

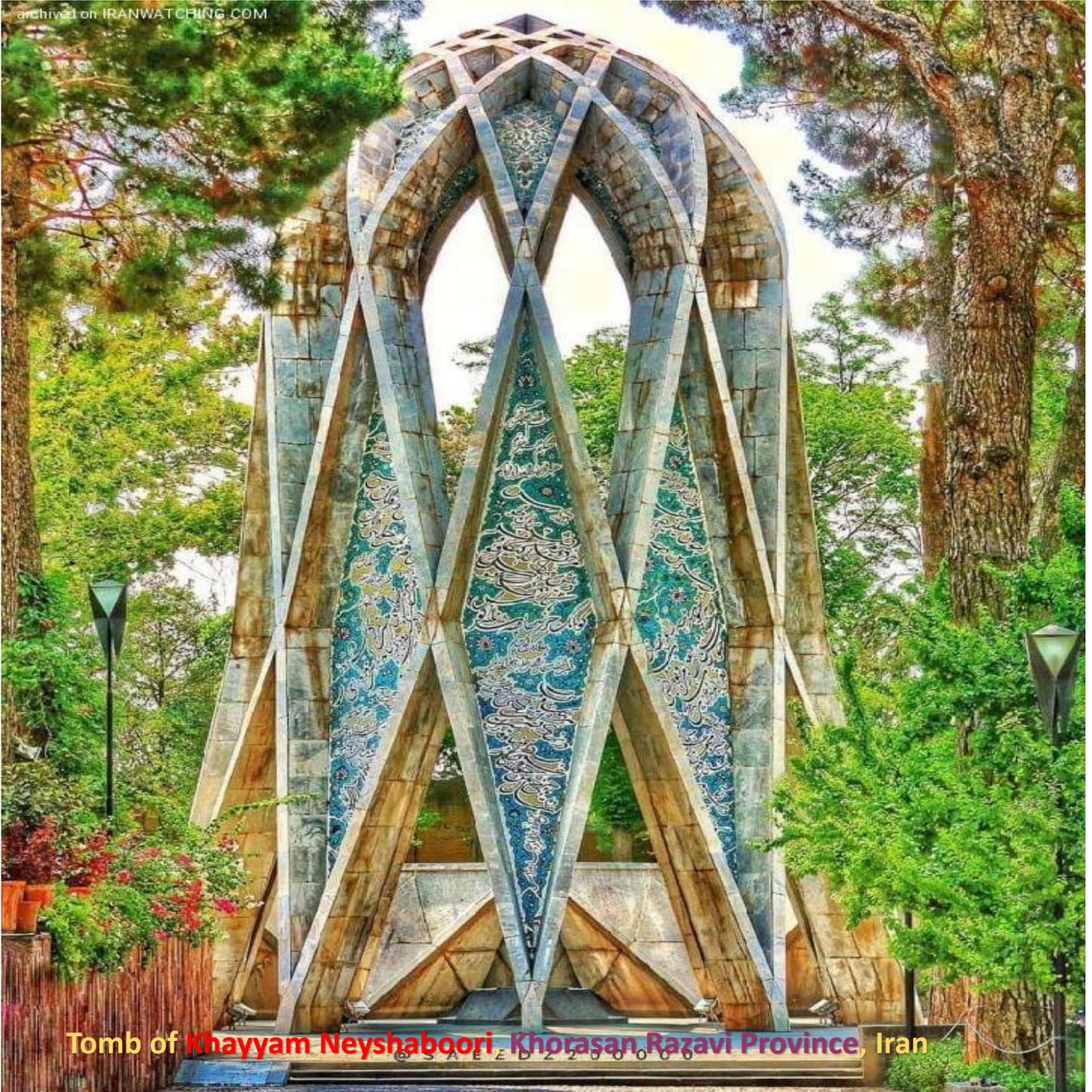


Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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Tomb of Khayyam Neyshaboori, Khorasan Razavi Province, Iran

Issue #105 May 16— 31, 2025

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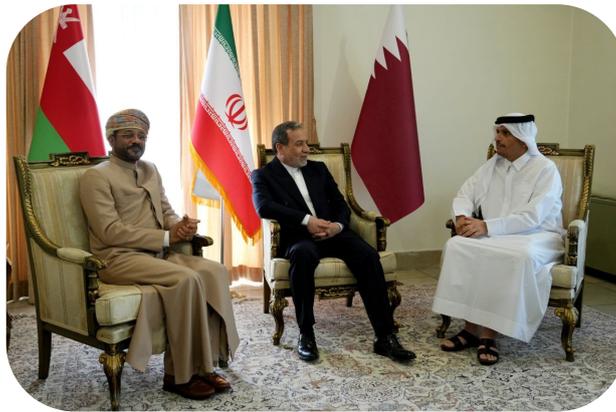


MFA NEWSLETTER

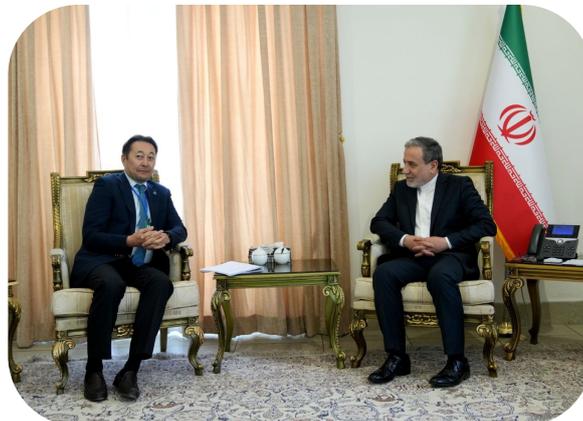
The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi who had traveled to Rome to participate in the fifth round of indirect talks between Iran and the US met and held discussions on Friday afternoon with the Vatican's Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin.



A trilateral meeting between Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Sayyid Badr AlBusaidi and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar was held on the sidelines of the Tehran Dialogue Forum hosted by the top Iranian diplomat in Tehran.



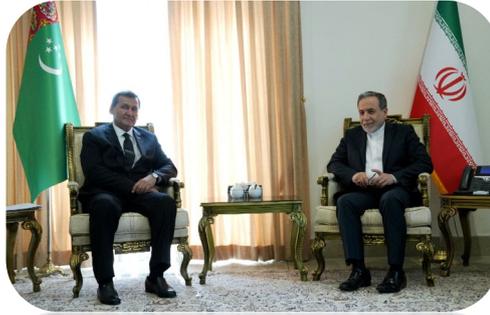
Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Kairat Sarybay who had traveled to Iran to attend the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.





MFA NEWSLETTER

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov who had traveled to Tehran to attend the 18th meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries and to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the second day of the event.



Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko who had traveled to Iran to attend the Tehran Dialogue Forum and hold talks with Iranian officials met with Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



Members of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas Basem Naim and Osama Hamdan who had traveled to Iran to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



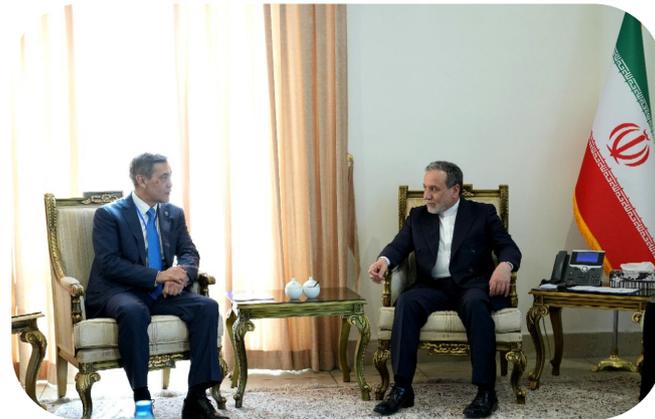


MFA NEWSLETTER

Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin who had traveled to Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iran's top diplomat Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.



Nurlan Yermekbayev Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) who had traveled to Tehran to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.



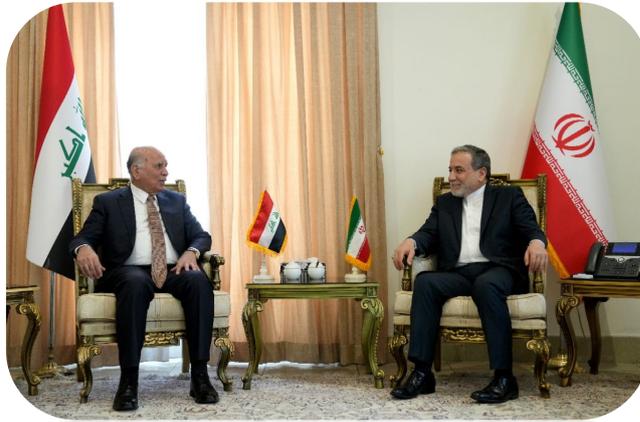
Amir Khan Muttaqi Acting Foreign Minister of the Interim Government of Afghanistan had traveled to Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi .





MFA NEWSLETTER

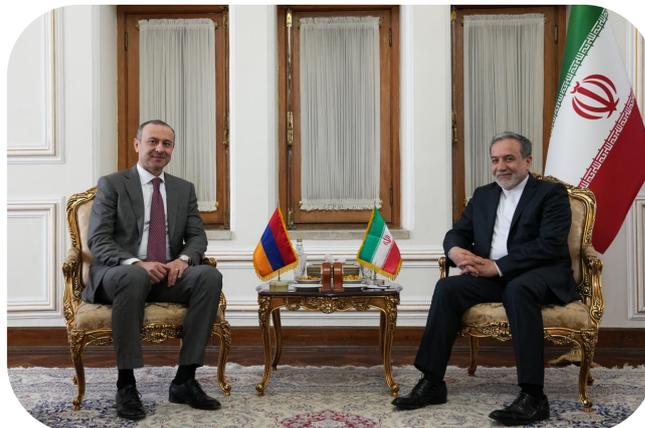
Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Mohammed Hussein who had traveled to Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iran's top diplomat Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



President of Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani who had traveled to Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iran's top diplomat Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



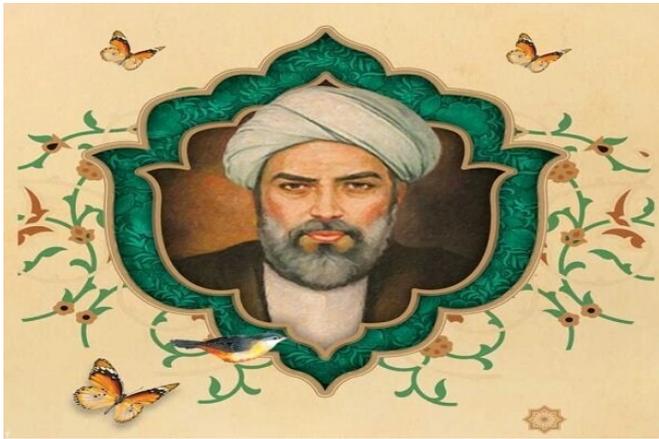
The Secretary of Armenia's Security Council, Armen Grigoryan, who had traveled to Tehran at the head of a delegation to participate in the Tehran Dialogue Forum met with Iran's top diplomat Seyed Abbas Araghchi.





Iranian Luminaires

MOLLA SADRA



Molla Sadra, one of the greatest Iranian philosophers of the 17th century, is commemorated every year in Iran on 23th May.

Sadr al-Din Muhammad b. Ibrahim b. Yahya Qawami Shirazi (ca. 1571–1636) is arguably the most significant Islamic philosopher after Avicenna.

Best known as Molla Sadra, he was later given the title of Sadr al-Motaallihin (Master of the theorists) for his philosophical approach that combined an interest in theology and drew upon insights from mystical intuition.

Islamic mystic, philosopher, a theologian who led the Iranian cultural renaissance in the 17th century.

He became famous as the thinker who revolutionized the doctrine of existence in Islamic metaphysics. By critiquing an Aristotelian metaphysics which assumed that substances constituted the basic stuff of reality, he initiated a (Neoplatonic) process metaphysics of change,

founded upon and moved by acts of being.

Molla Sadra legacy

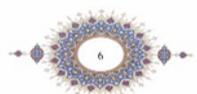
A keen thinker who wrote works in philosophy, theology, mysticism, and scriptural exegesis attempted a wide-ranging synthesis of approaches to Islamic thought. He argued for the necessity of understanding reality through a mixture of logical reasoning, spiritual inspiration, and a deep meditation upon the key scriptural sources of the Twelver Shia tradition in Islam.

Having a holistic approach to philosophical inquiry, his understanding of the pursuit of wisdom included scriptural hermeneutics and exegesis as well as theological reasoning.

A key figure of a group of thinkers whom Nasr and Corbin referred to as the “School of Isfahan,” he played a major role in intellectual life during the revitalization of philosophy under the Safavid Shah ‘Abbas I (r. 996–1038 AH/1588–1629 CE) and later on in life was the most important teacher at the philosophical seminary known as Madrasa-Yi Khan in his hometown of Shiraz.

Since the early 19th century, the thought of Molla Sadra has become the dominant philosophical paradigm in the Shia seminary in the Islamic East and was also widely influential in South Asia.

His main work is *The Transcendent Philosophy of the Four Journeys of the Intellect* or *Four Journeys*.





Iranian Luminaires

KHAYYAM NEYSHABOORI; SHINING STAR OF IRANIAN SCIENCE, QUARTET IN WORLD

Omar Khayyam, a great Iranian poet, mathematician, and astrologer, was born in the late 5th and early 6th centuries after Hejira.

Khayyam Neyshaboori gained world fame with his few but rich poems. Khayyam's fame in the world is not because of the scientific position of this Iranian thinker, but because of his literary position and his eternal quatrains. Omar Khayyam's book of quatrains is the smallest divan of poetry in world literature, but it has crossed the borders of fame and its literature is spoken in the most distant parts of the world. In addition, one of the most lasting and influential masterpieces of Hakim Omar Khayyam's life has been the astronomical activities of this Iranian man of thought. Omar Khayyam founded the Iranian calendar. The Jalali calendar or Solar Hijri calendar is the most accurate in the world. The twenty-eighth of Ordibehesht (May 18) in the national calendar of Iran has been named the day of honoring Hakim Omar Khayyam to honor the scientific and artistic activities of this renowned Iranian scientist and poet. The Mausoleum of Hakim Omar Khayyam is one of the valuable cultural and artistic tourist attractions in Neyshaboor and these days it hosts tourists, history lovers, and lovers of Iranian poetry.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

"TEHERÁN LLEVA TILDE," A MEXICAN EMBASSY INITIATIVE TO DESCRIBE CONTEMPORARY TEHRAN



Mexican Ambassador to Tehran unveiled "Teherán lleva Tilde," a special Spanish narrative of Tehran's living culture, as he invited the authors of the book to present it in the 36th Tehran International Book Fair.

The publication of the book by an Iranian publisher signals promising cultural cooperation between the Iranian and Mexican nations in an effort to converge on common points of similarity. Both Iran and Mexico are nations with old civilizations.

Teherán lleva Tilde presents the authors' interesting experiences of life in Tehran as they see it from a different point of view, to present it to the Spanish-speaking audience.

Guillermo Puente Ordorica says Teherán lleva Tilde is a multi-topic work. He talks about a book, the compilation of which was announced by the Mexican embassy in a call to the interested Spanish-language authors in Iran and was welcomed.

IRANIAN PLAY FEATURING VISUALLY IMPAIRED ACTORS TO PREMIERE IN ARMENIA

"Life Is Too Short", a play performed by actors with visual impairments, is set to take the stage in Yerevan, Armenia.

Written by Mehdi Mehdiabadi and directed by Mojtaba Goharkhai, the production will be staged in the Armenian capital from May 27 to 30.

The performance has previously been staged in Iran at venues including the Art Hall, the Center for Theater Production of Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon, the Iranian Artists' Forum (IAF) in Tehran, Kharazmi University in Karaj, as well as at Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults in Hamedan and the Regional Aftab Festival in Shahr-e Kord, the capital of Chaharmahal -Bakhtiari province, the report added.

Produced by the Arshek Theater Group, "Life Is Too Short" has garnered multiple awards.

The troupe features nine blind and visually impaired actors. Notably, the performance will be conducted without any tactile cues or visual markers on stage, relying solely on enhanced auditory senses and spatial awareness.

Fatemeh Abdolrahimi is the manager of the project, which will be staged in Yerevan as part of cultural exchanges between Iran and Armenia.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

IRANIAN MOVIE WINS AT ANKARA INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL



The Iranian documentary “Dog Eater”, co-directed by Fathollah Amiri and Nima Asgari, won an award at the Ankara International Wildlife Documentary Film Festival, which was held in Turkey from May 15 to 18.

A total of 691 short and feature documentaries from 89 countries competed in the first edition of the Turkish festival. “Dog Eater,” the only participant from Iran, was one of the seven movies winning the best short documentary award.

The 40-minute documentary explores a border village in North Khorasan province where tranquility is shattered by the disappearance of dogs and the fear instilled by a brazen panther. Villagers, instead of taking drastic measures, seek help from environmental authorities and experts. After ten days of struggle, they capture an old panther, shedding light on the mystery behind the dog-eating behavior. However, an unfortunate incident occurs after the panther is transported to Tehran, adding a tragic twist to the story.

A production of 2024, this documentary, as its title suggests, is a hybrid and narrative of the story of a creature from the wild and a protected species, inevitably caught in the unintended conflicts that arise in growing human societies. Seeking refuge in a border village on the outskirts of Khorasan to preserve its life, it turns to hunting the domestic animals of villagers and herders.

IRANIAN SHORT ANIMATION “THE LOVELY SKY” WINS AT ANIMATIBA

The Iranian short animated film “The Lovely Sky” won the Special Jury Award in the foreign short film category at the 4th ANIMATIBA - Curitiba International Animation Festival, which was held in Brazil from May 8 to 14.

The Special Jury Award was presented to “The Lovely Sky” for technical excellence in 2D animation and gripping narrative.

Written and directed by Amir Mehran, the short flick has been produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

Produced with a two-dimensional technique, the 14-minute animation follows an impatient fighter pilot who bombs cities every day. He returns to his little girl every night after completing his mission. The girl loves to fly, but her father doesn’t fulfill his daughter’s dream because of the bitter memory of his wife’s death. The war is getting closer every day. One day, an incident changes their lives forever.

A production of 2022, “The Lovely Sky” has so far won the best animation prize at the 52nd Roshd International Educational Film Festival in Tehran, Best Music at the 18th Vancouver Island Short Film Festival in Canada, and Best Animation at the Itauna International Film Festival in Brazil.

It has also been screened in the 63rd Zlin Film Festival in the Czech city of Zlin, the 19th World Festival of Animated Film Varna in Bulgaria, the 16th Bueu International Short Film Festival in Spain, and the 39th International Festival of animation cinema, comics, and games in Italy, among others.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN A REGIONAL LEADER IN HEALTH SYSTEM, UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: WHO OFFICIAL



The World Health Organization’s (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) has said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage.

Lauding the country’s achievements in recent years, Hanan Balkhi said expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

The country’s commitment to providing equal health services to millions of refugees makes its services even more commendable.

WHO EMRO is working closely with the Iranian regulatory institutions to achieve regulatory maturity level 3 in the pharmaceutical regulatory system to pave the way for broader exports of Iranian health-oriented products to global markets; it will also contribute to promoting global health security, Balkhi added.

An Iranian delegation headed by Zafarqandi is participating in the 78th WHA, which is being held from May 19 to June 27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

IRAN’S SERVICES TO REFUGEES COMMENDABLE: UNHCR COMMISSIONER

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has appreciated Iran’s efforts in providing services to refugees in different fields, such as health, education, and employment.

The valuable services offered by Iran, in the face of sanctions and some economic problems, are really valuable and commendable, said Grandi.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi; the officials met on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA).

For his part, Zafarqandi said protecting the health of refugees is an international responsibility, not solely the responsibility of the host country.

“Effective financial and operational strategies should be designed and strengthened globally to help refugee-hosting countries, particularly Iran,” Zafarqandi stressed.

WHA 2025 is being held from May 19 to June 27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Focusing on the 2025 theme ‘One World for Health’, WHA78 has brought together high-level country representatives to address health challenges. This year’s gathering comes at a pivotal moment for global health, as Member States confront emerging threats and major shifts in the landscape for global health and international development.



IRANIAN COOKIES: QOTTAB



Deep-fried Qottab pastries are traditional Iranian sweets consisting of soft wheat dough wrapped around almond or walnut fillings. They are usually generously spiced with cinnamon, rose water, cardamom, and orange blossom, then shaped into round or crescent forms.

Small in size and dusted with powdered sugar, they are a staple dessert served at numerous Iranian festivities and celebrations. Even though they originated in Yazd, nowadays these delectable sweets are prepared and enjoyed throughout the country.

Ingredients: egg yolks, plain yogurt, butter, all-purpose flour, baking powder, cinnamon powder, walnut, confectioners' sugar or sugar powder, rosewater, cardamom powder



TRADE & ECONOMY

TEHRAN, TOKYO VOICE READINESS TO EXPAND TRADE RELATIONS



In a meeting between the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and a special representative of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), both sides reaffirmed their interest in enhancing bilateral trade relations.

Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi congratulated Nobutaka Maekawa on the 96th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Iran and Japan, and described cooperation between the two trade organizations as effective.

"We are eager to benefit from your expertise in the field of trade," he said.

Dehnavi, who also serves as deputy minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, added that Iran seeks to draw on Japan's experience in product promotion and supportive trade mechanisms.

Highlighting the Iranian market's appreciation for Japanese quality, Dehnavi said Iran would welcome JETRO technical experts to help facilitate knowledge exchange.

Nobutaka, the JETRO special envoy, acknowledged the longstanding friendship between the two nations but expressed concern over the impact of sanctions on trade relations.

IRAN, TURKEY CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The customs chiefs of Iran and Turkey signed a bilateral cooperation agreement during a meeting in which both sides expressed determination to boost trade ties.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Foroud Asgari, Iran's deputy minister of finance and economic affairs and head of the IRICA, met with Sezai Uçarmak, Turkey's deputy minister of customs and trade.

The two officials emphasized that the current level of trade and customs cooperation does not reflect the countries' technical capabilities and political will.

Asgari stated that Iran aims not only to restore previous trade records with Turkey but to surpass them, given the current conditions and available resources.

He identified the Bazargan border crossing as Iran's top customs priority, calling it the most important land border and expressing hope that it will soon become a model for other crossings.

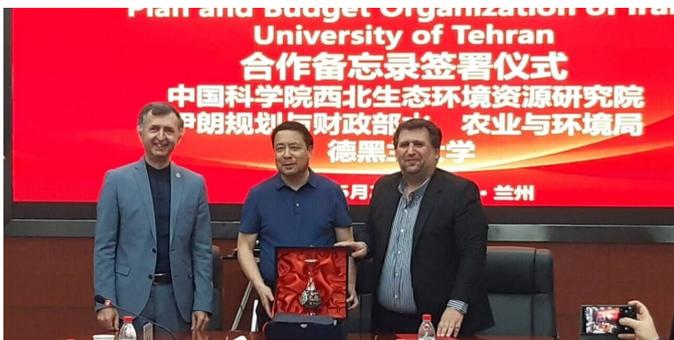
Uçarmak highlighted the strategic importance of both countries in the region and said their trade exchanges should match their historical, cultural, and geopolitical significance.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, CHINA SIGN MOU ON WATER MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT



Iran and China have signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding to boost cooperation in water resource management, agriculture, and environmental protection.

The agreement, signed during an official ceremony hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), brings together Iran’s Planning and Budget Organization, the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Tehran, and the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, a research arm of CAS.

The MOU aims to facilitate joint projects, exchange of expertise, deployment of advanced technologies, and pilot programs in Iran, with a focus on practical and scientific collaboration.

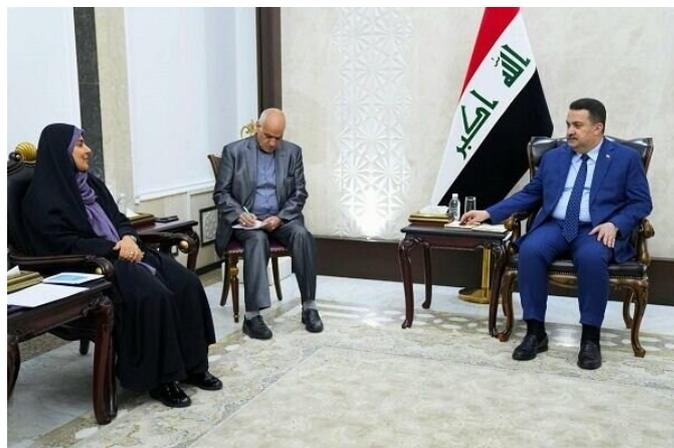
Speaking at the signing event, Mohammad Ebrahimnia, Director of Water, Agriculture, and Environment Affairs at Iran’s Plan and Budget Organization, emphasized the importance of building on previous cooperation and called for the swift launch of pilot initiatives and a joint action plan to accelerate implementation.

IRAN, IRAQ EMPHASIZE EXPANSION OF RAILWAY, TRANSIT CO-OP

During a meeting between Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani in Baghdad, the officials emphasized on development of railway and transit cooperation between the two countries.

In welcoming the Iranian minister, the Iraqi prime minister emphasized the expansion of rail and transit cooperation between the two countries, especially in the development route project, and emphasized the necessity of completing the Shalamcheh-Basra rail project, considering it important for the transportation of passengers from the two countries and Central Asia, especially during the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

The Iranian minister, who traveled to Iraq with the aim of developing transportation relations and visiting the Shalamcheh-Basra railway project, also met Iraqi Transport Minister Razzaq Muhaybis al-Saadawi, and Interior Minister Abdul Amir Al-Shammari in her trip.





SPORTS

IRANIAN ATHLETES TAKE TWO GOLD IN 2025 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Iran's Reyhaneh Mobini and Mohammadreza Tayebi won two gold medals at the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships Day 3 on Thursday.

In the women's long jump, Mobini Arani clinched gold with a 6.40m effort.

Indian jumpers Ancy Sojan Edappilly and Shaili Singh won the silver and bronze medals with 6.33m and 6.30m, respectively.

In the men's shot put, Tayebi took the gold with a throw of 20.32m, China's Xing Jialiang seized the silver with 19.97m, and the bronze medal went to Mohammed D Tolu from Saudi Arabia with 19.92m.

IRANIAN WOMEN'S ALYSH WRESTLING TEAM CROWNED ASIAN CHAMPIONS



The Iranian women's Alysh wrestling team has claimed the championship title at the Asian Wrestling Championships, securing three gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal in the classic category.

IRAN NATIONAL PARA-KARATE TEAM WINS GOLD AT 2025 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Iranian national para-karate team secured the championship title at the 2025 Asian Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, finishing with an impressive tally of 2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze medals.



This victory not only highlights the growing prowess of para-karate in Iran but also serves as a significant achievement in promoting inclusivity and representation in sports for athletes with disabilities.

The Iranian team dominated the competition, outperforming Kazakhstan, which took second place with 2 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals, while Saudi Arabia finished third with 1 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze medals. This championship marks a continuation of Iran's success in para-karate, as they also claimed the title in the previous edition of the tournament.



DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

BANDAR-E DEYLAM TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Bandar-e Deylam Port City (Deylam Beach) is located in the Central District of Deylam County, Booshehr province, in southern Iran. It boasts beautiful beaches with lovely sunsets.

