



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Tomb of Saadi, Shiraz Province, Iran

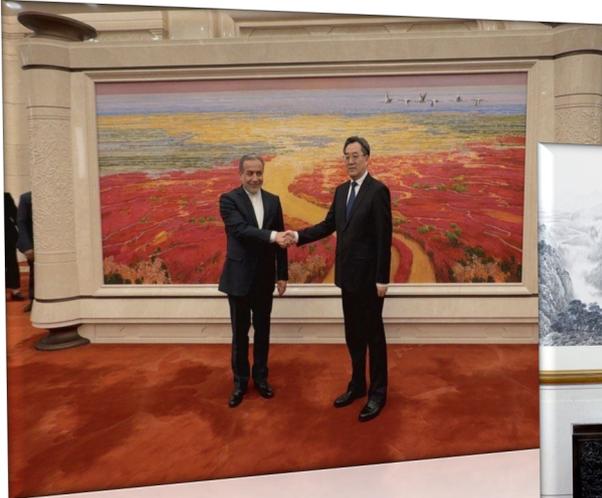
Issue #103 April 16— 30, 2025

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MFA NEWSLETTER

The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyed Abbas Araghchi met and held discussions with Ding Xuexiang China's Vice Premier and a member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of Central Committee of Communist Party and his counterpart.



Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs also traveled to Moscow at the head of a diplomatic delegation to hold talks with senior Russian officials and deliver a written message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to the President of the Russian Federation. Mr. Araghchi met and conferred with President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.





MFA NEWSLETTER

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who traveled to Rome for the second round of indirect talks between Iran and the US and met with his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani.



The International Atomic Energy Agency's Director General Rafael Grossi visited Tehran for talks with Iranian officials and met with Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



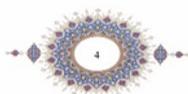
Iranian Foreign Minister met with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani in Russia.





MFA NEWSLETTER

Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Algeria, Indonesia, Swiss, Italy, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Rafael Grossi Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.





Iranian Luminaires

NATIONAL DAY OF SAADI; MASTER OF SPEECH AND LITERATURE



April 21, coinciding with renowned Iranian poet Saadi Shirazi's birthday is registered in the Iranian calendar, Saadi's commemoration day.

Saadi Shirazi born in Shiraz around 1200 and died around 1292 who is known as a mystic and metaphysician in the history of Persian literature.

Abu-Muhammad Muslih al-Din bin Abdallah Shirazi, known by his pen-name Saadi, was one of the major Persian poets of the medieval period.

Iranian poet Saadi, from the 13th century, is one of the major influential Persian poets of the

medieval period. He is recognised in the literary world for the quality of his writing style and in the spiritual realm for the depth of his thoughts.

Saadi is best known for his works 'Golestan' and 'Busan', poetry which emphasised a unity in mankind, an interdependence regardless of social barriers and labels. Many of his poems greatly impacted India, and had influence throughout central Asia.



Iranian Luminaires



Life

Saadi, who lost his father in childhood, experienced a youth of poverty and hardship; he left his hometown of Shiraz at a young age for Baghdad to pursue a better education. His first experience of education was at the Nezamiyeh University of Baghdad, where he studied Islamic sciences, theology, law, history, and Arabic literature. He traveled to different countries such as Anatolia, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq for thirty years. He also visited Qods, Mecca, and Medina.

The Master of Speech, as he is called, was a man of learning and traveling. He mingled with people

from different groups from intellectuals, merchants, preachers, farmers, and ordinary people to Sufi dervishes and even thieves, trying to learn and study and also preach and advise people to gravitate toward wisdom and morality.

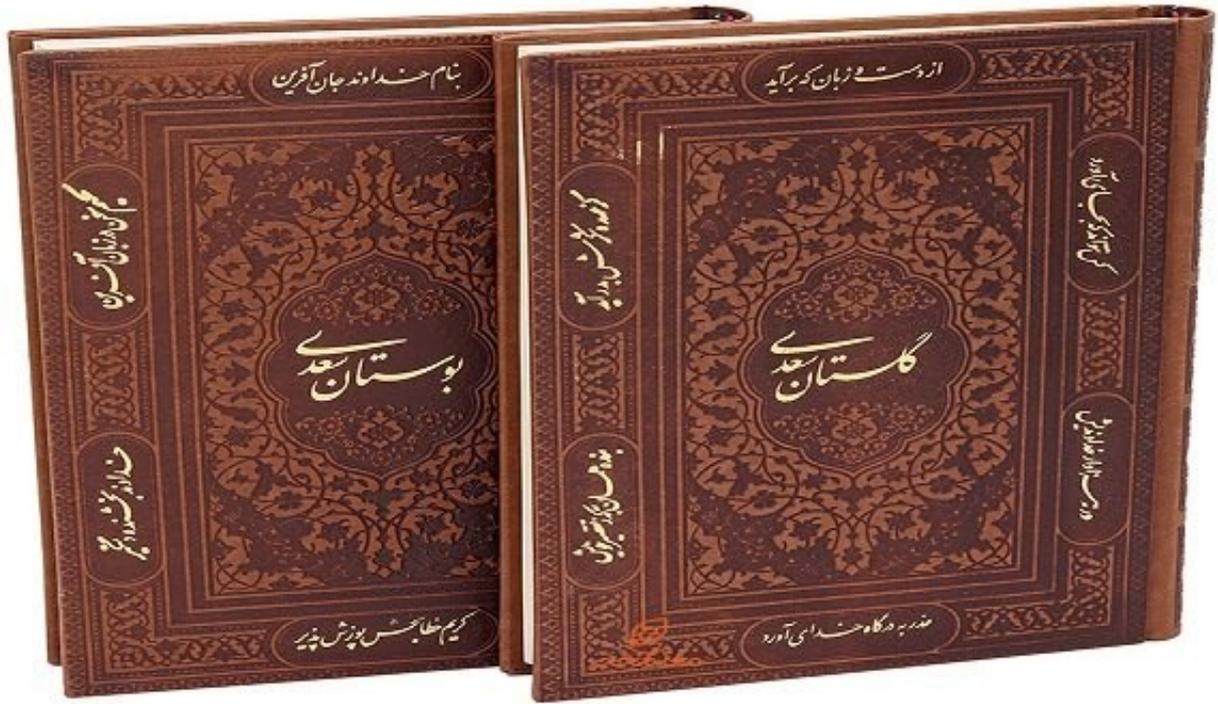
Returning to Shiraz as an elderly man, Saadi was greatly welcomed and respected by the ruler and the prominent figures of the city.

He spent the rest of his life in his birthplace till he passed away around 1292.





Iranian Luminaires



Nature of Saadi's poems

Saadi elaborately distinguishes between the spiritual and the mundane aspects of life in his works. He tries to visualize the deepest meanings of life in the most tangible contexts and close to conversational language as far as possible in such a way that even common people can get the most out of his writings.

He is a well-known poet among world scholars.

Goethe and Andre du Ryer presented Saadi to the West for the first time in 1634. The first complete translation of Golestan in English was done by Sir Richard Francis Burton.

In one of Saadi's most well-known immortal poetries, which has been inscribed on United Nations building entrance, he considers all humans as different parts of a whole body, regardless of social barriers and race:

"Human beings are members of a whole

In creation of one essence and soul

If one member is afflicted with pain

Other members uneasy will remain

If you have no sympathy for human pain

The name of human you cannot retain"

Tomb

Saadi's tomb is located in southern Shiraz. His mausoleum, also called Saadiyeh, is one of Iran's major tourist attractions.

The tomb was first built in the 13th century. However, after being destroyed in the 17th century, it remained untouched till the present-day building was constructed in the 1950s.

Many Persian elements have been used in its architecture. It is also a National Heritage Site.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

TEHRAN TO HOST FIRST-EVER GLOBAL URBAN TOURISM FORUM THIS SUMMER



Tehran has been chosen to host the inaugural Global Urban Tourism Forum in June, marking a major milestone in the city's international engagement efforts.

This is the first time Tehran will host such a high-level global event focused on urban tourism, providing a unique platform to showcase the capital's cultural potential, attract foreign investment, and enhance global collaboration in tourism development.

Alireza Zakani, Mayor of Tehran, announced the news, citing agreements reached during the UN World Tourism Organization's regional summit in Jakarta.

He emphasized the strategic significance of this event for Iran's capital: "It's a valuable opportunity to highlight Tehran's tourism capacities, foster international partnerships, and advance our tourism infrastructure."

Iran has been working to revitalize its tourism industry in recent years, particularly in urban centers like Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz. The selection of Tehran as the host for this landmark event aligns with the country's broader economic and cultural diplomacy strategies. The Abbasabad district, where the event will be held, has increasingly been positioned as a central tourism and cultural hub within the capital.

YAZD LISTED AS WORLD CITY OF TRADITIONAL JEWELRY

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, referring to Yazd's registration as the "World City of Traditional Jewelry," noted that this success highlights the connection between indigenous traditions and Iran's innovation and civilizational capacity.

Registering Yazd as a World City of Traditional Jewelry will strengthen Iran's national and cultural identity and promote economic growth and tourism in Yazd province, while enhancing global awareness of Iranian arts and crafts.

The World Crafts Council officially introduced Yazd as the World City of Traditional Jewelry.

Yazd's registration as a global city of traditional jewelry is not only a cultural honor for Iran but also a strategic step toward strengthening the country's international position in cultural and economic spheres. This achievement can serve as an inspiring model for other provinces in their pursuit of cultural development and the globalization of local capacities, while fostering increased cultural and economic exchanges with other nations.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY
Photo: Majid Dehghanizadeh





SOCIETY & CULTURE

TWO IRANIAN SHORT ANIMATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN BULGARIAN FESTIVAL

FIVE FILM & PHOTO AWARDS ANNOUNCES PHOTO JURY TEAM



Two short animations from Iran will participate in the 16th International Animation Film Festival Golden Kuker, in Sofia, Bulgaria, from May 7 to 11. “Bug” written and directed by Ali Masoumi and “The Alchemist's Apprentice” by Erfan Parsapour are the Iranian works to be shown in the Bulgarian event, ILNA reported.

Produced by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), “Bug” depicts a family of three that has recently moved in, and the little girl inspects the new home with curiosity, when a small cricket finds its way into their home as a surprise visitor. But with the father’s unexpected reaction, the child’s perspective begins to shift, turning a simple encounter into something far more unsettling.

A production of 2024, the six-minute animation examines the enduring influence of parents' behaviors and responses on their children's development, tracing the long-term effects of these interactions from early childhood to adulthood.

The 6th edition of the 5 Film & Photo Awards has announced the members of the jury for the photo section.

The jury team includes well-known national and international figures. The deadline for receiving the submissions is August 11. The evaluation of works will begin on August 12, and the winners will be announced in October, Honaronline reported.

Iranian photographers Touraj Aslani, Siavash Sadrazodi, and Alireza Shadizadeh, French photographers Delphine Ghosarossian and Sandrine Boyer Engel, Italian photographers Lietta Granato and Francesco Galli, and Japanese photographers Wataru Furuta and Rena Fujimoto will serve as jurors in the upcoming edition of the festival.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRANIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN SUCCEED IN INTL. MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD



Attending the second International Mathematics Olympiad for high school students in Turkmenistan, Iranian students managed to win seven bronze medals.

Hosted by Ashgabat specialised General Education School, the event was held from April 21 to 26.

More than 230 talented students from 15 countries, including Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Armenia, Bulgaria, Nepal, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Qatar, and Turkmenistan, took part in the competition.

Thirty-one students from North Khorasan represented Iran in the second Olympiad. Mohammad-Javad Kamali Kalati, Arya Mohammadi Razi, Mahsa Abron, Sajjad Azizi, Mahyar Forooghifar, Yalda Mesrzadeh, and Setayesh Rahimi won bronze medals, Tasnim news agency reported.

The Olympiad aims to strengthen peace, friendly and fraternal relations between peoples, and intensify international scientific and educational cooperation.

IRANIAN STUDENTS WIN MEDALS AT TIMO 2025

Iranian students won two silver and two bronze medals, ranking fourth at the Turkic International Mathematics Olympiad (TIMO) held from April 17 to 22, in Antalya.

TIMO is an international event that is open to students from grades 3 to 12. The competition is held in two rounds, including the preliminary and global rounds.

In the preliminary round, over 27,350 students from 35 countries competed against each other online in December. The offline qualifying exam had 25 multiple-choice questions, administered for 60 minutes.

In the Global round, which was held paper-based, 1,500 selected participants attended the event.

Parnian Heydarian and Anusha Abdi grabbed silver medals and won the world star awards, while Fatemeh Mazini and Ava Dejahah won bronze medals.

TIMO strives to contribute to the academic and personal development of young people at both local and international levels while also encouraging discussions on mathematical and scientific topics among youth, facilitating the exchange of new ideas, and uniting people with common interests.



FOOD DIPLOMACY

IRANIAN DESSERTS: BASTANI SONNATI



Bastani sonnati is a unique saffron-infused Iranian ice cream that was invented at the beginning of the 20th century by Akbar Mashti, the first ice cream vendor in Tehran. This frozen treat is made with a creamy mixture of milk or cream, frozen custard, and sliced pistachios.

It is flavored with rose water and saffron and traditionally incorporates salep, an ingredient extracted from wild orchids. The vibrant yellow color and exotic flavors make bastani one of the favorite Iranian sweets. Iranians prefer to enjoy it in individual bowls, sprinkled with shredded pistachio, or served within two plain wafers, when it's known as bastani nooni ice cream sandwich.

Ingredients: Fat milk, brewed saffron, sugar, salep, rosewater, cream, sliced pistachios

tasteatlas CURRENT RANKING (MAY 2023) Best Frozen Desserts in the World

1	Bastani sonnati	4.7	26	Gelato alla vaniglia	4.2
2	Queso helado	4.7	27	Tartufo (collectively)	4.2
3	Dondurma	4.6	28	Bacio gelato	4.2
4	Frozen Custard	4.6	29	Gelato allo zabaione	4.2
5	Sorbetes	4.5	30	Kulfi falooda	4.1
6	Gelato al pistacchio	4.5	31	Gelato al fior di latte	4.1
7	Affogato	4.4	32	Frozen Yogurt	4.0
8	Patbingsu	4.4	33	Ice Cream Sandwich	4.0
9	Faloodeh	4.4	34	Ice Cream Float	4.0
10	Gelato al cioccolato fondente	4.4	35	Granita di mandorla	4.0
11	Clotted Cream Ice Cream	4.4	36	Hokey Pokey Ice Cream	4.0
12	Granita (collectively)	4.3	37	Sundae (collectively)	3.9
13	Semifreddo	4.3	38	Parfait	3.9
14	Kulfi	4.3	39	Gelato alla crema	3.9
15	Gelato cioccolato	4.3	40	Gelato di caffè	3.9
16	Granita al limone	4.3	41	Ice Cream Cake	3.8
17	Stracciatella	4.3	42	Fried Ice Cream	3.8
18	Gelato al limone	4.3	43	Halo-Halo	3.8
19	Tartufo di Pizzo	4.3	44	La dame blanche	3.8
20	Gelato alla nocciola	4.3	45	Banana Split	3.7
21	Havij bastani	4.3	46	Granita di caffè	3.7
22	Limber	4.3	47	Piragua	3.7
23	Gianduja gelato	4.3	48	Gelato alla pesca	3.7
24	Milkshake	4.2	49	Gelato alla fragola	3.6
25	Brownie Sundae	4.2	50	Soursop Ice Cream	3.6

www.tasteatlas.com/frozen-desserts



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRAN DISCUSSES BOOSTING HEALTH TIES WITH INDIA, UZBEKISTAN



Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi and his Indian and Uzbek counterparts have explored the potential for the expansion of health cooperation, holding separate meetings.

During the meeting with Punya Salila Srivastava, the Indian Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the two sides highlighted the enhancement of joint efforts in the health sector, particularly in manufacturing medicines, developing vaccines, traditional medicine, and medical training. Lauding India's achievements in the health sector, Zafarqandi announced the country's readiness to foster collaboration with India in the mentioned fields, particularly supplying pharmaceutical raw materials.

The Indian official, for her part, referred to the formerly signed agreement between the two countries, saying that India is willing to expand collaboration with Iran in different fields of the health sector.

Uzbek health minister, Asilbek Khudayarov, in a meeting with Zafarqandi stressed the friendly relationships between the two countries, voicing Uzbekistan's readiness to further collaboration with Iran in the health sector, specifically health tourism and cancer treatment.

TEHRAN, BISHKEK DISCUSS BOOSTING ENVIRONMENTAL TIES

Hamid Zohrabi, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE), and Meder Mashiev, Kyrgyz Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, met on Friday to enhance bilateral relations.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the International Conference on the Global Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development held on April 24–25 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the DOE website reported.

Highlighting natural and cultural proximity between the two countries, Mashiev announced Kyrgyzstan's readiness for joint actions to conserve the environment.

For his part, Zohrabi referred to Iran's sixty-year experience in wildlife conservation and biodiversity, and said the DOE is ready to share its experiences and knowledge in the field of biodiversity conservation and management of the protected areas with Kyrgyzstan.

It was also decided to up-to-date a former memorandum of understanding and take measures to implement it.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, UZBEKISTAN PRIVATE SECTORS CO-OP TO CONTINUE AT AN ACCELERATED PACE



Iranian industry, mining and trade minister said that the cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Uzbekistan will continue at an accelerated pace.

Mohammad Atabak made the remarks in a recent meeting, at the place of the ministry in Tehran on April 23, with an Uzbek trade delegation led by the head of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (CCI).

During the meeting, the minister emphasized that the perspectives of the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries are being reviewed in expert working groups.

Also, in a meeting with Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Shokhrugh Gulamov, at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran on April 20, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh said his country's private sector is ready to pursue joint investments in Uzbekistan and called on Tashkent to implement a reciprocal visa waiver to ease travel and boost tourism between the two countries.

OMAN EYES INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN IRAN'S WEST AZARBAIJAN

The head of the Chamber of Commerce for Northeast Oman said Iran's West Azarbaijan province offers exceptional development potential, adding that Oman is ready to invest in the region.

Speaking to IRNA following a meeting with the governor of West Azarbaijan, Mohammad bin Nasser Al-Maskari expressed a strong willingness to expand bilateral cooperation with the province's Chamber of Commerce.

He highlighted key opportunities in tourism, mining, and agriculture that could mark a turning point in economic relations between Iran and Oman.

Al-Maskari praised the province's historical and tourism assets, saying Oman plans to begin practical investment steps in the hospitality and tourism sectors before the end of 2025.

Referring to West Azarbaijan Governor Reza Rahmani as an internationally recognized figure in industry and economy, Al-Maskari noted that Rahmani's strong ties with Omani officials could significantly ease the investment process.

He emphasized that Oman initially seeks to focus on partnerships in tourism, agriculture, and food industries.





SPORTS

IRANIAN ATHLETES WIN MEDALS IN 2025 ASIAN U18 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Samia Shahpari and Amirreza Ahanin Maram of Iran won medals at the 6th Asian U18 Athletics Championships.

Shahpari claimed third place in the Women's 3000m with a time of 10:09.07. The gold medal went to Uzbekistan's Anastasiya Silchenkova, who finished in 9:45.17, while China's Suolang Zhuoma took silver with a time of 10:00.44.

Earlier, Ahanin Maram secured a silver medal in the Men's U18 Hammer Throw, achieving a distance of 71.05 meters. The gold medal was won by Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Siraj Alzayer, who threw 72.91 meters, and the bronze went to China's Wang Ankang with a throw of 70.72 meters.

The 2025 Asian U18 Athletics Championships are being held at Prince Nayef Sports City in Qatif, Saudi Arabia, from April 15 to 18.

IRANIAN TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS WIN TWO GOLDS IN SARAJEVO YOUTH CONTENDER

Benyamin Faraj and Nikan Shirvani of Iran won two gold medals in the 2025 WTT Youth Contender Sarajevo on Friday.

Faraji defeated Slovenian player Miha Podobnik 3-1 in the U17 Boys Singles final match.

He had defeated rivals from Slovakia, Italy, Czech Republic and Croatia on his way to the final.

Shirvani also won a gold medal in the U11 Boys Singles.

He had defeated Serbian, and two Bosnians on his way to the final.

IRAN'S KAMAREH CLAIMS A GOLD IN ASIAN U18 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Iran's Kamareh claims a gold in Asian U18 Athletics Championships

Iranian athlete Mohammadsaleh Kamareh seized a gold medal in the 6th Asian U18 Athletics Championships on Friday.

He crossed the finish line in the Men U18 3,000 meters with a time of 08:40.00 minutes.

Mohammed Mabrook Mohammed A. of Yemen came second with 08:56.00 minutes.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

SHEIKH SAFI AL-DIN ARDABILI'S SHRINE IN IRAN'S WEST AZARBAIJAN

The Sheikh Safi al-Din Shrine is the tomb of Sheikh Safi-ad-Din Ardabili, located in Ardabil City in West Azarbaijan Province of Iran. In 2010, it was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

