



Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# MFA DIGEST

## CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Loving Iran forever

Issue #109 August 1— 15, 2025

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## MFA NEWSLETTER

### FOREIGN MINISTERS OF IRAN AND PAKISTAN MEET IN ISLAMABAD



### TOP IRANIAN DIPLOMAT MEETS WITH NORWEGIAN DEPUTY FM





## MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone talks with his counterparts from the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Egypt and, Armenia.



**Armenian FM**



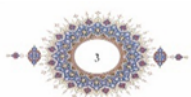
**Pakistani FM**



**Egyptian FM**



**Emirati FM**







## CULTURE & SOCIETY

### 8TH IRANIAN FILM FESTIVAL IN TOKYO TO SCREEN 7 FILMS



The 8th Iranian Film Festival in Tokyo will take place from August 8 to 10 in Japan, screening seven films from Iran with Japanese subtitles.

Organized by the Cultural Center of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tokyo, the three-day event will be held at the Minato City Gender Equality Center Libra Hall.

The festival is open to the public, and the audience can experience Iranian culture through films, as film is a universal language that promotes dialogue between cultures and nations.

The lineup includes “On the Zero Line,” a co-production of Iran and Japan directed by Mehrdad Ghaffarzadeh and Yoshimasa Jinbo, “Gholamreza Takhti” by Bahram Tavakoli, “No Prior Appointment” by Behrouz Shoaybi, “The Warden” by Nima Javidi, “Tears of the Reedbed” by Mehdi Jafari, “Leaf of Life” by Ebrahim Mokhtari, and “Ameneh’s Golden Blood” by Habib Ahmadzadeh.

Japanese violinist Tsumuji’s music video “Cloudy Isfahan,” filmed in Iran, will be screened in the opening ceremony of the festival on August 8, and the audience can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the ancient city of Isfahan paired with Tsumuji’s melodies.

### FIVE IRANIANS AMONG VOTERS OF 83RD GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

The list of voters for the 83rd Golden Globe Awards has been announced, with five Iranians among the voting members of the event.

The 83rd edition of the ceremony will be held on January 11, 2026, and based on the official website of the awards, a total of 387 people from around the world will be voting.

According to the published list, Ali Farahmand, Amir Houshang Hashemi, Bijan Tehrani, Mansour Jahani, and Mohammad Abdi are the Iranian and Iranian-origin members eligible to vote for the upcoming edition of the Golden Globes.

The Golden Globes are unique among award shows honoring motion pictures, television, and podcast programs. Golden Globe voters are comprised of experienced entertainment journalists from around the world.

Until a few years ago, Golden Globe voters were limited to about one hundred journalists from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA).



Ali Farahmand



Amir Houshang Hashemi



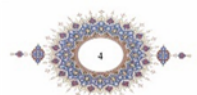
Bijan (Hassan) Tehrani



Mansour Jahani



Mohammad Abdi





## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### TEHRAN TO HOST MUSTAFA PRIZE WEEK IN SEPTEMBER



The sixth Mustafa Prize week is scheduled to be held from September 6 to 10 in Tehran.

The Prize will be awarded in the three categories of Information and Communication Science and Technology, Life and Medical Science and Technology, and Basic and Engineering Sciences.

The opening ceremony will include a new addition to the Mustafa Prize week, granting medals to young researchers under the age of forty for the first time to honor the achievements of young scientists in the Islamic world. The winners will receive 10,000 dollars, as well.

The week will host several other programs, such as a student competition titled 'Noor (light)', which is planned to be held on September 6.

Mustafa Prize science cafes are another part of the programs that will run throughout the week and focus mainly on the achievements of laureates in 2025. The 10th Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) in Islamic Countries will be held in the form of one-day programs in different universities in Tehran. STEP provides a platform for scientists and technology experts from Islamic countries to share expertise.

### FAO SEEKS TO FOSTER CO-OP WITH RAZI INSTITUTE UNDER ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has explored the potential for promoting ties with Razi Vaccine and Serum Production Research Institute, focusing on the One Health Initiative.

FAO representative to Iran, Farrukh Toirov, held a meeting with Razi Institute's director general, Ali Es'haqi, in Tehran, during which Toirov commended Razi's longstanding expertise in vaccine development, emphasizing its vital role in safeguarding the food production cycle, the FAO website announced in a press release on August 5.

"The institute's in-house scientific capacity and rich legacy in vaccine production are unique assets not only for Iran but for the entire region," the official stated.

Highlighting the interconnectedness of animal and human health, he underlined the importance of the One Health approach, a joint priority of FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO).





## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### IRANIAN STUDENTS SHINE AT YISF, WICO 2025



Iranian students continued to showcase their excellence at international competitions by winning medals at the Yakutia International Science Fair (YISF) and the World Invention Creativity Olympics (WICO).

YISF was held in Yakutsk, Russia, from July 6 to 9. The event brought together 129 teams from 10 countries, participating in two different categories.

The first category included mathematics, computer science, and information technology, and the second one involved physics, astronomy, and engineering.

In the second category, Mehran Rajabi and Alireza Jafarnejad ranked first for their project titled 'EcoNet Bin: AI-Driven Waste Segregation with IoT-Enabled'.

'Protecting Curious Little Minds: A Smart Child Safety Solution with IoT and Image Processing' was the name of the project presented by Moeid Rajabi and Helena Rajabi, who secured second place.

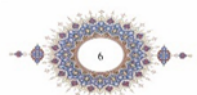
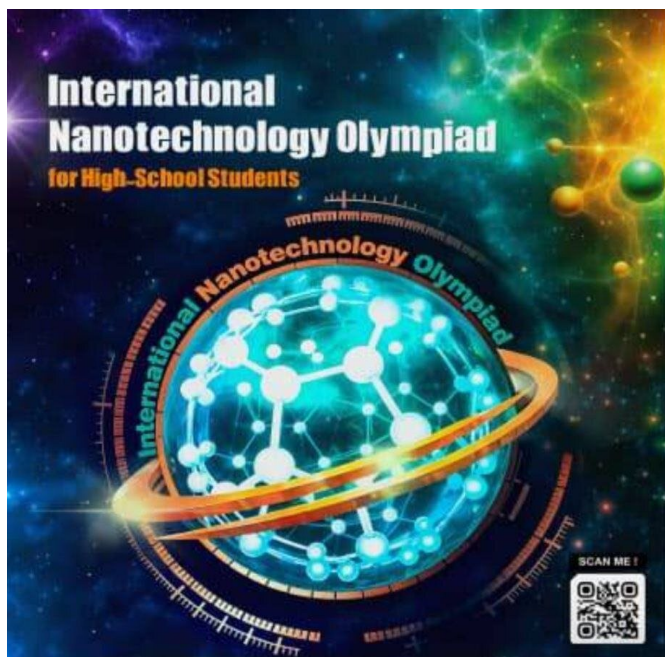
### TEHRAN TO HOST 1ST INTL. NANOTECHNOLOGY OLYMPIAD FOR STUDENTS

The first International Nanotechnology Olympiad (INO 2025) for high-school students aged 16-19 will be held in Tehran.

"Students from Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., Venezuela, Germany, Tajikistan, Britain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, and Russia have so far enrolled in the competition," nanoclub.ir quoted Afshin Rezaei, the secretary of the INO, as saying.

The event is scheduled to be held online on September 28, Rezaei added.

The International Nanotechnology Olympiad presents a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the world of nanotechnology and its potential to address pressing environmental challenges. The competition is structured into two main parts.







## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### IRAN GRABS MEDALS AT INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS



Iranian students won a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 37th edition of the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) being held in Sucre, Bolivia.

The event kicked off on July 27 and will wrap up on August 3. A total of 330 contestants from 84 countries participated in this year's event.

Amir-Ali Asgari secured the gold medal, Mani Zare and Hamed Ghafari grabbed silver medals, while Kiarash Rezaei won a bronze medal.

IOI is one of several international science Olympiads held annually around the world. Talented high school students from various countries compete in this prestigious algorithmic competition to sharpen their informatics skills—such as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming, and testing.

Iran grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), ranking 9th among 96 countries. It was hosted by Egypt.

### IRANIAN STUDENTS CROWNED CHAMPION IN ROBOCUP RESCUE SIMULATION LEAGUE

The Iranian team named Timrad, from Khatam University, secured the first place in the Robocup 2025 Rescue Simulation League, leveraging their advanced scientific knowledge and technical expertise in artificial intelligence and robotics; the competition was held from July 15 to 21 in Salvador, Brazil.

Aichi Institute of Technology, Japan, and International Institute of Information Technology – Hyderabad, India, ranked second and third, respectively.

The five-day competition brought together 2,000 participants from 40 countries. The event hosted six leagues, including RoboCup Soccer, RoboCup Rescue, RoboCup Junior, RoboCup Industrial, RoboCup @Home, and RoboCup Flying Robots.





## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### IRANIAN, CHINESE UNIVERSITIES INK MOU TO EXPAND SCIENTIFIC TIES



Tarbiat Modarres University and Shanghai University have signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to broaden scientific interactions and international cooperation.

The MOU was signed in Tehran on Wednesday, July 29, by Yousef Hojjat, the chancellor of Tarbiat Modarres University, and Liu Chansheng, the president of Shanghai University, IRNA reported.

Accordingly, the two universities will enhance joint efforts through exchanging professors, researchers, and students, conducting collaborative research projects, holding scientific seminars and conferences, as well as sharing academic resources and articles.

During a meeting held on April 11 in China, Saeed Habiba, the deputy minister of science, research, and technology, and Sheng Jianxue, the secretary-general of the China Scholarship Council, discussed ways for developing scientific cooperation between the universities of the two countries.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

### IRANIAN PROFESSOR GRANTED IEEE PES ROY BILLINTON AWARD

Iranian scientist, Mahmoud Fotuhi-Firuzabad, has received the 2025 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Power and Energy Society (PES) Roy Billinton Power System Reliability Award.

Fotuhi-Firuzabad was awarded for his contributions to methods, algorithms, and solutions for assessing and enhancing the reliability, resilience, and operational efficiency of electric power delivery systems under uncertainty. The IEEE PES established the Roy Billinton Power System Reliability Award to honor Professor Roy Billinton, a pioneer in the field, and to recognize individuals with outstanding contributions to power system reliability. The award is presented to individuals who have made exceptional advancements in this field.

The award ceremony took place on July 29, during the IEEE PES General Meeting held in Austin, Texas, the U.S.

He is currently a Professor with the Electrical Engineering Department, Sharif University of Technology, where he is a member of the Center of Excellence in Power System Control and Management. He is also a Visiting Professor with Aalto University, Espoo, Finland.

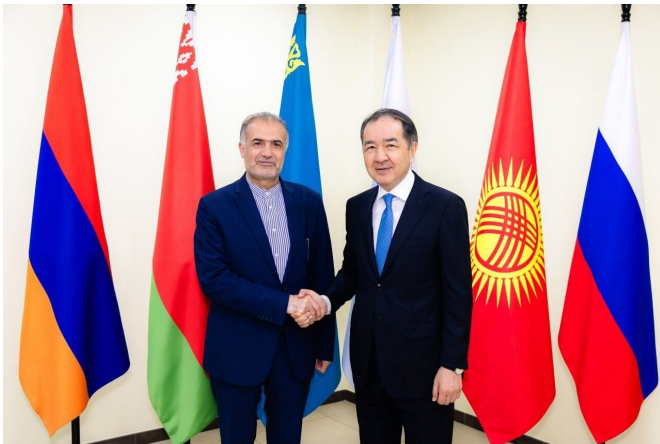






## TRADE & ECONOMY

### IRAN, EAEU TO APPROVE FREE TRADE ROADMAP IN 2025 AS BILATERAL TRADE RISES



The Eurasian Economic Commission is preparing to approve a joint roadmap with Iran to implement their newly finalized free trade agreement. The roadmap will guide cooperation from 2025 through 2028 and is expected to be ratified during the next joint committee meeting in September 2025.

Bakytzhan Sagintaev, Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Executive Board, said the roadmap is crucial for ensuring coordinated progress across all agreed areas of interaction. "The full implementation of the free trade agreement with Iran has elevated our economic and trade relations to a new level," he stated during a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali.

According to Sagintayev, bilateral trade between Iran and member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) surged by 14.6 percent in 2024 to reach \$5.9 billion. He said the agreement has already created strong momentum for increased economic engagement, and the roadmap will further structure this cooperation.

### IRAN, KAZAKHSTAN PLEDGE CLOSER TRANSPORT TIES VIA INSTC

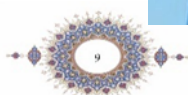
Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Nurlan Sauranbayev have agreed to strengthen transportation cooperation and jointly draft a roadmap focused on boosting transit through the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Awaza, Turkmenistan, where both ministers stressed the need for infrastructure coordination and swift implementation of earlier multilateral agreements signed between Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.

Sadegh called for accelerated execution of the eastern branch of the INSTC, emphasizing Kazakhstan's central role.

The two sides reviewed opportunities to enhance multimodal connectivity, including rail, road, maritime, and air transport.

Sauranbayev emphasized that Kazakhstan imposes no restrictions on Iranian flights and expressed interest in collaborative infrastructure development, particularly a Caspian Sea initiative akin to the "Caspian Bridge" project being developed with Azerbaijan.





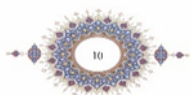
## IRANIAN DRINKS AND BEVERAGES

### SEKANJABIN: A SWEET AND SOUR ANCIENT PERSIAN SYRUP AND DRINK



Sekanjabin is a traditional Iranian beverage that's wonderfully refreshing on a hot summer day. Great for outdoor events since you can make it weeks ahead of time and dilute at the time of serving. Mix 4 to 5 tablespoons of this syrup with ice water and garnish with mint to serve.

**Ingredients:** honey, water, white wine vinegar, fresh mint





## FOOD DIPLOMACY

### IRANIAN FOOD: KHORESH KADOO; PERSIAN ZUCCHINI STEW



This Persian stew is a summer-friendly dish and it is very delicious. The zucchini is a very healthy ingredients and its temperament is suitable for summer. The stew contains cubed meat and if you are vegetarian you can remove the meat.

This Persian stew is usually served with strained or steamed rice. The zucchini is fried at first place and then added to the stew. The tomato paste used in the stew enhances the flavor and the color of the dish. Make this healthy dish and have fun.

**Ingredients:** Zucchini, lamb meat, onion, garlic, salt, turmeric, spice, potato, tomato, lemon juice, Vegetable oil





## IRANIAN SPORTS

### IRAN'S JUNIOR GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING TEAM WINS 2025 WORLD TITLE



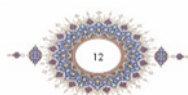
Iran's junior Greco-Roman wrestling team secured the world championship in Athens with one gold, one silver, and four bronze medals — despite competing with one wrestler short.

The victory underscores Iran's depth and dominance in Greco-Roman wrestling at the junior level, highlighting its ability to overcome logistical setbacks, including visa issues that sidelined one of its athletes.

Iranian team officials praised the wrestlers' performance and resilience, particularly emphasizing their ability to defend their world title under challenging circumstances.

The team earned 1 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals, scoring 125 points overall.

Aboufazl Shiri, set to compete in the 65kg category, was unable to join due to a visa denial by the host country.





## IRANIAN SPORTS

### 2025 WORLD GAMES: BAGHER-ZADEH TAKES GOLD



Iranian wushu athlete Yasaman Bagherzadeh won a gold medal in the 2025 World Games. She defeated China's Hailan Zhu 2-1 in the women's 70kg. Egyptian Menaalla Aly beat Briton's Krista Dyer 2-0 in the bronze medal match. The 12th edition of The World Games take place from Aug. 7-17 in Chengdu, China.

### IRAN'S MANSOURIAN WINS BRONZE IN 2025 WORLD GAMES

Iranian wushu athlete Soheila Mansourian claimed a bronze medal in the 2025 World Games. She defeated Hong Kong's Tsz Ching Chan 2-0 in the women's 60kg bronze-medal match. Li Zhiqin of China beat Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy 2-0 in the gold medal match.

The 12th edition of The World Games take place from Aug. 7-17 in Chengdu, China.



## CULTURE & SOCIETY

### CELEBRATED IRANIAN MASTER MAHMOUD FARSHCHIAN PASSES AWAY AT 96



Mahmoud Farshchian, the renowned Iranian miniaturist and painter, passed away on Saturday in a hospital in New Jersey at the age of 96.

Farshchian left this world, leaving behind a rich legacy that has shaped Iran's cultural and artistic landscape.

Born in 1930, in Isfahan, he was celebrated as one of the most prominent figures in contemporary Iranian art, known for his exquisite works inspired by Persian literature and religious texts.

Farshchian's journey into the

world of art was marked from a young age by exceptional talent and unwavering devotion. His father, a prominent figure in Isfahan's carpet industry, recognized his son's extraordinary gift and took him to the workshop of Mirza Aqa Emami, where the young artist's potential was first discovered. From that moment, a lifelong pursuit of excellence and spiritual expression through art began.

After training under prominent masters and graduat-

ing from the School of Fine Arts in Isfahan, Farshchian traveled to Europe to further study Western art in museums. He was known for immersing himself in art collections with a passion, often carrying a bag full of books and tools, and staying until closing time. Upon returning to Iran, Farshchian began working at the Tehran Fine Arts Department and later served as the director and professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran. He resided in New Jersey, but maintained regular visits to Iran, continuing his artistic pursuits.

Farshchian's work is renowned for its intricate craftsmanship, blending traditional Persian miniature techniques with innovative elements that breathe new life into classical themes. His art vividly captures the soul of Persian poetry, religious stories, and spiritual symbolism, creating compositions that are both visually stunning and deeply meaningful. His mastery lies in the delicate balance of tradition and innovation—crafting vibrant, flowing lines, circular motifs, and dynamic colors that evoke emotion and transcend cultural boundaries.





## CULTURE & SOCIETY



Throughout his illustrious career, Farshchian's artworks have traveled the globe, exhibited in prestigious cities such as Paris, New York, Chicago, and Tokyo. Many of his pieces have been gifted by Iranian officials as symbols of Iran's rich cultural heritage. His contributions earned him numerous accolades, reaffirming his status as a national treasure.

Farshchian also created some of the most moving visual interpretations of the Ashura tragedy in contemporary art. His works, such as "The Evening of Ashura" and "The Standard-Bearer of Truth," transcend mere illustration, capturing the spiritual sorrow, sacrifice, and steadfastness of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

With intricate details, dynamic compositions, and a masterful use of color and symbolism, Farshchian transforms the canvas into a sacred space where grief and hope intertwine. These paintings not only preserve the historical memory of Karbala but also evoke timeless lessons of faith, justice, and resistance against oppression.

Farshchian's influence extended beyond his brush. He served as a professor and director at Iran's University of Tehran's Faculty of Fine Arts, shaping generations of artists who continue to carry forward his artistic vision. His works are housed in the Mahmoud Farshchian Museum at Sadabad Palace, inaugurated in 2001, which showcases over 50 of his masterpieces—testaments to a lifetime dedicated to the pursuit of beauty and spirituality.

Despite his international recognition, Farshchian remained rooted in his Iranian identity. His art drew

inspiration from Persian poetry, the Quran, and sacred texts of Christianity and Judaism, creating a universal language of spiritual artistry. His ability to fuse tradition with modernity has earned him worldwide admiration, with scholars like Umberto Baldini, Italian art historian, describing him as a "phenomenon and a pivotal point in Iranian art."

He significantly contributed to promoting Iranian art internationally, often invited to speak at universities and cultural institutions worldwide. Several books and scholarly articles have been published about his works, cementing his legacy as a master artist.

His name has been registered on Britain's list of 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st century, and collectors feel it a great honor to possess one of his creations.

Farshchian was among the 40 Iranian artists honored by the National Library and Archives of Iran for their outstanding works created about the tragedy of Ashura over the past century.







## DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

### BAMU NATIONAL PARK IN IRAN

Located 10 kilometers from Shiraz in the southern province of Fars, Iran, Bamu National Park covers an area of 48,000 hectares. Protected for nearly half a century, it is considered a prime habitat for the Persian leopard and supports a diverse range of mammals, birds, reptiles, and plant species.

