



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

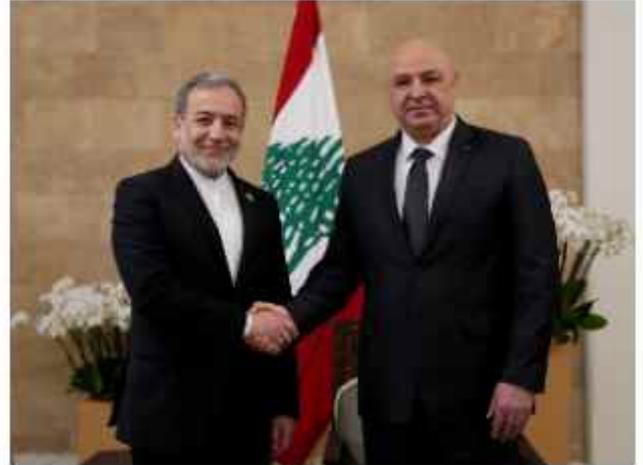


Iran in Unity



MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Araghchi visited Lebanon and conferred with his counterpart and other senior-ranking Lebanese officials.





MFA NEWSLETTER

FM ARAGHCHI WELCOMES HIS OMANI COUNTERPART IN TEHRAN



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PHOTO: Mehrzad Soleimani





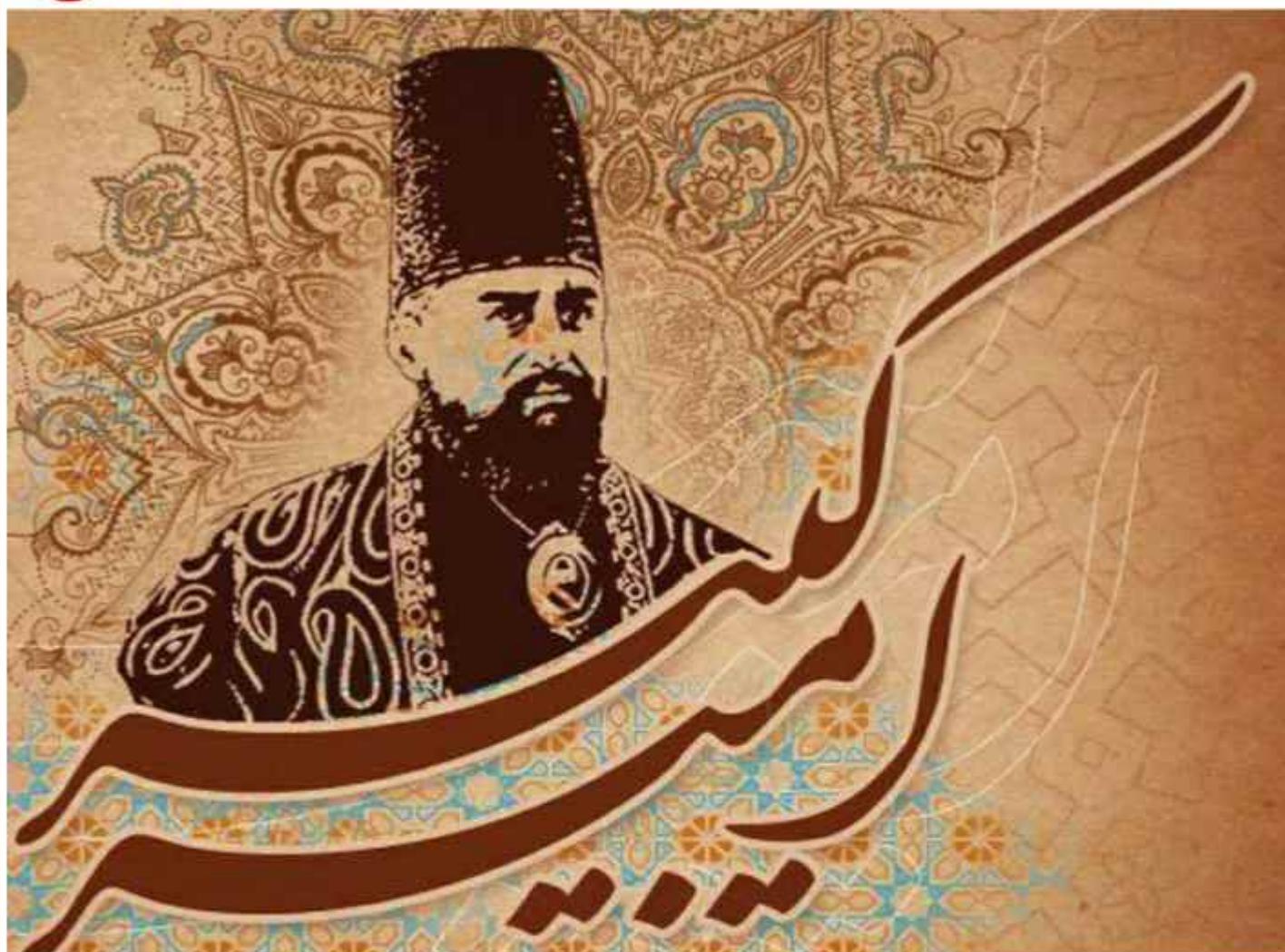
MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Pakistan, Cuba, Brazil, Bahrain, Venezuela, France, Egypt, India, Mauritius, Turkiye, UK, and the United Arab Emirates.





IRANIAN LUMINARIES



January 10, 2022 which corresponds to Dey 20, 1400 on the Persian calendar is recorded in the Islamic Republic of Iran as the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mirza Taghikhan Amir Kabir.

The establishment of the Dar al-Fonoon school to teach new science and technology in Tehran, the publication of Vaqaye Etefaqiyyah Newspaper as the first official newspaper in Iran, the review of the tax situation and the reorganization of the army, and the strengthening of military might were among some of important measures Amir Kabir has taken.

Mirza Mohammad Taghikhan, known as Amir Kabir, also established a social order approved by the people, and the oppressors could no longer dominate the deprived and the poor as in the past.

The enmity of people like Aga Khan Nouri with Amir Kabir and finally Nasser al-Din Shah joining them, caused Amir

Kabir to be removed from the presidency and then he was exiled to Kashan.

The enemies of Amir Kabir, however, did not deny his existence, and finally Amir Kabir was assassinated by Ali Khan Maraghei in the Finn bath of Kashan on the order of Nasser al-Din Shah on Dey 20, 1230.

The birthplace and historical home of Mirzataghi Khan Amirkabir, a great and famous figure in the history of Iran, is located in Hazaveh village of Arak city in Markazi province.

Amirkabir historical house with an area of 815 square meters has been built on two floors and its antiquity dates back to the Qajar historical period. This historical monument with Iranian style architecture was registered in the list of national monuments of Iran in 2010.





CULTURE & SOCIETY

HONORING RUDAKI: A CELEBRATION OF PERSIAN LITERARY HERITAGE



A commemoration celebrating Roodaki, known as the father of Persian poetry, was held under the title "The Fragrance of the Mouliyan River," alongside a tribute to Khwajou Kermani. The event was organized by the Cultural Heritage and Scholars Association in collaboration with the Tajikistan Embassy in Iran and the Roodaki Foundation.

This event underscores the enduring cultural ties between Iran and Tajikistan, emphasizing the shared literary heritage founded by iconic poets like Roodaki.

Roodaki's contributions established foundational forms and structures within Persian poetry, influencing countless poets for centuries. The celebration not only honors his legacy but also fosters deeper cultural connections between Iran and Tajikistan.

Notable attendees included Nizamuddin Zahidi, the Tajik Ambassador in Iran, Mahmoud Shaloui, President of the Cultural Heritage Association, and prominent Persian language figures like Ali Ravaqi and Morteza Amiri Esfandegheh.

Nizamuddin Zahidi remarked, "Roodaki was a pathfinder, whose route poets have walked for a thousand years." He highlighted that Roodaki's study is a vital aspect of cultural collaboration between Iran and Tajikistan, advocating for a comprehensive collection of Roodaki's works and those of his contemporaries through joint scholarly efforts.

The event showcases a commitment to preserving and promoting Persian literature, encouraging ongoing collaboration and research to celebrate the richness of the region's cultural history.





CULTURE & SOCIETY

IRANIAN ARMENIANS CELEBRATE NEW YEAR 2026 ALONGSIDE CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Marking the birth of Jesus Christ, the Armenian community in Iran welcomed the New Year 2026 by cleaning churches, decorating Christmas trees, preparing gifts, and visiting the families of martyrs, veterans, and former prisoners of the Sacred Defense era.





CULTURE & SOCIETY

2026 DAWN IN TEHRAN: A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND COEXISTENCE



As the first light of the New Year broke over Tehran this Thursday, a unique and harmonious celebration began in the Iranian capital.

While much of the world prepared for evening festivities, the historical Targmanchats Church in Tehran welcomed the dawn of January 1st with a special service.

Targmanchats Church, whose name means “Holy Translators,” honors Mesrop Mashtots, the revered creator of the Armenian alphabet.

MARKING A GLOBAL MILESTONE WITH LOCAL TRADITION

The gathering for New Year’s Eve marks the birth of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the Anno Domini era. For the attendees, this dawn service also held significance as the seventh day of Christmas in the Western Christian tradition. The timing of the

celebration, at dawn on a working day, highlighted the dedication of the community and the accommodations made for their religious observances.

A TESTAMENT TO RELIGIOUS COEXISTENCE

The peaceful observance of this important Christian holiday in the heart of Iran’s capital serves as a soft but powerful testament to the country’s constitutional recognition of religious minorities.

The continued operation and maintenance of churches like Targmanchats allow communities to preserve their language, traditions, and faith across generations.

This event underscores a narrative of coexistence, where ancient Christian traditions continue to be practiced freely, contributing to the rich, multicultural tapestry of Iranian society. Christmas was not just a welcoming of a new year, but a reaffirmation of a community’s enduring faith and its harmonious place within the nation.



IRANIAN CUISINE

TRY DELICIOUS IRANIAN FOOD: KHORESH GHEYMEH



Khoresh Gheymeh, also called Gheymeh Polo (polo means rice) is a Beef and Split Pea Stew which is a very traditional and popular Iranian stew with saffron potatoes that is served over either white rice or aromatic rice.

Yellow split peas, saffron, tomato paste, diced meat, and sun-dried lime (Limo Amani) are the main ingredients of this delicious stew. However, it's not as easy as it looks. Like many meals, you will need to fry onions as the first step and then add the meat to it. Then you'll need to add tomato paste, salt, pepper, and turmeric. While the meat is cooking with the spices, cook the split peas until the yellow split peas are al dente, softened with a bite. In the end, add 3 cups of water, cover them and bring to boil for 2-3 hours.

When Khoresh Gheymeh is ready, you can serve it fried potatoes or eggplants. Make sure to have rice to put this heavenly Persian stew on it.



TRADE & ECONOMY

TEHRAN HOSTING INTERNATIONAL WOOD EXHIBITION, WOODEX 2026



The 23rd international exhibition of wood, raw materials, furniture equipment, and related machinery of Iran (WOODEX 2026) opened in Tehran.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Sadif Beykzadeh, the managing director of Tehran International Exhibitions Company, said that 30 foreign companies from Turkey, South Korea, Germany, China, and Russia are participating in this edition of the event.

He said that WOODEX 2026 is being held in nine halls in an area measuring 33,700 square meters.

The managing director of Tehran International Exhibitions Company said that this exhibition is aimed at transferring technical knowledge and expanding international cooperation, adding that the event will lead to constructive competition, promoting production quality, and creating foreign investment-making opportunities in the wood industry.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EURASIA BOOSTS IRANIAN PRODUCTS COMPETITIVENESS

Iran's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased the competitive status of Iranian products.

The agreement has created new opportunities for the promotion of Iran's trade with the five members of the union.

As the experts believe, it seems that economic cooperation between Iran and the EAEU will become a turning point in the near future.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported, the value of Iran's export to the Eurasian Economic Union member countries rose 10 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

The IRICA report put the worth of Iran's export to the mentioned countries at \$1.46 billion during the said eight-month period.



TRADE & ECONOMY

19 FOREIGN COMPANIES ATTENDING IRAN LASER SHOW



The 6th exhibition on laser, photonics, and quantum (Iran Laser Show) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds with 40 Iranian companies and 19 foreign companies in attendance.

Representatives from Oman, Iraq, China, and Turkey have participated in the four-day event, IRNA reported.

Iran Laser Show aims to provide a platform for industrialists and academics to share experience and introduce their scientific achievements.

Scientific progress

Thanks to targeted planning and coordinated efforts, about 125 Iranian journals have been indexed by the reputable databases of Scopus and Web of Science over the past four years, an official with the Ministry of Science has said.

In the last year (March 2024 – March 2025) alone, some 50 Iranian journals were indexed, which is a scientific record for the country. The growth rate of scientific publications, which is not easy to repeat, indicates that a specific program has been pursued to improve the status of the country's scientific journals, ISNA quoted Samad Nejad-Ebrahimi as saying.

These journals are, in fact, a scientific and international showcase of Iran in science and technology fields, and improving them will directly contribute to achieving scientific authority, the official added.

IRAN EXPORTS DIAGNOSTIC KITS TO IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

At present, diagnostic kits made in Iran are exported to the three countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, the managing director of Iran Blood Refining Company has said.

The country has also attained the technology for producing albumin, IRNA quoted Fardin Balouchi as saying.

Over the past Iranian year (March 2024 – March 2025), biotechnology products were exported to 35 countries worldwide, an increase from 33 countries the previous year.

The pharmaceutical biotechnology industry saves some two billion dollars in foreign currency annually, covering 60 percent of the country's pharmaceutical exports, IRNA quoted Hossein Amirazodi, the secretary general of the association of pharmaceutical biotechnology producers and exporters, as saying.

The official made the remarks addressing the 4th International Conference and Exhibition on Iranian Medical Biotech Products and Related Industries (Iran Bio) being held from February 4 to 6 at the Olympic Hotel in Tehran, IRNA reported.

Currently, the country produces 40 out of 150 pharmaceutical biotechnology products that are manufactured in the world, he said, adding that the achievement has been made over the course of 30 years.



IRANIAN SPORTS

IRANIAN, SPANISH HANDBALL FEDERATIONS SIGN MOU



Iranian and Spanish handball federations have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand cooperation.

Head of Iran Handball Federation Alireza Pakdel and his Spanish counterpart Francisco Garcia signed the MoU on Wednesday in a meeting held on the sidelines of a warm-up tournament in Spain.

The two sides stressed holding indoor and beach friendly matches in the future.

Garcia welcomed Iran's presence in upcoming warm-up games.

He called for bilateral cooperation with Iran's Handball Federation on training coaches and referees and holding joint camps.

IRAN'S MMA RANKS 2ND IN ASIAN GAMES

Iran's National Mixed Martial Arts Federation (MMA) team has become runner-up in the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.

With 14 medals, the Iranian MMA fighters have received eight quotas in Asian Games.

Iranian squad consisting of 13 male and seven female athletes attended the event.



IRAN'S GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLERS BECOME RUNNERS-UP IN TURKISH TOURNAMENT

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers received two gold, two silver, and five bronze medals in a Turkish tournament and became runners-up.

The event was held in Antalya from January 8 to 9.

Arman Tahmasebi in 130kg and Amir-Reza Moradian in 97kg weight categories received gold medals.

Ali Hajivand (63kg) and Mohammad Arjmand (82kg) grabbed silver medals.

Kianoosh Shamshiri and Mahdi Kamali in 55kg, Mohammad Ashiri in 60kg, Mohammad Eskandari in 67kg, and Ali-Asghar Sam-Daliri in 77kg weight categories received bronze medals. Turkey ranked first.



Iran in Unity

IRANIANS HOLD NATIONWIDE RALLIES AGAINST TERRORISTS

Iranian people staged nationwide rallies to condemn terrorist activities during protests as well as attend funeral procession for victims of the sad occasion on January 12, 2026.



Iran in Unity





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

GREAT SALT DESERT IN IRAN

Dasht-e Kavir, also known as the Great Salt Desert, is a large desert lying in the middle of the Iranian Plateau.

It is about 800-kilometre-long (500 mi) by 320-kilometre-wide (200 mi) with a total surface area of about 77,600 km² (30,000 sq mi), making it the world's 24th largest desert. The area of this desert stretches from the Alborz mountain range in the northwest to the Dasht-e Lut in the southeast. It is partitioned among the Iranian provinces of Khorasan, Semnan, Tehran, Isfahan and Yazd.

Dasht-e Kavir's climate is arid; it receives little rain or snow. However, the mountains that surround it provide plenty of runoff—enough to create vast seasonal lakes, marshlands and playas. Temperatures can reach 50 °C (122 °F) in summer, and the average temperature in January is 22 °C (72 °F). Daytime and nighttime temperatures can vary by as much as 70 °C (130 °F) over the course of a year. Rain usually falls in winter.

