



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

Issue #130
June 16-30, 2026

Iran "Minab 168" team in tribute to 168 schoolchildren killed in US strike

MFA DIGEST



FIFA
WORLD CUP
2026





MFA News



Iran's FM in Telephone Talks

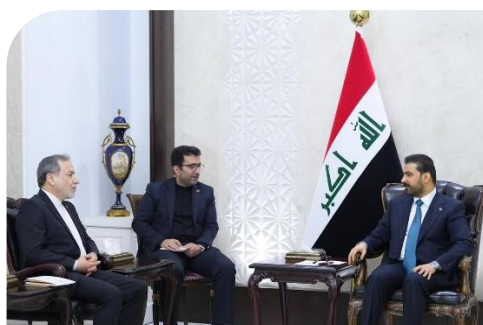
Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with Joseph Aoun, President of Lebanon; Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon, and his counterparts from Pakistan, Oman, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela, Cyprus, Romania, Italy, France, UK, China, Japan and South Korea.



FM Araghchi Briefs Resident Ambassadors in Tehran



FM Araghchi Pays Visits to Iraq, Oman and Switzerland





Science & Tech



Threats cannot stop Iran's space program, Pars-2 launch preparations underway

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Sattar Hashemi has praised the continuity of space operations during the recent imposed war despite damage to some infrastructure, saying the resilience demonstrated by experts proved that Iranian space development cannot be halted by attacks on physical facilities.



The minister announced that preparations are underway to place the Pars-2 satellite into orbit, adding that the Shahid Soleimani satellite constellation is expected to be ready for launch by the end of the year.

Hashemi also emphasized technology diplomacy, stronger cooperation with friendly countries and greater participation by the

private sector to enhance the resilience of Iran's space industry.

SCO education ministers censure attacks on Iran's scientific centers



The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Education Ministers have condemned military attacks on Iran's civilian infrastructure, particularly scientific and educational centers, in the final statement of the tenth meeting, held in Minsk, on June 16 and 17.

The SCO member states reviewed the presented reports and documents by Iran, voicing their deep concern over airstrikes on educational, research, and civilian infrastructures.

Referring to the SCO's prior stance, the statement highlighted the unacceptability of the use of force and the need to adhere to the principles of international humanitarian law.

Iranian, Malaysian scientific officials agree on joint engineering projects

Iran's scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Tavakolpour, and officials from the University of Malaya (UM) have agreed on the implementation of joint engineering projects, including the establishment of twin laboratories and the issuance of double or dual degrees.



The officials met on Sunday to explore avenues for expanding science diplomacy and promoting research collaborations.

The meeting was attended by UM officials, including Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, the deputy dean of research and innovation at the faculty of engineering, Nasrul Anuar bin Abd Razak, deputy dean of biomedical engineering, and Nurin Wahidah binti Mohd Zulkifli, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Evaluating the research capacities of the Faculty of Engineering, UM,

including mechanics, electrical engineering, chemistry, medicine, and civil engineering, the two sides highlighted the need to boost ties in emerging technologies.



Tavakolpour proposed implementing large-scale interdisciplinary research projects, which was welcomed by the Malaysian officials. The two sides also discussed the designation of joint supervising professors, professors, and student exchange.

IRCS proposes UN bodies set up humanitarian training center in West Asia



The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has proposed that the United Nations resident coordinator and the director of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa launch a humanitarian training center in West Asia, announcing readiness to take the leading role in this regard.

The IRCS head, Pirhossein Kolivand, offered the proposal in a meeting with the UN resident coordinator, Christine Weigand, and the director of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Charles Bernimolin.



Benefiting from 110,000 specialized and trained staff, as well as six million young volunteers, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has a high capacity in providing relief, educational, and humanitarian services, Kolivand said.

Knowledge-based company develops nano kit for early detection of gastric cancer

An Iranian knowledge-based company has managed to develop a nano diagnostic kit for early detection of antigens associated with helicobacter pylori, which is the most frequent cause of chronic gastritis, duodenal ulcer, and stomach cancer.

Helicobacter pylori is a gram-negative bacterium that infects more than half of the world's population. The global prevalence of the infection is estimated to be 44 percent. It is regarded as a significant risk factor for chronic gastric conditions and certain gastrointestinal cancers, yet the infection is preventable if detected early, IRNA reported.

Titled 'Helicobacter Pylori Antigen Rapid Test', the kit is developed based on Lateral Flow Assay technology that enables rapid, easy, low-cost diagnosis of infection in healthcare centers, laboratories, and even at home; the new method is highly accurate and non-invasive.



The achievement will reduce dependence on imported products, enhance the screening system, improve patient access to diagnostic services, and lower healthcare system costs.

CPDI depicts ways to improve Iran's sci-tech co-op with BRICS

The Center for Progress and Development of Iran (CPDI) has prepared a report illustrating Iran's participation in scientific, technological, and innovation cooperation within BRICS, as well as strategic opportunities and required measures to enhance the country's role in this sector.

BRICS, as one of the most important players in the international system in recent years, has made extensive investments in science, technology, and innovation in addition to economic and political cooperation. Now, the bloc has turned into one of the largest scientific cooperation networks in developing countries, benefiting from 14 specialized working groups and dozens of joint research and technological programs.



CPDI, as the center for the coordination of Iran's technological and scientific interactions with BRICS, is responsible for leading the country's representatives, analyzing

special documents, providing technical advice, and developing connections among domestic institutions and BRICS specialized structures.

Tehran, Minsk ink MOU on academic, scientific ties



Hossein Simaei-Sarrafi, the Iranian Minister of Science, Research and Technology, and Denis Korzhitsky, the chairman of the Belarusian State Committee on Science and Technology, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Thursday to expand educational, research, and technological collaborations.

The MOU was inked at the 8th meeting of the Joint Belarusian-Iranian Commission on Co-operation in Science, Technology and Higher Education, which took place in Minsk.

The commission confirmed the priority areas for 2026-2028 as digital economy and artificial intelligence; innovative industrial

technologies; biological and medical technologies; innovative solutions in the agro-industrial complex and food industry; and development and deepening of the study of the languages and literatures of both countries.

Iran proposes BRICS+ develop reliable computing power networks

Iran's representative at the BRICS Future Network Innovation Forum 2026, held in Shenzhen from June 16 to 17, proposed the establishment of a cooperation framework for the BRICS Plus partnership to develop future digital infrastructure, strengthen industrial cooperation, and promote cross-border interactions among member states.

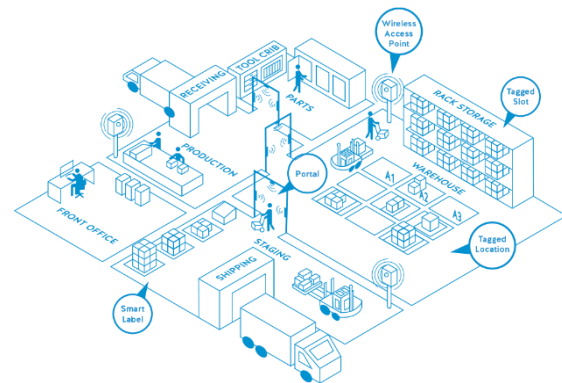


Delivering a speech, titled 'From connectivity to reliable computing power networks; enabling shared digital growth, industrial cooperation, and transboundary interactions', Mohammad-Hossein

Sheikhi, an official with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), outlined Iran's views and proposals in developing future digital infrastructure.



“Connectivity, network coverage, and bandwidth are essential for digital development, but meeting emerging needs requires an approach that goes beyond traditional network development,” the official said.



The expansion of technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), industrial Internet of Things (IoT), smart logistics, smart energy systems, modern financial technologies, and digital platforms requires integrated, smart, and reliable infrastructures, he stressed.

Iran leads regional countries in Scopus-indexed journals 2026

With 464 journals indexed by the Scopus database from 2011 to 2026, Iran ranks first among regional countries. Turkey, with 344 Scopus-indexed journals, is placed second, IRNA reported.

The number of Iranian journals has experienced a sustained upward trend, increasing from 95 journals in 2011 to 464 journals in 2026, the report added.



The strategic priority of the country's research system in 2026 focuses on not just increasing the number of journals, but also improving the quality of works, which requires enhancing standards in evaluation processes, recruiting international reviewers and authors, and adhering to publication ethics to elevate Iran's scientific standing on a global scale.

Iranian scholar receives MAB Young Scientist Award



The Department of Environment (DOE) and the National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) have honored the Iranian scholar Behzad Qiasi by presenting him with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Young Scientists Award 2025 for his project 'Develop a sustainable hydrotourism model in Iran's Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve'.



Qiasi is a faculty member of the University of Tehran and holds a Ph.D. in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering.

His project aims to restore wetlands while supporting local livelihoods. He will work with communities, NGOs, and government agencies to design eco-friendly tourism that reduces pressure on water resources.



Through environmental and economic assessments, he will identify viable green jobs linked to cultural heritage and nature conservation. His project will empower local voices, especially youth and women, and produce a replicable model for other fragile wetland reserves.

In 2025, 11 young researchers from across the globe, including Morocco, China, Congo, the U.S., Brazil, Ghana, and Algeria, received MAB Young Scientists Awards for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

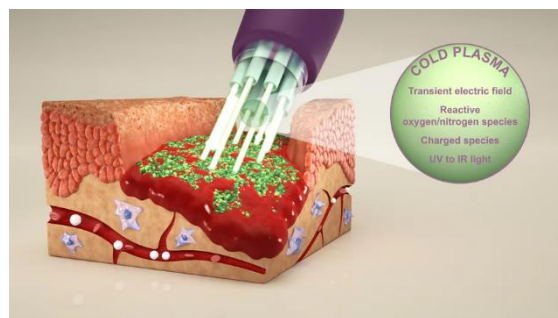
17th cold plasma clinic for wound healing inaugurated

The seventeenth cold plasma clinic in the country was inaugurated on Monday in the city of Rafsanjan,

southeastern Kerman province, providing promising treatment for chronic wounds, diabetic ulcers, burns, and skin lesions under health insurance coverage.



Known as one of the world's most innovative treatment methods, the non-thermal plasma therapy is highly effective in wound healing compared to traditional methods and ozone therapy. The treatment is performed on an outpatient basis, painlessly, without the need for anaesthesia.



Cold atmospheric plasma has been shown to reduce microbial load without any known significant negative effects on healthy tissues. This issue should enhance its possible application to any microbial infection site. It has also been shown to have anti-tumour effects.

Iranian girls grab medals at OpenGeo 2026

Four Iranian female students attended the Open International Geography Olympiad (OpenGeo) 2026, winning four medals, including a silver medal and three bronze medals for the first time.

Artina Heidari won the silver medal; Setayesh Haqnazari, Sana Karbalaie Vali, and Helia Khodabandelou received the bronze medals.

The achievement showcased the Iranian students' comprehensive expertise in geography and serves as a significant step in preparing students for successful participation in the International Geography Olympiad (IGO).

The OpenGeo aims to promote interest in geography among secondary school students worldwide; develop geographical

thinking, analytical, and practical skills among school students and future geographers; and support international connections between young geographers.

Organized by the Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow State University High School, and Primakov School, the competition was held online on June 20 and 21, with competitors from 27 countries attending the contest.

The participants were students aged between 14 and 19 years old enrolled in secondary school or graduating in 2026.

The competition consisted of a Written Response Test (WRT) taking 2.5 hours, a Practical and Mapping Exercise (PME) taking 2.5 hours, and a Multimedia Test (MMT) taking one hour.



Trade & Economy

Iran's International Renewable Energy Conference, Exhibit to be held on July 20-21

The 10th International Iran Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (IRAN REC 2026) will be held concurrently with the 7th edition of the National Renewable Energy Award on July 20 and 21 at the Milad Tower International Conference Center.



According to a report from the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, given the transition of renewable energy from an "alternative option" to one of the "main pillars of the country's energy planning", this event is designed to create a specialized platform for interaction among industries, investors, knowledge-based companies, and the academic community.

The rapid development of solar power plants, the successful formation of the green electricity market, and the legal requirements for supplying industries' electricity from clean sources indicate that this industry has entered a stage of growth and maturity, which will be specifically examined at this event.

Iran, South Africa emphasize development of cooperation in energy sector

Iran's Minister of Oil held talks with the Minister of Electricity and Energy of South Africa regarding the development of bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.



Mohsen Paknejad, on the sidelines of the 11th Meeting of BRICS Energy Ministers, on June 25, on the second day of his visit to India, met with

Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, the Minister of Electricity and Energy of South Africa, and emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation.

Tehran, Muscat decide to form a joint committee to implement provisions of customs agreement

The heads of customs of Iran and Oman, on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization summit, emphasized the operationalization of the provisions of the agreement on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters and proposed the formation of a joint committee regarding the implementation of the agreement's provisions.



Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and Said bin Khamis al-Ghaithi, head of the Royal Customs of Oman, in a bilateral meeting, emphasized increasing and expanding customs cooperation in line with the provisions of the signed agreement in customs fields.

The proposal to conduct study visits to customs offices and ports of destination and origin, as well as holding periodic meetings between the customs administrations of the two countries, were among the topics reviewed in this meeting.

Iran-China reach preliminary agreement to sign railway customs cooperation document



The heads of customs of Iran and China agreed to sign a railway customs cooperation document with the aim of facilitating and increasing trade exchanges between the two countries.

According to IRNA from the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the heads of customs of Iran and China, in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization (WCO) summit, reviewed the grounds for increasing cooperation between the two customs administrations to develop trade exchanges.

In this meeting, Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and Zhang Baofeng, Deputy Minister and head of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, discussed the signing of a railway customs cooperation document to effectively utilize railway capacities between the two countries with the aim of increasing trade exchanges.

Iranian delegation under title 'Minab 168' attends Shanghai Business Forum



Ghadir Ghiyafteh, the Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Business Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, emphasized the need to strengthen economic cooperation among member states and declared that despite the recent aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran, the resistance and resilience of the

Iranian nation has strengthened the country's determination to develop regional cooperation and economic integration more than ever before.

According to him, Iran, as a vital crossroads connecting East and West, enjoys a privileged position to facilitate these connections, and this capacity can serve the development of economic cooperation among the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Iran, Armenia determined to open new trade, transit routes



A specialized meeting between the Head of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization and the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia was held at the Ministry of Economy in Yerevan, focusing on facilitating trade and transit and reducing international transportation barriers between the two countries.

During this meeting, the Head of the organization, referring to Iran's

strategic position in the North-South and East-West international corridors, emphasized the need for the full activation of transit and logistics capacities on both sides.

Iran, Asia-Pacific willing to expand cooperation, exchange of experience in smart customs



The Head of Iran's Customs and the Head of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building met and held talks on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization Council Session on the topic of smart customs and digital transformation.

According to IRNA from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs, Foroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of Iran's Customs, met with Jun Tajima, Head of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building, and announced Iran's Customs readiness to increase cooperation in the field of training and experience exchange.

Asgari said in this meeting: Iran's Customs is interested in developing its cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building in areas such as smart customs, digital transformation, risk management, coordinated border management, and the Time Release Study (TRS).

Iran, India emphasize expansion of oil, trade cooperation

Iranian Oil Minister, in a meeting with the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, discussed the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and energy.



Mohsen Paknejad, on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting, on June 26, on the second day of his trip to Gurugram, met with Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

Oil minister stresses BRICS cooperation to achieve energy security



Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, on Thursday, attending the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting in Gurugram, India, emphasized the necessity of convergence among BRICS members and announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for active and constructive participation with BRICS members to achieve the goals of secure and affordable energy, Shana reported.

Iran, Kurdistan region agree to organize trade at Kermanshah border



In a joint meeting between officials of Iran and the Kurdistan Region of

Iraq at the Sheikh Saleh border in Salas-e Babajani county, Kermanshah province, solutions for organizing border exchanges, facilitating the entry of goods, and examining the possibility of expanding agricultural product exports were discussed.



This meeting was held with the presence of the Governor of Salas-e Babajani county, the Special Assistant to the Governor of Kermanshah for Iraqi Affairs, the Head of the Sheikh Saleh Border Customs, and the official in charge of customs for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, during which solutions for developing economic cooperation and removing obstacles to border trade were examined.

Iran emerges as critical transit link between Iraq, Afghanistan, South Asia

Recent developments in Iran's transport and logistics sector have underscored the country's growing importance as a regional transit hub

connecting the West Asia with Central and South Asia.

Two major announcements, the successful completion of the first liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) export operation from Khorramshahr Port to Afghanistan and Pakistan via multimodal transport, and the launch of the first combined rail transit shipment from Iraq to Afghanistan through western Iran, demonstrate Tehran's strategic efforts to capitalize on its geographic position and strengthen its role in regional trade.



The first development came from Khorramshahr Port, where authorities announced the successful completion of the first LPG export operation using combined transport methods to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Located near the head of the Persian Gulf, Khorramshahr serves as one of Iran's key maritime gateways. The new operation combines maritime, rail, and land transportation networks to move energy products more efficiently to regional markets.

Iran presents investment-ready projects to Azerbaijan



Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, held bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Baku with the head of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Agency.

Mehdi Heydari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, in a meeting with Yusuf Abdullayev, the head of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Agency, while referring to the capacities and programs on the organization's agenda to encourage and improve foreign investment, emphasized the exchange of experiences and identification of common points and projects for cooperation.

Iran's plan to connect electricity grids of SCO member states welcomed

The Deputy Head of the Renewable Energy Organization and Electricity Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) announced the welcoming of Iran's plan to connect the electricity grids of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states and said: The development of renewables has increased the opportunity for convergence.

According to the Renewable Energy Organization and Electricity Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), Hamidreza Azimi at the 6th Meeting of Energy Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, added: Based on the statement read by the Deputy

Minister of Electricity and Energy of the Ministry of Power, following constructive consultations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the plan "Initiative for Convergence and Electricity Connection of Member States" was proposed by Iran, which was welcomed by the countries present at this meeting.

The Deputy Head of the Renewable Energy Organization and Electricity Energy Efficiency Organization stated: In this regard, the Ministry of Power of the Islamic Republic of Iran has presented a concept note for this initiative, in which the exchange of policy experiences in demand management, energy market regulation, and infrastructure development are also among the other important axes of cooperation.





Persian Cuisine



What Does Nazri Mean in Religious Beliefs?

The overwhelming, savory smell of food is wafting out gently while you could hear mourners reciting elegies from far off, the bell is ringing, you open the door and voila dear neighbor brought you some Nazri.



Nazri is a general term used for literally everything that is given away freely by one person or a group of people, most often on religious occasions and for religious reasons.

Nazri is a votive offering, some decide to give away the free stuff to the less fortunate, for example, they offer clothes to poor people who cannot afford to buy new clothes, most of the time on condition of animosity to avoid hurting their self-esteem. Some others decide to do volunteer works at hospitals or homes for the less fortunate.

But one of the most popular types of Nazri is distributing different types of food stuff, drinks, fruits, etc. among the public.



This could happen at any time of the year and the food stuff can be distributed solely among the disadvantaged or anyone regardless of their social and economic situation.

The mourning holy month of Muharram is known famously as the time when people distribute Nazri, however, there are other religious occasions, including the birth and martyrdom anniversary of Shia Imams, when people also distribute free food to commemorate the occasions.



Nonetheless, the month of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, when the third Shia Imam and his most loyal followers were martyred by their contemporary dictator, and illegitimate ruler Yazid in 680 AD Battle of Karbala, marks one of the most significant religious occasions when people choose to make the offering.

The food is usually cooked in very big copper pots in great quantities. People usually do not get paid for cooking or preparing Nazri food stuff or drinks because they would also like to have a part in its preparation for its merit.



Therefore, one does not have to be necessarily too rich to pay for the whole thing, some chip in and only pay a small amount of the money needed for preparing Nazri. Others do volunteer works for preparation and distribution of the food for its spiritual award. Usually after taking part in mourning ceremonies either in mosques or other congregational halls, the mourners are offered the free food stuff.

However, those in charge of distributing Nazri food may show up at neighbors' houses and offer them the food.

Khoresh Gheymeh, beef and yellow split pea stew usually served with pan fried potatoes and rice, is one of the most popular Nazri dishes distributed among mourners on the occasion of Muharram.



Another popular Nazri food is Khoresh Ghomeh-Sabzi. It is also a stew made with fresh herbs, kidney beans and beef. It is served with rice as well.

Adas-polo, rice and lentil served alternatively with pan fried ground meat, fried onions and/or fried raisins, is another dish served as Nazri.

Various drinks are also served.

Due to the adherence to the lunar calendar, Muharram can fall on different seasons throughout the years.



During hot seasons people usually distribute cold drinks like fruit juice or homemade syrups among mourners. In cold seasons warm drinks like tea and hot milk are served.

Nazri food is considered a blessed food and many people believe that eating it, even just a bite, will bring them good fortune.



Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal family members and companions fought bravely for justice and freedom. He was a champion of the oppressed.

Any forms of Nazri, be it food, volunteer service, etc. is a way of expressing solidarity with Imam Hussein (AS) and his grand ambitions for a better world where oppressors are doomed to fail.



Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar

Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar is one of the most famous Persian traditional broths. The way to make it requires a lot of patience and takes up a variety of beans, herbs, and meat.

Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar is a very hard and time-consuming broth, but the result is worth the patience and the difficulty. It is also delicious and nourishing, and it is highly recommended to consume.

This broth is full of protein so it's highly recommended to anemic people and children who are at growth age.

Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar might be similar to ash reshteh in appearance, but the tastes are totally different.

Ingredients

½ cup peas

¼ cup white beans

¼ cup beans

⅓ cup cowpea

½ cup lentils

½ cup mung bean

1 cup rice

½ cup wheat

0.5 Kg mutton

½ cup vegetables for Ash (including, parsley, coriander, scallion, spinach. Note that for Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar you also need savory and tarragon.



piaz dagh, fried mints, Salt, pepper, cinnamon and cumin as much as required.

Instructions

1. the peas, the white beans, the cheetah beans and the wheat need to be soaked and left in some water from the night (at least 12 hours) before you want to cook this dish, and change the water with some fresh water several times.
2. Soak the other legumes, such as the raw beans, the lentils, the mung beans, and the rice, in the morning (6 hours) of the day you want to cook the broth.
3. Make a lot of fried onion and leave it aside.
4. Place the meat with one onion and 2 to 3 sticks of cinnamon, salt, and pepper in a pot on the heat so that they cook well and become softer.
5. Cook all the beans, rice and wheat in three different pots. It's not possible to cook them in the same dishes, because each one has a different process of cooking. The beans need at least 3 hours, rice needs at least 1 hour and the wheat needs at least 1 hour of being heated. Based on the mentioned times given, cook them separately in different pans and manage your time.
6. Place the cooked beans on the heat with meat juice (Meat Stock can be used as well).
7. Beat and mix the cooked wheat and the cooked rice.
8. Also beat the meat into a bowl.



9. It will make your broth sticky. When the beans have come to boil, remove more than half of them from the water and knock them back and bring them back into the pot.

10. Add the chopped rice and the wheat to the contents of the pot and place the fried onion in it and stir it.



11. After stirring the herbs, add the meat the salt, the pepper, the cumin, and the saffron to the ingredients and mix all the ingredients well.

Tips for cooking Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar



Because the cooking time of each of these beans is different, it is necessary to cook each one individually. Cook and leave the rice and the wheat.

Notice that continuous stirring has a significant effect on the quality of this broth, and eventually, your broth will be more sticky.

Generally, the stickier, the more pleasant.

Do not forget to stir it to prevent it from burning.

Add little-fried mint inside the broth as a better tasting flavor.

Sir-Dagh could also be made and added in the booth before serving it.

How to serve and Top Ash Sholeh Ghalamkar?

This type of Ash, like many other Ashes, is served in bowls, hot and with bread.

It is usually topped with fried mints.



Iran Sports



Piazza: Iran's players have improved, but I'm still not satisfied

Iran men's national volleyball team head coach Roberto Piazza said his players have made noticeable progress but stressed that the team are still far from his ideal level following a 3-1 victory over Cuba in the final match of Week 2 of the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Nations League.



Speaking after the match, Piazza praised the high level of competition in the Volleyball Nations League, emphasizing that there are no easy matches, as every team face some of the world's strongest opponents.

Reflecting on the match against Cuba, Piazza said Iran performed well until the closing stages of the second set, but the serious injury to Javier Concepción changed the course of the game. According to the

Italian coach, the incident had an emotional impact on both teams, causing Iran's players to temporarily lose their focus.

Nenad Kljaić officially appointed Iran handball head coach



Iran Handball Federation has officially appointed renowned Croatian coach Nenad Kljaić as the new head coach of the Iran men's national handball team.

The agreement was formally signed at the Iranian Embassy in Croatia, bringing an end to the federation's search for a new national team manager.

Kljaić is one of the most decorated figures in Croatian handball. During his playing career, he earned 69 international caps for Yugoslavia and 145 appearances for Croatia. His list

of achievements includes the Olympic gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games, two EHF Champions League titles, and a European Super Cup triumph.

The 57-year-old coach holds the highest international coaching certification and previously managed Croatian powerhouse HC Zagreb, guiding the club to the semifinals of European competition.

Iran's World Cup dream ends in heartbreak

In a cruel twist of fate, Iran narrowly missed out on a historic place in the World Cup knockout stage. Had just one of three results elsewhere gone in their favor, Team Melli would have reached the Round of 32 for the first time. Instead, every outcome worked against them.



Iran endured numerous challenges throughout the tournament, many of them beyond the team's control. One of the biggest obstacles was the

demanding travel schedule. After every match, the squad were forced to return to Tijuana without adequate time for recovery before traveling back to the next host city just one day before kickoff. Despite FIFA's assurances, logistical issues remained unresolved, leaving the Iranian players physically exhausted and mentally drained.

Iran crowned champions of CAFA Women's Futsal Championship 2026



Iran defeated Tajikistan 8-1 on Saturday to win the CAFA Women's Futsal Championship 2026.

The Iranian women had previously defeated Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in their opening match.

The team is headed by Shahrzad Mozafar.

Maral Torkan of Iran was named as Most Valuable Player. Iran's women's futsal team also won Fair Play Award.

Mexican ambassador in Tehran honored for hosting Iran national football team



Players from Iranian football clubs Esteghlal, Persepolis, and Zob Ahan expressed their appreciation to Guillermo Alejandro Puente Ordorica, the Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Iran, for Mexico's generous hospitality toward Iran's national football team during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Our main goal is securing a Paralympic berth: Hadi Rezaei



Hadi Rezaei, technical director of Iran's national sitting volleyball teams, says the primary objective at the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World

Championships in China is to qualify for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

Iran's men's team will begin their campaign on July 10, facing Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Japan in the group stage.

The Iranian women's team have been drawn alongside Rwanda, Kenya, and hosts China.

Rezaei stressed that although the World Championships are a prestigious event, securing Paralympic qualification remains the team's top priority.

Iranian brothers Nemati win gold in AKF Senior Championships



Morteza and Mahmoud Nemati claimed two gold medals at the 2026 Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships.

Morteza Nemati defeated Nurkanat Azhikanov from Kazakhstan 3-2 in Male Kumite -75kg final. Mahmoud Nemati also beat Sanad Sufyani of

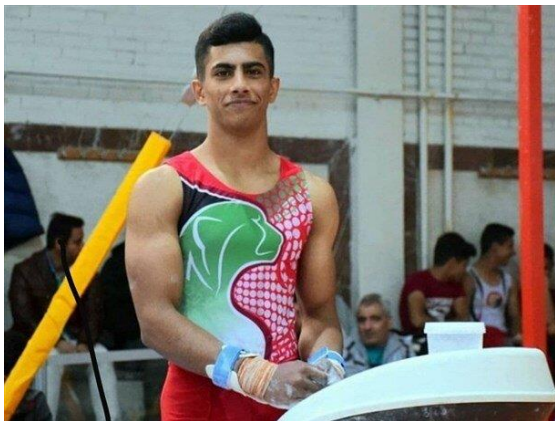
Saudi Arabia 4-0 in the Male Kumite +84kg final.

The Championships in Bali, Indonesia, brought together the continent's top karate athletes in the race for Asian titles.

The competitions were held from June 18 to 21.

Iran's Olfati seizes bronze in 2026 Asian Artistic Gymnastics

Mehdi Olfati of Iran won a bronze medal in the 2026 Asian Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships.



He finished in third place in vault, where Wataru Tanigawa of Japan and South Korea's Kim Jae-ho won gold and silver, respectively.

Olfati's countryman Mehdi Ahmad Kohani secured a bronze medal in the men's rings.

The 2026 Asian Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships are the 13th edition of the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships

and 19th Junior Asian Gymnastics Championships, and were held in Zunyi, China from 18 to 21 June 2026.

Iran women learn schedule for 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships



The schedule for the Iran women's national sitting volleyball team at the 2026 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships has been confirmed, with Team Melli set to begin their campaign against Rwanda in Hangzhou, China.

The prestigious tournament will take place from July 10 to 17, bringing together the world's top sitting volleyball nations in both the men's and women's competitions.

Iran have been drawn in Group A alongside hosts China, Rwanda, and Kenya. The Iranian women will be aiming to secure a place in the knockout stages as they face three challenging group-stage encounters.

Iran female kumite win gold in AKF Senior Championships

Iran defeated Japan 2-0 in the Female Team Kumite final of the 2026 Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships on Sunday.



Japan had secured a 2-0 win over Thailand, while Iran advanced to the final with a 2-0 victory against Vietnam. Also, Iran lost to Jordan 3-0 in the Male Team Kumite final and

bagged a silver medal. Iran had defeated Japan 3-1 in a competitive semifinal, while Jordan produced an impressive performance to overcome Uzbekistan 21-6.

The Championships in Bali, Indonesia, brought together the continent's top karate athletes in the race for Asian titles.



The competitions were held from June 18 to 21.



Tourism & Nature

Martyred leader's funeral ceremonies to be nominated for national heritage status



Iran's minister of cultural heritage said that the government plans to seek national heritage registration for the planned funeral ceremonies of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri described funeral processions as one of the country's most significant forms of intangible cultural heritage since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the report said.

The ministry plans to nominate the funeral rites for inclusion on Iran's national list for intangible cultural heritage. Mehr had earlier reported that the ministry has begun procedures to register the martyred

leader's residence and office as national heritage sites because of their historical significance.

Isfahan unveils tourism roadmap, plans heritage restoration after recent damage

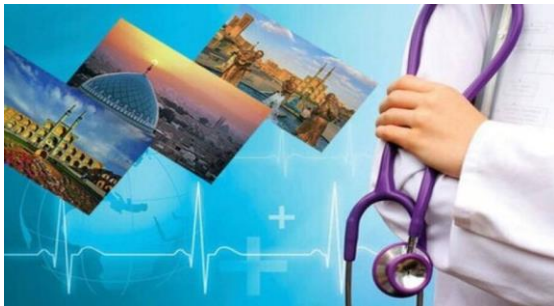


Isfahan province has prepared a new tourism development roadmap, launched plans to revive historical corridors and begun restoring heritage sites damaged during recent US-Israeli airstrikes, Governor-general Mehdi Jamalinejad said.

Speaking at the 37th meeting of the Strategic Council of Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in Isfahan, attended by Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, senior ministry officials and provincial heritage managers, Jamalinejad outlined the province's heritage assets, challenges and development priorities.

He said Isfahan is not only one of Iran's industrial, agricultural and economic hubs but also one of the country's principal cultural and historical regions, playing a significant role in the development of Iranian-Islamic civilization over centuries.

Iran seeks larger share of Muslim health tourism market



Iran should shift its medical tourism strategy from relying primarily on attracting foreign patients to exporting healthcare services, developing joint investments abroad and expanding regional partnerships, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce's tourism commission said during a meeting with industry representatives in the southern province of Fars.

Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi said Iran needed to move beyond the traditional model of bringing patients into the country and instead focus on exporting healthcare services, establishing joint medical facilities in neighboring countries and

strengthening the value chain of its healthcare sector.

Mousavi said recent regional developments showed that companies focused on neighboring markets had demonstrated greater resilience during periods of crisis, adding that Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Pakistan should become priorities under Iran's new health tourism strategy.

French archaeologist cracks 4,000-year-old Elamite script from Iran



French archaeologist François Desset has decoded the 4,000-year-old Linear Elamite writing system from ancient Iran, unlocking one of the last undeciphered scripts of the ancient Near East after years of research.

Iran minister announces memorial initiatives for Minab school attack victims



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, said that the government plans to establish a national campaign to commemorate those martyred in the missile strike on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab, including the creation of a museum, a permanent secretariat and a nationwide cultural initiative.

Salehi-Amiri said commemorating the victims of the Minab school attack was "a moral, human and national responsibility."

The strike took place on Feb. 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war with Iran, when school's roof collapsed, killing 156 civilians, including 120 schoolchildren. The victims also included 26 female teachers, one of whom was six months pregnant, seven parents, a school bus driver and a technician at a nearby clinic.

Official highlights Tirgan as key element of Iran's intangible cultural heritage

The head of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism has described the ancient festival of Tirgan as one of the country's most significant elements of intangible cultural heritage, saying it reflects enduring links between nature, mythology and Iranian society.



Zarei said Tirgan represents values including hope, prayers for rainfall, social solidarity and respect for water as the source of life.

"Tirgan is one of the brightest manifestations of Iran's cultural calendar," Zarei said. "It is a deeply rooted celebration that has remained alive and dynamic in the country's cultural memory through the centuries."

Celebrated on the 13th day of the Iranian month of Tir, which usually falls on July 2 or 3 in the Gregorian calendar, Tirgan is traditionally associated with water, rainfall and the protection of natural resources.

Archaeologists say excavations at Kalgeh Zarrin could deepen understanding of Elymaean kingdom

Archaeologists leading excavations at the ancient site of Kalgeh Zarrin near the southwestern Iranian city of Masjed Soleyman said continued scientific research, stronger protection measures and investment in cultural tourism could help reveal new information about the ancient Elymaean kingdom while contributing to local economic development.



The excavation directors said the archaeological site, which dates to the 2nd century B.C. and is listed as one of Iran's national heritage sites, occupies a strategic position for studying the political, economic, social and religious structures of the Elymaean state, which ruled parts of southwestern Iran during the Parthian period.

Research and creativity essential to preserving traditional pottery painting: ceramic artist



An Iranian ceramic painter said the long-term survival of traditional pottery painting depends on sustained research, creativity and continuous training, adding that artistic commitment rather than commercial considerations has been the driving force behind her work for more than two decades.

Mahboubeh Kamalinejad, a designer and ceramic painter, said she has worked in pottery painting since 2003 and that many artists in the field began their careers through personal interest and a commitment to preserving traditional art.

Genetic tests underway on remains found in Ilkhanid royal cemetery

Iranian archaeologists have begun genetic analysis of human remains uncovered in newly excavated Ilkhanid-era royal tombs near the UNESCO-listed Dome of Soltaniyeh

in northwestern Iran, as researchers seek to identify members of the ruling dynasty buried at the site.

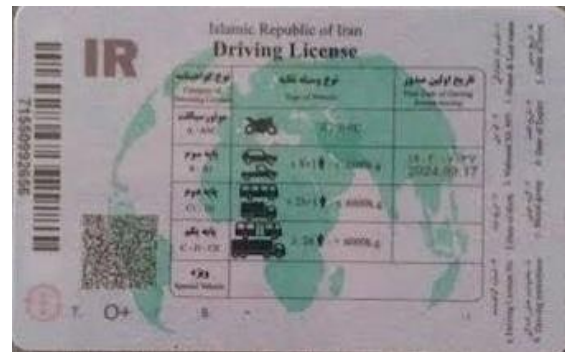


The latest archaeological season at the historic Soltaniyeh complex in Zanjan province uncovered two burial chambers within the Ilkhanid royal cemetery adjacent to the Mausoleum of Oljaytu, one of Iran's most significant medieval monuments.

According to Hamed Zeyfar, deputy director of the archaeological excavations at the Soltaniyeh royal tombs, the newly discovered chambers contained numerous human remains that preliminary evidence suggests belonged to members of a single royal family.

Digital intl. driving license launched with online verification

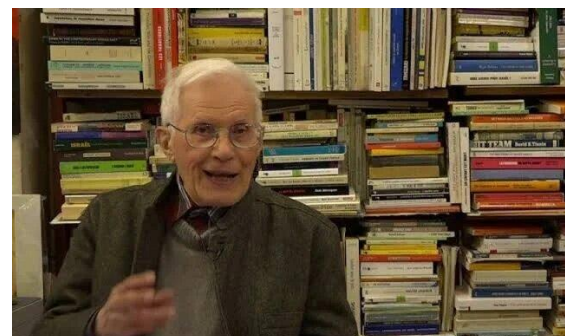
Iran has introduced a digital version of its international driving license that allows applicants to access the document alongside the physical copy and verify its authenticity online.



The Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran said the new service was designed to simplify travel procedures and improve access to essential documents for Iranian travelers abroad.

French Iranologist Charles-Henri De Fouchécour dies at 100

Charles-Henri de Fouchécour, a French Iranologist, scholar of Persian literature and translator of the Divan of Hafez into French, died on June 19 at the age of 100.



De Fouchécour was widely recognized for his contribution to Persian literary studies in Europe through his academic work, translations and research spanning several decades.

Iran plans heritage education program in schools

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is planning to introduce a nationwide "Heritage and Museum Bell" program in schools as part of efforts to strengthen students' awareness of the country's cultural heritage.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Education.

Ali Saeidi, an official with the cultural heritage ministry, said the two ministries were working toward signing a comprehensive cooperation agreement to expand heritage-related

educational programs across the country.



"Our main and strategic decision is to conclude a comprehensive memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage," Saeidi said, adding that a joint working group would be needed to prepare the agreement.





Society & Culture



“Tent of Art” Ashoora gathering opens in Tehran



The second edition of the "Kheimeh Honar" ("Tent of Art") Ashoora gathering commenced at the City Theater complex in Tehran.

The event opened with a powerful performance of traditional percussion instruments from Southern Iran by the Avaye Sahel group. Hadi Lashkari, a performer of the Dammam, highlighted that these instruments are among the most significant symbols of mourning music and funeral rites in Southern Iran, forming a core part of the regional musical identity.

The opening day featured a diverse array of performances, including a regional music ensemble from Mazandaran under the direction of Reza Divsalar, and a wind instrument orchestra.

The program also showcased a vocal performance by Iranian musician Seyyed Mohsen Hosseini, a traditional Pardeh-khani (literally, reading aloud from the screen/from the curtain) session depicting the "Arrival of the Imam in Karbala" by Mohammad Reza Majuni, and a tazieh, Iranian passion play portraying the martyrdom of Hazrat Abbas (AS), directed by Hossein Zamani.

Taziyeh Ritual Play in Iran

Taziyeh refers to an Iranian dramatic genre which might be compared to the Western Passion Play and is the only indigenous drama of the entire Islamic world. This ritual drama has both an Islamic and a Persian heritage, the central theme of which is the tragic and heroic martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed and the third Imam of Shias in the desert of Karbala (Iraq) in 680 A.D. Taziyeh performers simulate the events of Ashoora—the day Imam Hossein (AS) and his companions were martyred by the oppressor enemy.

Taziyyeh Ritual Play in Iran



20th Cinema Verite unveils call for entries

The Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC) has officially unveiled the call for entries for the 20th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival "Cinema Verite".

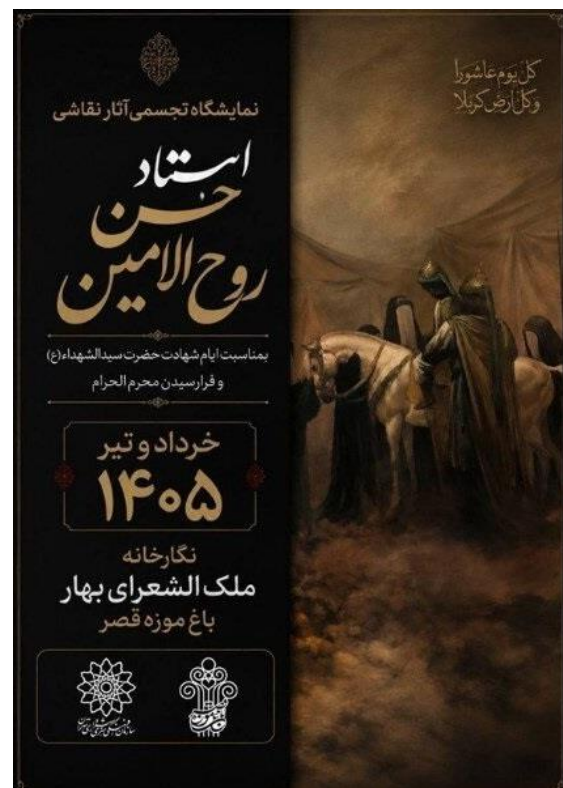
Scheduled to take place in November under the leadership of Secretary General Mohammad Hamidi Moghaddam, this edition is poised to serve as an intersection of artistic expression and social inquiry, Mehr reported.



This year's edition aims to provide greater analytical depth than its predecessors, integrating specialized panels with elites, filmmakers, and researchers to explore the influence of national and global crises on the language of documentary cinema, with a particular emphasis on the historic, truth-bearing role of filmmakers during the Ramadan War, the report added.

Ashura-themed artworks by Ruholamin on display at Tehran gallery

In observance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and the arrival of the holy month of Muharram, the Malek ash-Shoara Bahar Gallery in Tehran is hosting an exhibition featuring the works of Iranian painter Hassan Ruholamin.



The exhibition showcases ten original paintings curated from the historical and cultural archives of the Qasr Museum, Tasnim reported.

Born in Tehran in 1985, Hassan Ruholamin is a prominent figure in contemporary Iranian art, renowned for his evocative depictions of the tragedy of Ashura. His work is

characterized by a deep fusion of religious themes and a sophisticated mastery of light and composition, drawing heavily from the classical and Baroque periods.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until July 22 at the gallery, which is located within the Qasr Museum historical complex.

“Burnt Breaths” photo exhibition opens in Tehran to mark Sardasht chemical attack anniversary



Concurrent with the 39th anniversary of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht and the National Day of Fight against Chemical and Biological Weapons, the "Burnt Breaths" conference and photo exhibition officially opened at the Melal Cultural Center in Tehran.

The event aims to elucidate the humanitarian, legal, and international dimensions of the war crimes resulting from the use of chemical weapons and serves to honor the martyrs of Sardasht, Mehr reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by high-ranking civil and military officials, chemical weapons survivors, medical professionals, and the families of the martyrs.

Documentary play “The Leader” to premiere during farewell ceremonies for Ayatollah Khamenei



The documentary play “The Leader”, written and directed by Pejman Shahverdi, is set to be staged in conjunction with the farewell ceremonies for the Martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

According to the public relations office of the Art Bureau, the production—developed by the Sooreh Performing Arts Center and produced by Amirhossein Shafiei—will be performed at various locations across Tehran from July 1 to 7.

The play, which is entirely field-based and documentary-style, has

been produced in three languages of Persian, English, and Arabic. It provides a comprehensive narrative of the different stages of the Martyred Leader's life, spanning from his birth and the pre-revolutionary era to his presidency, his presence on the war fronts, his tenure as the Leader, and his ultimate martyrdom.

New “Art & War” exhibition at TMoCA showcasing Iranian epic works on Ashura, Shahnameh



The fifth exhibition in the “Art & War” series, titled “Iranian Epic Painting: From the Shahnameh to Ashura,” is underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA).

The exhibition, including works from the museum’s treasured collection, offers a fresh perspective on the long-standing tradition of epic painting in Iran. It presents significant works from the country's two major epic

traditions: Ferdowsi’s “Shahnameh” and the events of the Day of Ashura.

The exhibition features twelve outstanding paintings by renowned masters of the Coffeehouse Painting (an Iranian genre of narrative painting) tradition, including Mohammad Modabber, Abbas Boloukifar, Ahmad Khalili, Hossein Hamedani, Ali-Akbar Larni, Mohammad Farahani, Hassan Esmaeilzadeh, and Reza Hamidi.

Kiarostami’s “Certified Copy” to be shown at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival



Abbas Kiarostami’s 2010 art film “Certified Copy” will be screened at the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, which is set to be held from July 3 to 11 in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic.

The film screening is part of the honoring ceremony for the French actress Juliette Binoche, who is to receive the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to

World Cinema at the festival, Mehr reported.

Written and directed by Kiarostami, “Certified Copy,” set in Tuscany, focuses on a British writer (William Shimell) and a French antiques dealer (Juliette Binoche), whose relationship undergoes an odd transformation over the course of a day. The film is a co-production of France, Italy, and Belgium.

The film premiered at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, where Binoche won the Best Actress award for her performance. Critically acclaimed, the film is considered to be among the best of the year and the decade.

New book documents US-Zionist war crime in Minab



Amir Kabir Publications in Tehran has announced the upcoming release of “Blood-Tears of Minab”, authored by Hamidreza Mohajerani.

The work seeks to provide a documented narrative of the oppression, resilience, and hope of

the people of Minab in the face of US-Zionist crimes.

The project aims to preserve a vital part of Iran's historical memory and pay tribute to the steadfast and bereaved people of Minab. The book delves into the human and social dimensions of the war crime perpetrated by the United States and the Zionist regime at the Shajareh Tayyebeh school, which resulted in the martyrdom of 168 students and teachers.



In response to this tragic event, Amir Kabir Publications decided to fulfill its cultural mission by transforming the account of the incident into a lasting literary work.

Photo exhibition on Ramadan War opens at Tehran gallery

The latest works of photojournalist and visual artist Mohsen Rezaei were unveiled at 009821 Gallery in Tehran.

Titled “The Survivor,” the exhibition serves as a visual record of the harrowing events of the 40-day Ramadan War launched by the US and the Zionist regime on Iranian soil.



The collection is the result of Rezaei’s immersive field experience, blending a rigorous documentary approach with a deeply personal perspective. Through his lens, the chaos of the conflict is distilled into a series of narratives that capture the lived experience of those caught in the crossfire, transforming a period of national crisis into an artistic exploration of resilience and loss.

Chinese translation of Nizami’s “Khamisa” unveiled at 32nd Beijing International Book Fair

The complete Chinese translation of “Khamisa” (The Five Treasures), the most renowned work of Nizami Ganjavi, was unveiled on the

sidelines of the 32nd Beijing International Book Fair in China.



Through the efforts of the Cultural Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in China, and following the translation of works such as “Khosrow and Shirin,” “Eskandar Nameh” (The Book of Alexander), and “Makhzan al-Asrar” in 2025, the publication of “Haft Peykar” (The Seven Beauties) and “Layla and Majnun” has now completed the Chinese translation of Nizami’s timeless masterpiece “Khamisa”.

The collection was unveiled during Iran Cultural Day (June 20) at the fair, in the presence of numerous Chinese and Iranian Iranologists, literary figures, professors, and researchers.

A complete set of the work, bearing a handwritten note and signature from the President of Iran, Pezeshkian, was presented to the President of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, while another copy was donated to the Persian Language Section at Peking University.

Iranian photographer wins top honor at Golden Shot Photography Awards 2026

Morteza Akhondi, a distinguished photographer from Iran's Hormozgan province, has secured the first-place prize in the Editorial/Press category at the prestigious Golden Shot Photography Awards 2026.

The internationally acclaimed competition awarded Akhondi the Gold Award for his aerial photograph capturing the funeral and burial procession of 168 martyred students and teachers in Minab.

The image, lauded for its powerful visual narrative and creative composition, has resonated deeply with global audiences and captivated the international jury.

The award-winning photograph provides a bird's-eye view of a historic and tragic moment, documenting the final farewell to the young victims of a widely condemned crime committed by the US and the Zionist regime.

In the small city of Minab, the loss of so many young lives was a heavy burden for the community. To honor the victims, a large area of land was turned into a cemetery, with graves dug in neat, endless rows.

The aerial view shows the haunting arrangement of these small graves, each symbolizing a life lost too soon. Surrounding this solemn site, the entire city gathered in grief, their shared sorrow creating a powerful contrast to the orderly rows of students being laid to rest.



Events & Occasions

Iranians observe Ashoora to commemorate martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS)



Logic of
Imam Hossein (AS):

Never
submit to
oppression



**Shias around the world mark martyrdom anniversary of
Imam Hossein (AS)**