officials also invited prominent Iranian professors to participate as key speakers in these events.

STRENGTHENING CO-OP ON AI ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE: CHINESE ENVOY

The Chinese ambassador to Iran, Cong Peiwu, has underlined the need to boost cooperation in advanced technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, calling it essential for the future.

Lauding Iran's advancement in the information and communication technology sector, Peiwu highlighted the expansion of collaborations despite challenges and external forces, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks on Monday in Tehran, during a meeting with Information and Communication Technology Minister, Sattar Hashemi.

For his part, Hashemi said the two countries have high capacities in the AI field, which can lay the ground for future collaborations. He also stressed the importance of fully utilizing joint capabilities to accomplish the set goals of the strategic partnership. The implementation of previously reached agreements in the ICT sector, as well as the development of ties in the digital economy, communication infrastructure, processing infrastructure, space systems, and data transit, were among other discussed issues.

The ICT minister said he would follow up on the joint programs on his visit to China in the near future.





TRADE & ECONOMY

UZBEK PM PROMISES TAX, CUSTOMS EXEMPTIONS FOR IRANIAN INVESTORS AMID GROWING ECONOMIC TIES



Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov announced on Sunday that Iranian investors operating in Uzbekistan will be exempt from taxes and customs duties, as he highlighted the presence of over 210 joint Iranian-Uzbek factories currently operating in the country.

Speaking at the Iran-Uzbekistan Business Forum held in Tehran, Aripov emphasized the importance of closer economic cooperation between the two nations, citing strong cultural and historical ties and the evolving global landscape as key drivers for deeper engagement.

He said forums like this help both sides identify investment opportunities and expand areas of cooperation, adding that entrepreneurship and private sector collaboration are vital to advancing shared industrial and technological goals.

Although trade between Iran and Uzbekistan has reached a relatively stable level, Aripov noted that the current \$500 million annual trade volume does not reflect the full potential of bilateral ties. He projected that Uzbekistan's GDP will grow to \$160 billion within five years and pointed to the \$70 billion in foreign investment attracted last year as evidence of a secure investment climate.

IRAN, QATAR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AGREE TO BOOST COOPERATION

The head of Qatar's General Authority of Customs met with the head of Iran's Customs Administration and other senior Iranian customs officials in Tehran to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation and share experiences aimed at facilitating and developing trade.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the two sides explored strategies to enhance customs cooperation between the neighboring countries.

Foroud Asgari, Iran's deputy economy minister and head of the Customs Administration, described the visit of Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Jamal and his accompanying delegation as highly significant, citing the friendly ties between Iran and Qatar.

During the meeting, Asgari briefed the Qatari delegation on Iran's customs operations, emphasizing that all procedural formalities in the country are now handled through electronic systems. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Jamal praised Iran's digital customs processes and expressed Qatar's interest in expanding cooperation with Iran. He noted that the broader political and diplomatic alignment between the two nations offers a valuable opportunity to deepen customs collaboration.





SPORTS

IRAN'S MARAL TORKAMAN NAMED TOP SCORER IN WOMEN'S FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Iran's Maral Torkaman has been named the top scorer of the Women's Futsal Asian Championship, according to a recent announcement by the Asian Football Confederation.

This recognition emphasizes the increasing significance of women's futsal in Asia and highlights the talent emerging from Iran, which contributes to the advancement of women's sports in the region.

Maral Torkaman's achievement comes as the Iranian women's futsal team secured third place in the championship, further emphasizing the competitive nature of the tournament. The final match saw Japan triumph over Thailand in a dramatic penalty shootout after a 3-3 draw in regulation time.

The Asian Football Confederation's announcement underscores Torkaman's exceptional performance throughout the tournament, solidifying her status as a key player in women's futsal.





SPORTS

IRAN'S BEACH SOCCER TEAM DOMINATES ASIA WITH FOURTH CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY



Iran's beach soccer team claimed its fourth Asian Championship title after a dominant 8-1 victory over Oman in the final, solidifying its position as the most successful team in the competition's history. The victory not only reaffirms Iran's supremacy in beach soccer in Asia but also demonstrates the team's relentless pursuit of excellence and consistency, with an undefeated record and an unmatched track record in the tournament. By securing the championship for a fourth time, Iran has further cemented its status as the dominant force in the sport on the continent.

Head coach of the Iranian beach soccer team Ali Naderi stated, "The victory is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our players, who have delivered an outstanding display of teamwork and skill throughout the tournament. We are proud to bring this prestigious trophy back to Iran once again."

IRAN WINS ASIAN U-20 WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Iran's national U-20 water polo team triumphed over China in the final of the 2025 Asian

Championship, securing the title with a 15-11 victory.

The victory marks a major milestone for Iranian water polo, reaffirming the country's growing dominance in aquatic sports at the continental level.

The Asian U-20 Championship serves as a key talent pipeline for senior international competitions, including the World Championships. Iran's win demonstrates the country's progress in water polo, a sport traditionally dominated by East Asian teams.

IRANIAN WUSHU CHAMPIONS SHINE AT WORLD SANDA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

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

Why it matters:

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.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

CHOGHA ZANBIL; GLORY OF ELAMITE ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN IRAN

Chogha Zanbil is an ancient ziggurat that shows the grandeur of the Elamite civilization. It was the first Iranian site to be registered on UNESCO's World Heritage list, and it is also one of the oldest terraced temples in the world.

The ziggurat was built around c. 1250 BC by the order of King Untash-Napirisha, and today only three of its original five stories are still standing. Constructed from bricks and raw adobes, this magnificent structure, is surrounded by three concentric areas that enclose royal palaces, tombs, and a water purification system.

