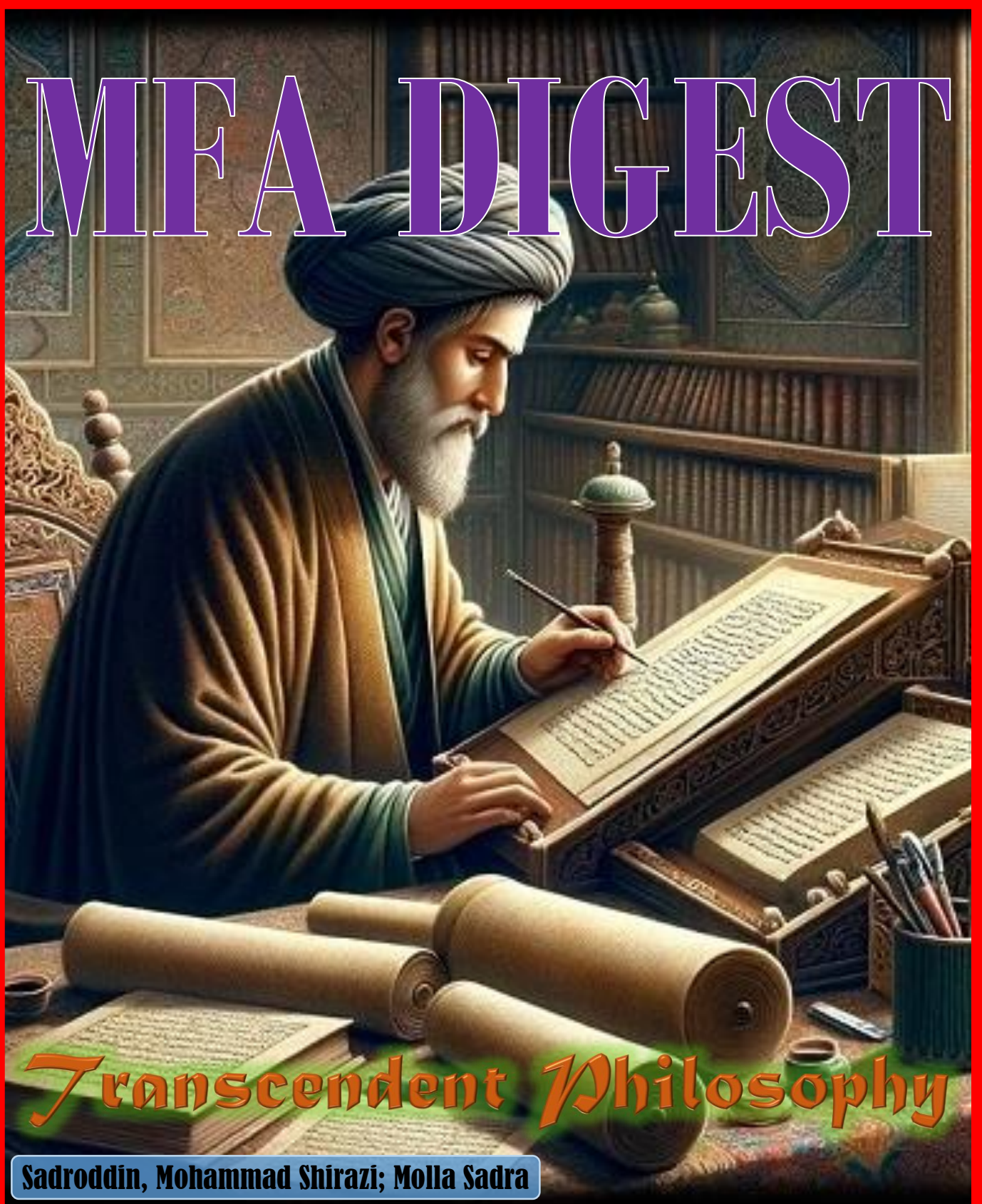




Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Center for Public Diplomacy

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MFA DIGEST



Transcendent Philosophy

Sadroddin, Mohammad Shirazi; Molla Sadra



MFA News



Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with the United Nations Secretary General as well as his counterparts from Qatar, South Korea, Turkiye, France, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Japan, Iraq, Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Oman, Egypt and New Zealand.



FM Araghchi Receives Senior Pakistani Delegations to Advance Negotiations to terminate the US-Israeli Invasion



Araghchi Visits India

Foreign Minister Araghchi visited India to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 14 and 15 May 2026. He delivered a statement in the BRICS meeting and held bilateral consultations with counterparts.





Science & Tech



Health minister attends 79th World Health Assembly

An Iranian delegation led by Health Minister Zafarqandi participated in the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland.



The minister delivered a speech and held meetings with WHO officials and his counterparts from other countries.

Following up on technical and specialized collaborations, expanding health diplomacy, and exploring ways to boost cooperation to improve health indicators are among the main objectives of the trip.



World Health Organization



This year's Assembly theme is "Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility". The key discussions cover Global Health Architecture Reform, Universal Health Coverage and Traditional Medicine, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, health emergency preparedness and response, mental health and social connection, health, and climate change.



Strategic Roundtables bring together delegates, experts from WHO, partner agencies, and civil society to discuss current priorities and next solutions on vital issues for global public health.

Iranian, Malaysian officials discuss ways to foster scientific ties

Iran's scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Tavakolpour, and scientific officials of the University of Malaya (UM) have explored the opportunities to expand scientific and academic ties between Iranian universities and UM.



The meeting was attended by UM officials, including Zuliana Razali, the director of the international relations centre; Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, the deputy dean of research and innovation at the faculty of engineering; and Fazliana binti Ismail from the faculty of medicine.



During the meeting, Malaysian officials elaborated on the scientific and research capabilities of the UM as one of the oldest and best universities in Malaysia.

For his part, Tavakolpour expounded on Iran's perspectives on the expansion of science diplomacy, presenting the capacities of Iranian elites and scientists, and shared the research fields that are a top priority for the country.

The two sides agreed to follow up on strategic cooperation within a framework of a joint action plan.

National Health Week marked by inaugurating 198 projects

A total of 198 medical projects were inaugurated nationwide via video conference on Saturday morning by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi on the second day of the National Health Week.



The projects included the inauguration of 160 health projects, 28 medical projects, and 10 community psychosocial health centers (known as SERAJ centers in Persian) in Tehran, Yazd, East Azarbaijan, Zanjan, and Fars provinces.

According to Alireza Raeisi, deputy health minister, a total of 106 community psychosocial health centers are operating in the country.



Highlighting that precaution is better than cure, the official said on Saturday, 10 more centers are being inaugurated. The health ministry is planning to inaugurate one more center each week till the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026 – March 2027).



The National Health Week is being held under the theme ‘sustainable healthcare with science and authority, enduring Iran’.



WTISD 2026: robust secure digital infrastructure

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.



The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people’s lives.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

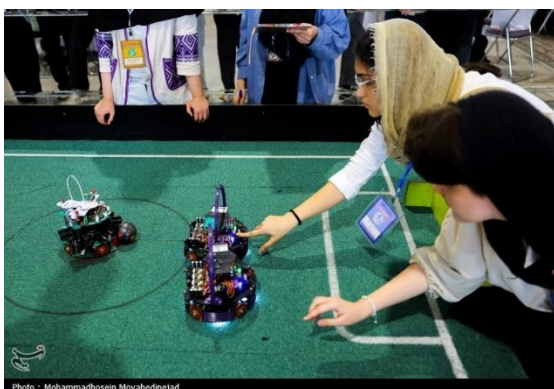
56 teams attend RoboCup Iran 2026

A total of 56 teams of Iranian students, aged 14 – 18, competed in six leagues of RoboCup Iran 2026, held from May 13 to 15, showcasing their scientific, technical, and creative capabilities.



Over the past three days, students took part in different leagues such as Junior Soccer (open), Junior Soccer (Light Weight), Junior Rescue (Line), Junior Rescue (maze), Junior Rescue Stimulation, and Onstage Leagues.

Teams that had excelled in the competition will be selected to represent Iran in RoboCup 2026 INCHEON, which is scheduled to take place from June 30 to July 6 in Incheon, South Korea.



Soccer leagues are among the most popular competitions. By the end of the first two days, 16 competitions in Junior Soccer (open), and 45 in Junior Soccer (Light Weight) were held. Teams use their own designed robots to hold humanoid football matches.



Six competitions were held in Junior Rescue (Line) in which robots should follow specific routes and complete missions defined for them. The accuracy in moving, recognizing the path, and completing tasks properly are among the main criteria, here.

Students competed in six Junior Rescue (maze) and Simulation League events, as well. In Junior Rescue (maze), robots should navigate through challenging terrains; recognizing signs, making quick decisions, and navigating in an unfamiliar environment are among the main features of the league.

Health minister discusses boosting health ties with BRICS counterparts

Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has explored avenues to expand cooperation with his counterparts from BRICS member states in different fields of the health sector. Zafarqandi held several meetings on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA), which is being held from May 18 to June 23 in Geneva, Switzerland.



An Iranian delegation led by the health minister is participating in the event. Holding a meeting with the Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Zafarqandi highlighted the role of India in the pharmaceutical industry and emphasized the need for the enhancement of ties in the field of health.

For his part, Prakash Nadda expounded on India's capacity in the health sector and announced the country's readiness to maintain and promote cooperation with Iran.

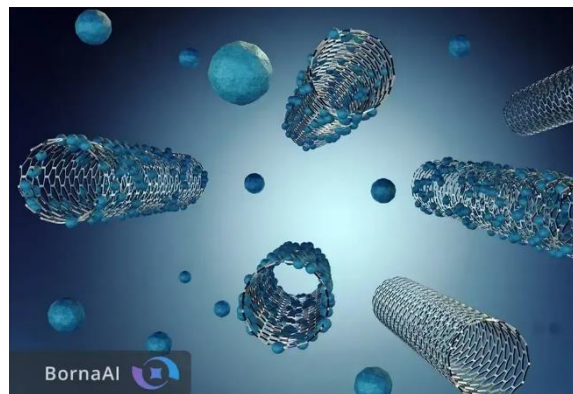
The two sides agreed to form a joint committee to follow up on the development of academic, medical, and pharmaceutical ties.



Products with nano-scale certificates rise despite US-Israel invasion

Despite the 12-day war in June 2025 and the recent 40-day war, 230 products have received nanoscale certificates in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2025-March 2026), surpassing the targeted number.

Last year, the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy and the headquarters for nanotechnology had planned to obtain nanoscale certificates for 190 products.





Still, the figure increased by 40, reaching 230. Currently, the total number of nanotechnology products with a nanoscale certificate has increased to 1965.

Over the past year, products of 61 companies received nanoscale certificates. Tehran, with 27 companies, is placed first, followed by Isfahan, Yazd, and Fars provinces with 5, 4, and 3 companies, respectively.

The highest number of products that received nanoscale certificates was recorded respectively in the

provinces of Tehran, Fars, and Mazandaran, with 64, 48, and 24 products, respectively.

The provinces of Zanjan (32 products), Qom (17), Markazi (16), Qazvin (11), and Isfahan (7) are placed next.

Out of 230 products, Industrial supplies had the largest share with 72 products. Energy, oil, and related industries accounted for 41, Chemicals for 36, and Pharmaceutical and Health for 26 products.

Trade & Economy

Iran-China rail corridor has annual transit capacity of 1m tons of cargo

A railway expert said that Iran-China commercial train frequency to one daily train would enable cargo movement of one million tons per year.



Mohammad Javad Shahjouei, a rail industry expert, detailed the potential of rail trade between Iran and China. He stated that regarding rail connectivity between Iran and China, routes such as Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran and China-Pakistan-Iran have been defined. Additionally, the China-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Iran route could become operational if Afghanistan's rail infrastructure is completed.



He added that currently, the first two routes, the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran corridor and the China-Pakistan-Iran route, exist in terms of infrastructure connectivity and are operable. Although the Pakistan route has not yet been fully utilized, the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan route has been active so far.

Over 62m tons of iron ore pellet produced in a year

According to the statistics of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), 62.716 million tons of iron ore pellet was produced in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).



Based on the ISIPA data, the country's iron ore pellet output in 1404 rose 0.1 percent from the production figure in 1403, which was 62.667 million tons.

Iron ore pellets are small, spherical balls of iron ore concentrate, typically measuring 6–16 millimeters in diameter. They are a key raw material for modern steelmaking, produced by agglomerating fine iron ore particles with binders like bentonite, then indurating them at high temperatures—either through a straight-grate or grate-kiln process.



Unlike natural lump ore, pellets offer uniform size, high mechanical strength, and superior metallurgical properties. Their high iron content (64–67%) and low impurities increase blast furnace productivity while reducing energy consumption and emissions. Pellets also perform exceptionally well in direct reduction processes to make sponge iron, a growing route for green steel.



ICCIMA holds board of representatives meeting on economic challenges



The 23rd meeting of the Board of Representatives of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) was held with presentations on the country's special economic conditions, the latest status of the steel chain and the petrochemical industry chain, and their effects on the commodity exchange.



اتاق بازرگانی صنایع معادن و کشاورزی ایران

Addressing the meeting, Hasanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, said: "We hope that the authorities act with expert prudence in all matters, especially negotiations, so that we can achieve peace of mind and lasting peace for the country while preserving the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

TPO official outlines key pillars for achieving \$10b Iran-Pakistan bilateral trade target

The Director General of Asia and Subcontinent Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization said: Focusing on removing infrastructure barriers, activating the transit corridor, developing border market activities, and utilizing the barter mechanism under current circumstances are the main pillars of the Iran-Pakistan trade roadmap to increase bilateral trade to the level of \$10 billion.



Abdolsadeh Nisi, in a meeting with traders and entrepreneurs at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, introduced the capacities of the Iran-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement to develop bilateral trade cooperation.

Emphasizing the development of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, he stated that deepening relations between the two countries is not merely a diplomatic choice but a strategic necessity to increase the level of economic resilience.

Road quality improved by securing 8,000km of country's road arteries



The Director General of the Office for Sign Maintenance, Equipment, and Road Safety Development of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization announced that in line with the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan and following studies conducted in the first year of the plan, with the aim of adopting a preventive approach, improving the safety of 8,000 kilometers of the country's arterial roads is being carried out between 2025 and 2028.



Mohammad Rashed Modarres Gorji reported that the target of improving safety on 2,000 kilometers of arterial roads has been 100% achieved in 2025, with another 2,000 kilometers targeted by the end of this year.

Referring to the target of improving safety on 2,000 kilometers of main road arteries in 2026, he stated that preventive measures such as organizing and securing access points and intersections, installing barriers, providing clear zones, and implementing slope embankments are being carried out to enhance roadside safety and reduce accidents.



Sarakhs Special Economic Zone begins operations

The acting secretary of the Supreme Council of Iran's Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones has announced the start of the operational phase of the Sarakhs Economic Zone, in Khorasan Razavi province, following the establishment of customs and registration infrastructure in the region.



Following an order from Ferdosi, Deputy for Development Management and Resources of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and acting head of this secretariat, members of the working group for establishing and developing new free zones were dispatched to the Sarakhs and Dogharoon free zones to field-evaluate and operationalize the process of setting up executive, customs, and organizational infrastructure in these zones.

Iran, Japan discuss expansion of economic cooperation



During a meeting between Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Seyed Ali Madanizadeh and Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Tamaki Tsukada, the two sides discussed the ways to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.



Persian Cuisine



Beryani

Beryani is a traditional Baluchi dish. The iconic Chabahar-style beryani, fiery, tangy, loaded with potatoes and prunes. Born in the streets of Chabahar, perfected by cooks.

Ingredients

3 cups Iranian Rice;
1 kg Mutton, bone-in;
4 medium Potatoes, Peeled and halved;
1 cup Yoghurt, Full-fat;

4 large Onions;
3 medium Tomatoes, roughly chopped;
8-10 Green Chilies;
6-8 Dried Plums;
1 pinch Saffron;
0.5 cup Oil/Ghee;
1 bunch Fresh Mint;
1 bunch Fresh Coriander;
Masala;
Salt.

Instructions

FRIED ONIONS: Slice 4 onions into thin half-moons, about the thickness of a coin. Heat 4 tbsp. oil in a deep pot until a small piece of onion dropped in sizzles immediately (about 30 seconds to float back up).

Add the onions in batches — don't overcrowd or they'll steam instead of fry. Stir every 30 seconds.

They'll go translucent first (about 3 minutes), then slowly turn golden (another 5-7 minutes). You're looking for a deep amber color, not pale yellow.



HINT: If they're browning unevenly, your flame is too high. Remove with a slotted ladle onto a plate. They'll crisp up more as they cool.

MARINATE THE MEAT: In a large bowl, combine the mutton pieces with yoghurt, masala, half the fried onions, and 1 tsp salt. Use your hands to massage everything into the meat — every piece should be coated.

Cover with cling film and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.



RICE: Fill a large heavy-bottomed pot with water — about 8 cups. Add masala, salt and rice. We parboil to exactly 70% — this is crucial because the remaining 30% cooks during steam cooking

FRY THE POTATOES: In the same pot, heat 3 tbsp. oil on medium-high. Add the halved, peeled potatoes. Fry them on each side for about 3-4 minutes until they're golden all over — you're not cooking them through, just building a crust that'll hold up during steam cooking. They should look like they've been sunbathing.



HINT: Make sure the potatoes are dry before they go into hot oil.

BUILD THE LAYERS: Spread the cooked meat and masala evenly across the bottom of the pot. Place the fried potatoes on top, pressing them gently into the meat. Scatter the soaked dried plums around the potatoes. Spread a layer of mint leaves and coriander. Now gently spoon the parboiled rice on top in an even layer — use a ladle and don't press down or you'll crush the grains.



FINAL TOUCHES: Drizzle the saffron in thin lines across the rice — this creates those beautiful golden streaks. Scatter the remaining fried onions on top. Splash 2-3 tbsp. of water around the edges of the pot — this creates steam.

HINT: Some cooks add a few drops of rose water for aroma. It's not essential, but it's a nice touch.



STEAM COOKING: This is the step that transforms ingredients into beryani. Tear off a large piece of aluminum foil and press it tightly over the top of the pot — create an airtight seal. Place the lid on top of the foil and press down. If your lid isn't heavy enough, put a heavy object on top. Cook on the lowest possible flame for 25-30 minutes.

DO NOT OPEN THE LID. Seriously. Every peek releases steam and adds 5 minutes to the cooking time. You should hear very gentle bubbling — if you hear vigorous boiling, your flame is too high.

REST AND SERVE: Turn off the heat but **DO NOT** open the lid yet. Let the beryani rest for 10 minutes — the residual steam finishes the cooking and lets the flavors settle. Now open the lid.



You should see beautifully fluffy rice with golden saffron streaks. Using a large ladle, gently fold from the bottom to the top, bringing up the meat and potatoes. Try to keep the layers somewhat intact — this isn't a stir-fry. Serve on a large platter and prepare for compliments.

Chef's Secrets

The potatoes are non-negotiable in beryani! They absorb the masala and become the best part of the dish — anyone who tells you to skip them is making a different beryani.



Use a heavy pot or Dutch oven — thin aluminum pots burn the bottom layer. The bottom rice, should be crispy, not charred.



The steam cooking phase is where ingredients dried plums add a subtle sweetness that balances the green chili heat. First-timers always want to skip them — don't. You'll thank us later.

fried onions **MUST** be deep amber, almost mahogany. Pale golden onions won't give the right sweetness or color to the beryani.





Iran Sports



Iran and Russia NPCs ink MoU

In a significant move to bolster international cooperation in para-sports, the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) of Iran and Russia have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering bilateral development.



This landmark agreement was reportedly finalized during Ghafour Kargari's visit to Russia, coinciding with the 30th-anniversary celebrations of the Russian NPC. During his visit, Kargari, representing Iran's NPC, held a crucial meeting with his Russian counterpart, Pavel Rozhkov. The discussions centered on identifying and cultivating common ground for the advancement of para-sports across both nations.

Iran's Para powerlifter Izadi snatches gold at Oran 2026

Alireza Izadi of Iran claimed a gold medal at the Oran 2026 Para Powerlifting African Open Championships on Thursday.



He lifted 542kg in total, followed by Nigerian Ibrahim Dauda (522kg) and Egyptian Abdalla Elhout (512kg) in the Men's Up to 59 kg.

Also, Mahdieh Mohammadian seized a silver medal with a total lift of 302kg.



Iran dominate Bangladesh in CAVA Women's Volleyball Championship Opener

The Iranian women's national volleyball team signaled their championship intent, kicking off their CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) campaign with a clinical 3-0 (25-6, 25-9, 25-10) demolition of Bangladesh.

The tournament, hosted in Nepal from May 22 to 29, sees the top regional sides vying for continental glory.

Under the guidance of head coach Lee Do-hee, Iran wasted no time asserting their technical and tactical superiority.

From the opening serve, the Iranians overwhelmed their opponents, cruising to a comfortable victory in straight sets. The match was a showcase of dominance for the Iranian squad, who arrived in Nepal fresh off a productive training camp in Thailand.

Following an exceptional all-around performance, Iran's Sepinood was rightfully named Player of the Match for her stellar contributions across all facets of the game.

With the first win under their belt, Iran look to maintain their momentum in the group stage, where they are pooled alongside Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.



Iranian duo secure gold at 2026 Asian Taekwondo Championships

Iranian taekwondo athletes achieved significant success on Friday at the 27th Asian Taekwondo Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, clinching two gold medals.



The tournament serves as both a continental championship and a crucial qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Abolfazl Zandi captured the gold medal in the men's -58kg division after a hard-fought victory against South Korea's Yang Hui-Chan in the final. To reach the gold-medal match, Zandi navigated a challenging bracket, defeating opponents from the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Uzbekistan.



In the men's -74kg division, Amirsina Bakhtiari also secured a gold medal, defeating China's Zhaoxun Cai in the final. This victory earns Bakhtiari a coveted quota spot for the 2026 Asian Games. His path to the final included impressive wins over athletes from Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan.

These performances add to Iran's strong showing at the championships, following Thursday's success where reigning Olympic champion Arian Salimi won gold in the men's +87kg division, and Yasin Valizadeh earned a silver medal in the men's -54kg category.



Iran to send 27 athletes to 2026 Youth Olympic Games

Iran's delegation for the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal — the first edition of the Games to be held on African soil — is locked in. With 27 athletes qualified across 12 disciplines, the lineup is 99% final just five months out.

Over the 13-day event, participating athletes will compete in 25 sports. Iran's sports delegation — named "Makan Nasiri" — has been finalized with 12 sports. According to the head of the delegation, 27 athletes in these disciplines will travel to Dakar, and there is a 99% chance that no changes will be made to this lineup in the remaining time before the Games.

Delegation chief Hamid Azizi confirmed the quota breakdown has been finalized through the IOC and respective international federations. He praised the training camp structure and financial backing, calling the current conditions "favorable."

Aida Arab named best line player at Asian U16 Handball Championship

Iranian line player Aida Arab has earned the distinction of being recognized as the tournament's top line player at the Asian Girls' U16 Handball Championship, which recently concluded in Kazakhstan.

Arab — a key player for Iran's U16 girls' handball squad — was chosen for the competition's all-star team following the conclusion of the Asian Championship in Kazakhstan. Her performances throughout the event secured her the award for best line player of the championship.



Iran's Yousefi wins silver at Asian Weightlifting Championships

Iran's Alireza Yousefi secured a silver medal in the +110kg category at the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships on Sunday.



Yousefi delivered a strong performance, lifting 187kg in the snatch and 261kg in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 448kg, earning second place on the podium.

Norouzi: My goal is to win Iran's first women's rowing gold in Nagoya

Zeynab Norouzi, the women's national rowing team athlete, expressed his desire to win a gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Nagoya, Japan.



Norouzi is one of the most decorated Iranian women rowers. She also aims to book a place in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

"I am currently following intensive training at the Zanzan Dam and am putting all my effort into reaching the highest level of physical and technical readiness. My goal is to reach full preparedness for the Nagoya Asian Games so that I can deliver my best performance in this competition," she said.

Iran's women's volleyball team beat Thailand in friendly



Iran's women's volleyball team defeated Thailand in a friendly match as part of preparation for the 2026 CAVA Women's Volleyball Championship.

The CAVA 2026 will be held from May 22 to 29 in Kathmandu, Nepal, and the Iranian women's national team are holding their training in Thailand.

Tourism & Nature

Zahedan

Zahedan is the capital of Sistan & Baluchestan Province and is located 1605 km. south-east of Tehran, near the border with Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Zahedan's name derives from the plural form of the word 'Zahed', meaning 'pious'.

The demographics of Zahedan's inhabitants are a mixture of majority ethnic Baloch who speak the Balochi language and minority of other Persian ethnicities. Zahedan lies east of the Dasht-e Loot desert.

Zahedan Museum

The precious collection of Zahedan Museum is a top attraction of the city. In 5 floors, the museum presents you the five thousand years of history in the region and the sweet culture of its warm-hearted people.



Apart from featuring archaeological treasures found in Sistan and Baluchestan, it also showcases the precious relics found in Kerman and South Khorasan provinces. From the treasures found in the top archaeological sites nearby, Zahedan Museum boasts of a 5000-year-old artificial eye!

Shahr-e Sokhta and its Museum



Like to discover one of the world's oldest civilizations (around 173 km to Zahedan)? Then Shahr-e Sokhta (meaning the burnt city) is the place to be!

This UNESCO-listed treasure gives you a deep insight into the foundation of the well urbanized societies of ancient Persia. Astonishing historical, scientific, industrial, and societal values make this Zahedan one of Middle East's richest archaeological sites.

Mount Khajeh

229 km to the north of Zahedan, you'll find an ancient mountain that's sacred and highly valuable to Zoroastrians, Christians, and Muslims: Mount Khajeh.



The remains of a grand structure, a Zoroastrian fire temple, 2 adobe castles, an ancient road, a number of stone tombs, and a few Islamic shrines are of the relics you can find on this Zahedan Attraction. Mount Khajeh Palace, one of the most glorious pre-Islamic sights, features rare stucco and paintings.



Dahan-e Gholaman

Take a walk through history in Dahan-e Gholaman, a lesser-known city of the great Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC). As a top attraction 231 km to Zahedan, this valuable adobe treasure embraces the remains of residential houses, religious relics, military strongholds, and administrative buildings.



After ancient people abandoned the city because of the lack of water, strong winds covered it with sand and hid it for over 2 thousand years.

Anthropology Museum of Sistan



In the heart of Zabol, a town 221 km to the north of Zahedan, you'll lose yourself in the rich culture and customs of the adorable people of Sistan and Baluchestan.



Today, it is home to different sections featuring different aspects: local customs, local clothes, kilim weaving, etc. Plus, you'll also check out over 32 thousand relics found in Dahan-e Gholaman and Shahr-i Sokhta.



Chabahar

Chabahar is the only ocean port in Iran and it makes an unforgettable experience for tourists visiting its amazing natural beauty.

In addition to the beautiful climate and nature, this Zone promises tourists the experience of visiting historical monuments, enjoying handicrafts and getting acquainted with local customs and traditions.



Chabahar's natural attractions are truly amazing and unique. Derek beach is one of the few places in the world where the desert reaches the ocean and creates a beautiful and exciting landscape.

Lipar Lagoon with its amazing pink color is another wonder of this region.



Martian mountains or miniature mountains which were part of the Oman Sea until a few million years ago, mud fountains that are among the rare geological phenomena, Gwadar Bay with its colorful mountains and sands, Gando Protected Area, with its unique wildlife, and the Rocky beaches, with ocean waves several meters high, are other tourist attractions of this Zone.

Chabahar is called Chahar Bahar (Four Springs) or the port of Hamishe Bahar (Always-Spring Port) and the paradise in the south of Iran, because it has a mild and pleasant climate all year round.



The temperature of Chabahar is about 31 degrees in the warmest months of the year and about 16 degrees in the coldest months; and it hosts the largest number of tourists during Norooz and in the winter quarter.





Society & Culture



"Eyes of Minab" installation honors martyred children at Tehran Book Garden

Following its initial display at Tajrish Square, the art installation titled "Eyes of Minab" has been relocated to the Tehran Book Garden, drawing public attention once again to the tragic martyrdom of schoolchildren in southern Iran.

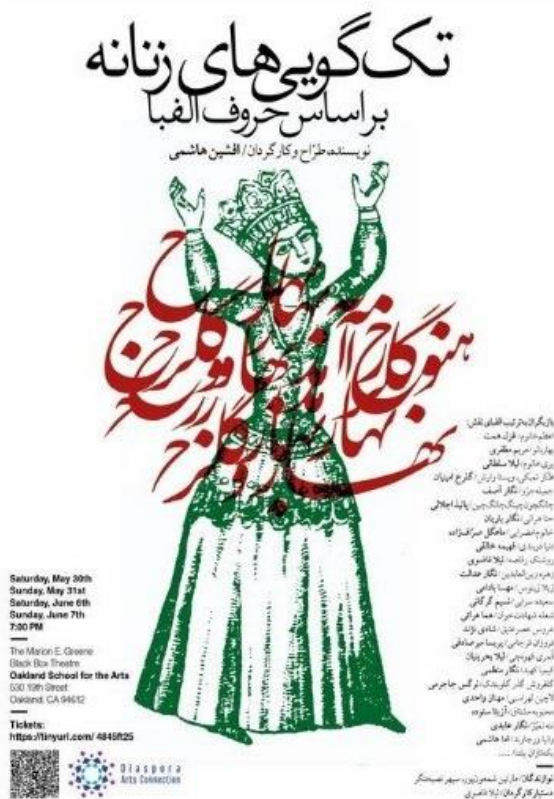
The art project serves as a somber tribute to the 168 students and staff of the Shajareh Tayyebah Elementary School in Minab, who were martyred during the recent US-Zionist aggressions.

By displaying large-scale images of the eyes and parts of the faces of the martyred children, the installation seeks to remind the international community of the human cost of these crimes and the innocence of the victims.

Commissioned by the Tehran Municipality Beautification Organization and produced by the Soore-ye Omid Institute Arts and Media Institute, the project was executed by architectural designer Reza Golpayegani.

Afshin Hashemi to stage “Female Monologues Based on the Alphabet” in California

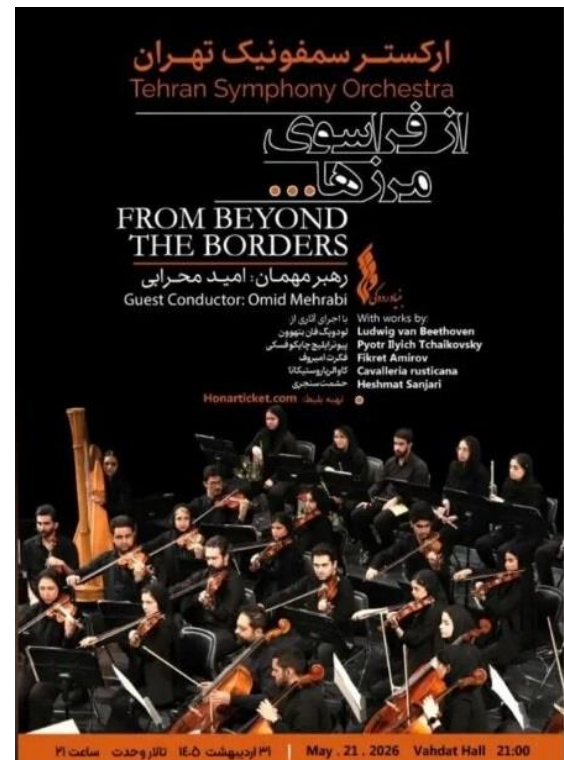
Renowned Iranian director and actor Afshin Hashemi is set to stage his acclaimed production, "Female Monologues Based on the Alphabet," in Oakland, California, featuring a cast of Iranian actors residing in the United States.



Hashemi, who is currently in the US for a cultural project, will bring the play to the stage at the Oakland University of Fine Arts on May 30 and 31, and June 6 and 7.

The production consists of 32 distinct monologues that narrate the stories of Iranian women from various eras—spanning the past and present.

Each monologue is uniquely centered on a specific letter of the Persian alphabet, making extensive use of colloquial language, idioms, and traditional proverbs.



Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform “From Beyond Borders”

Titled “From Beyond Borders,” the concert will have Omid Mehrabi as the conductor, following the new approach and in line with the new policies of the Artistic Council, which seeks to give opportunities to young conductors and is set to mark a new chapter in the activities of this orchestra.

The concert will feature works by prominent composers from around the world and Iran, including the German composer Ludwig van

Beethoven, Russian composers Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Alexander Borodin, Soviet composer Fikret Amirov, Italian composer Pietro Mascagni, Czech composer Bedřich Smetana, and Iranian composer Heshmat Sanjari.

Each of the works represents a part of the world's classical music heritage and, together, will create a diverse and magnificent atmosphere for the audience.

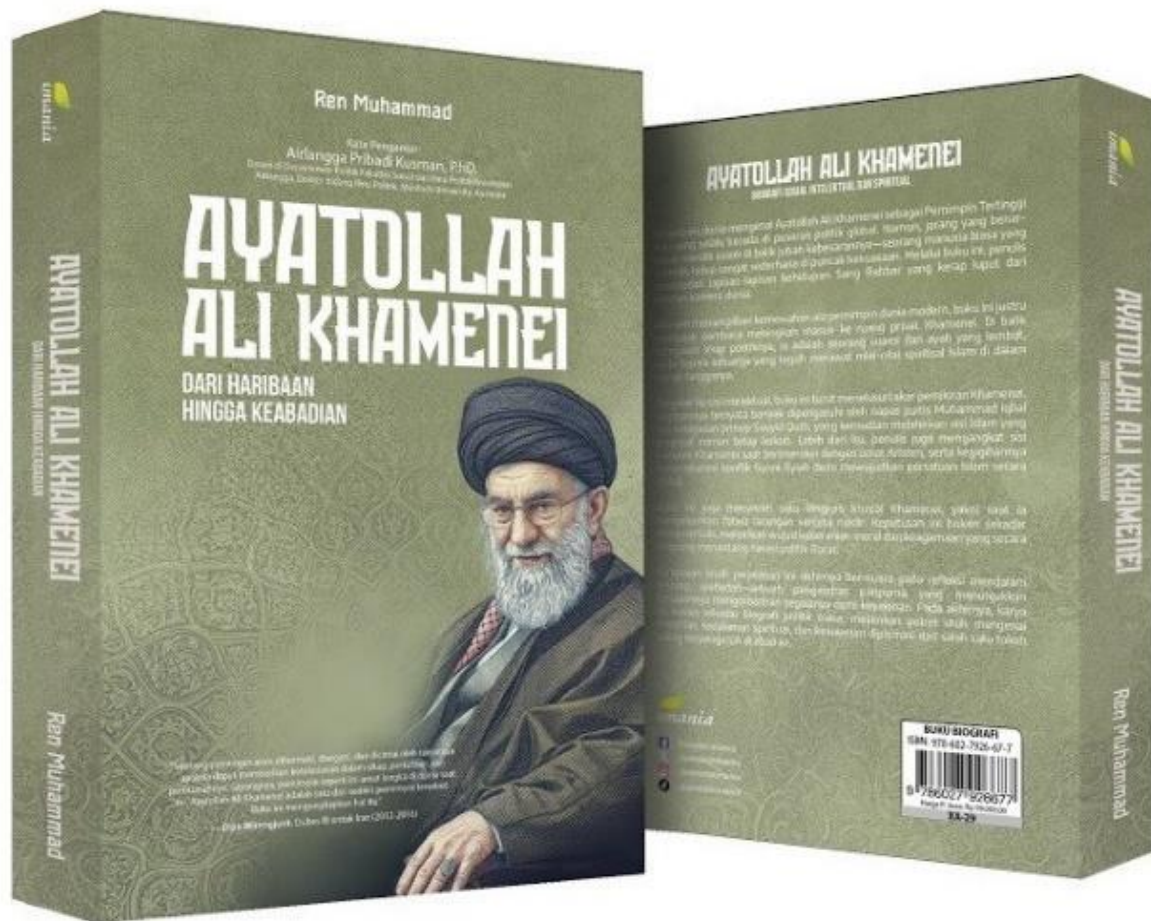
The title "From Beyond Borders" also emphasizes this international perspective and cultural dialogue through music. The performance aims to take the audience on a journey across cultures, styles, and musical narratives, transcending geographical boundaries.

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1933, is Iran's oldest and largest symphony orchestra. It was founded as the Municipality Symphony Orchestra by Gholamhossein Minbashian, before entering its modern form under Parviz Mahmoud in 1946.



In the years that followed, conductors such as Rubik (Ruben) Gregorian, Morteza Hannaneh, Haymo Taeuber, Heshmat Sanjari, Farhad Meshkat, and Fereydoun Nasserri took over as the conductors of the orchestra.





“Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: From Cradle to Eternity” published in Indonesia

Following the growing interest in the influential figures of the Islamic world within the Indonesian intellectual sphere, a new comprehensive book titled "Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: Dari Haribaan Hingga Keabadian" (“Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: From Cradle to Eternity”) has been released across Indonesia.

The 304-page work is authored by Ren Muhammad, a prominent Indonesian writer and researcher recognized for his deep explorations

of spiritual history and the biographies of transformative Islamic figures.

Published by Penerbit Imania and distributed through the extensive Mizan Group network, the book offers a narrative and analytical deep dive into the life, struggles, and leadership of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

This marks the second independent publication regarding the thoughts and legacy of Ayatollah Khamenei to be released in Indonesia following his martyrdom, receiving significant demand through pre-order sales.

Spain's ambassador to Iran visits "Art & War" exhibition at TMoCA

Concurrent with the International Museum Day, May 18, the Spanish Ambassador to Iran visited the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) to view the second part of the "Art & War," showcasing 11 works by four Spanish modernist painters from its treasured collection.



The exhibition provided an opportunity for the Spanish Ambassador to emphasize the importance of cultural diplomacy and the peace-seeking message of art in times of crisis.

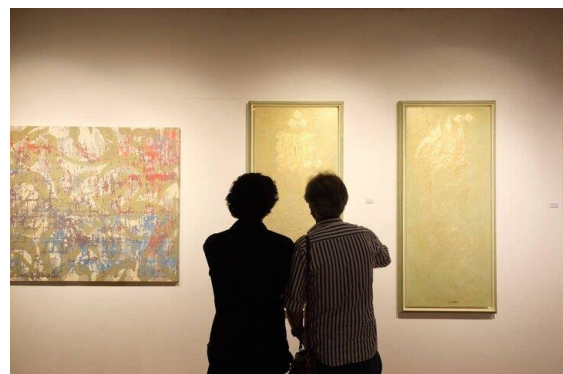
After viewing the works on display, Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar, Spain's ambassador to Iran, expressed his pleasure at the event being held in Tehran and said: "Spain has a long tradition of anti-war art, and our positions have always been based on peace and respect for human rights."

"In the Name of Iran" art exhibit underway at Niavaran Cultural Center



The Niavaran Cultural Center's main gallery is playing host to "In the Name of Iran," a group exhibition featuring 80 works by some of the most celebrated figures in Iranian contemporary and modern art.

Curated by Elham Danesh, the exhibition aims to foster solidarity among the artistic community while bolstering the domestic economy of visual arts.



The collection boasts an extraordinary lineup of masters, including Mohammad Ehsai, Nasser Ovissi, Kambiz Dermbakhsh, Sadegh Tabrizi, Jafar Rouhbakhsh, Parviz Shapour, and others.

International literary prize launched to honor Minab victims

The International Six-Word Story Award: Minab School – 168 Unfinished Short Stories was officially launched on Sunday.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, unveiled the event's poster during his visit to the 7th Tehran Virtual Book Fair, marking the start of a global literary initiative dedicated to keeping the memory of the victims alive through the power of minimalist storytelling.

The literary event aims to foster creativity in micro-narratives while

providing a platform for expressing human experiences through a concise and impactful lens.

The award's title, "168 Unfinished Short Stories," serves as a tribute to the lives lost in the Minab school tragedy, framing each victim as a story left incomplete.

The call for submissions invites writers, literary enthusiasts, and storytellers from across the globe to submit works that adhere to the six-word story format. This genre challenges participants to craft narratives that, despite their brevity, carry deep emotional weight and leave a lasting impression on the reader's mind.



Iran dedicates Cannes pavilion to martyred children of Minab

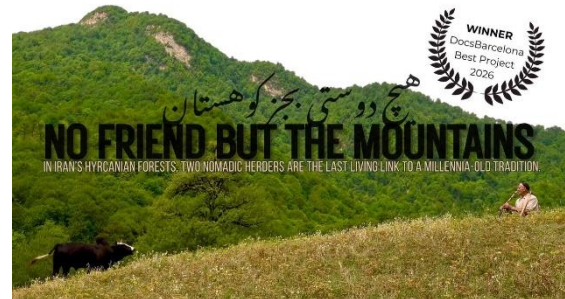
The Farabi Cinema Foundation (FCF) has set up the Iranian Cinema Umbrella at the 79th Cannes Film Market (Marché du Film), representing the country's film industry at the prestigious global event, which is running from May 12 to 23.



Reflecting the current atmosphere in Iran following the Ramadan War in recent months, the Iranian pavilion has been dedicated to the memory of the martyred children of Minab. A memorial book has also been placed at the booth, allowing visitors to pay their respects to the young victims of the conflict, Honaronline reported.

The pavilion features a diverse range of productions, including classic films from the Farabi archives and selected works by the late legendary director Dariush Mehrjui. Additionally, new productions from the FCF, as well as the latest offerings from the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC)

and the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS), are being presented to international buyers and festival programmers.



Iranian documentary project wins award at DocsBarcelona

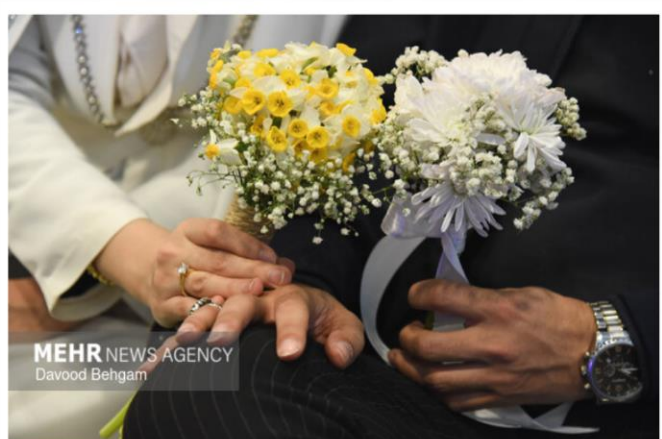
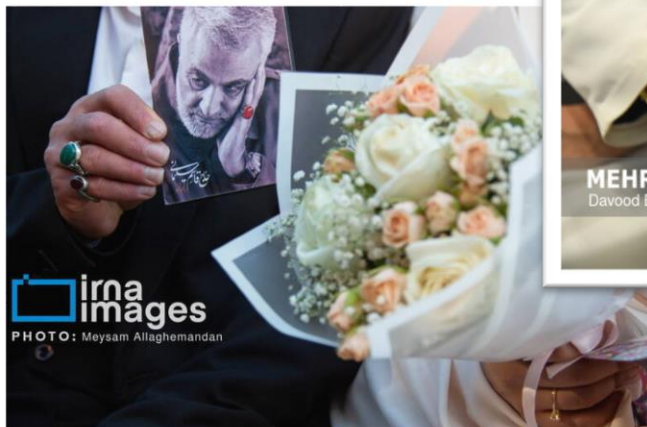
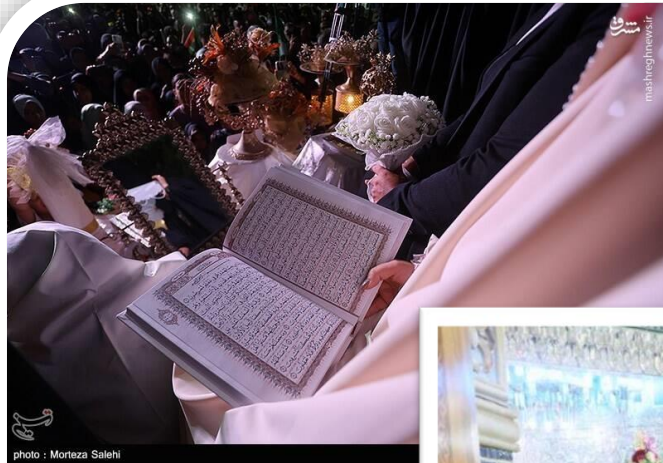
The Iranian documentary project “No Friend but the Mountains,” directed by Yaser Talebi won the Best Project Award at DocsBarcelona 2026, which was held from May 7 to 17 in Barcelona, Spain.

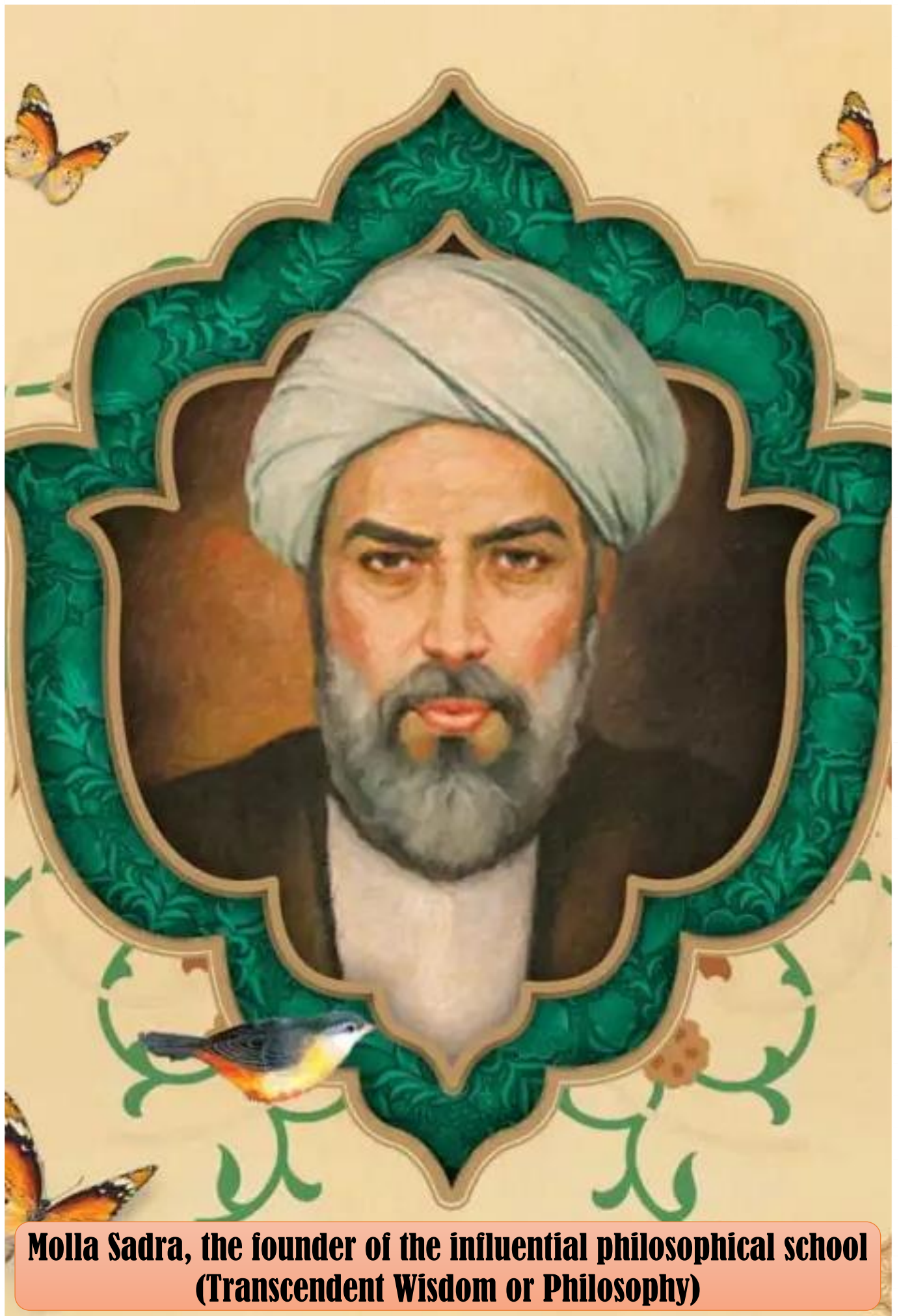
The film received a unanimous jury decision that praised the film’s “clear and compelling narrative” and “the director’s tender and intimate gaze” on its protagonists.



Events & Occasions

Wedding in Pro-Gov't Rallies!





**Molla Sadra, the founder of the influential philosophical school
(Transcendent Wisdom or Philosophy)**