



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Alborz Mountains

Loving Iran forever



MFA NEWSLETTER

IRAN'S FM MEETS WITH REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN'S PRESIDENT IN BAKU



**FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
MEET IN BAKU**



**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN HOSTS VISITING IRANIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER**





MFA NEWSLETTER

FM ARAGHCHI MEETS WITH CHINA'S DEPUTY FM AND SAUDI ARABIA'S VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



FM ARAGHCHI VISITS SPEAKER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



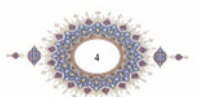
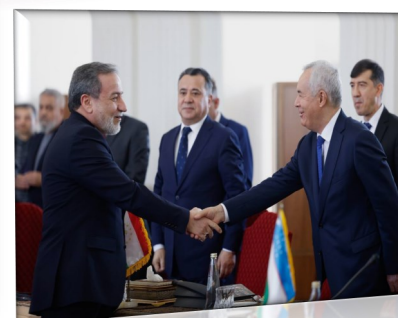
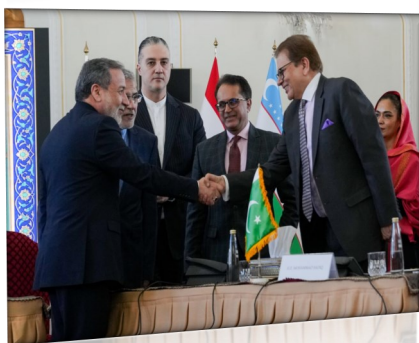
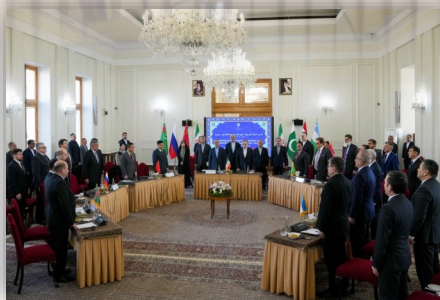
IRAN'S FM MEETS WITH SPEAKER OF ETHIOPIA'S HOUSE OF PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES





MFA NEWSLETTER

THE MEETING OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF AFGHANISTAN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES + RUSSIA IN TEHRAN (DECEMBER 14, 2025)





MFA NEWSLETTER

The Foreign Minister held talks over the phone with his counterparts from Japan and Egypt.



Japanese FM



Egyptian FM





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INSF, UZBEKISTAN INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO SUPPORT JOINT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



Iran and Uzbekistan will support the implementation of 10 research projects following a joint call by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the Agency for Innovative Development under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The call aims to boost international scientific cooperation, improve the quality of research, and utilize the technological capacity of the two countries. Hence, the projects that focus on developing scientific synergy and networking among universities, institutions, and organizations of the two nations will be among the top priorities, IRNA reported.

The grant amounts to 30 billion rials (some \$24,590) for each research project for at most three years; in case the Iranian researcher has published scientific articles in Q1 or Q2 journals, or has a joint ownership of a patent with an Uzbek researcher, the grant will total 40 billion rials (around \$32,786).

TEHRAN HOSTS MEETING OF AFRICAN ENVOYS TO BOOST SCIENCE, HEALTH COOPERATION

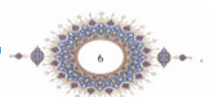


Iranian officials and the ambassadors of 19 African countries to Tehran have discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of science, education, research, and health.

Addressing the meeting, held in Tehran, Nader Tavakoli, the Chancellor of Iran University of Medical Sciences, said despite coercive sanctions, the country has managed to make great strides in the health sector, from education and treatment to technology and production of medicines, relying on committed and creative human resources, IRNA reported.

"Now, we are ready to share these achievements with Africans through establishing a strategic health alliance between Iran and African countries," Tavakoli highlighted.

Elaborating on the core areas of the strategic alliance, he said that researchers will focus on addressing real-time illnesses, such as tropical and endemic diseases, drug shortages, and health service delivery in rural areas.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IRANIAN, RUSSIAN COMPANIES INK MOUS TO BOLSTER ICT TIES



Top tech Iranian and Russian companies have signed five memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, smart government, blockchain and fintech, regulators, technology parks, and post services, to promote cooperation in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

The MOUs were signed in Russia during the fifth Iran-Russia ICT Forum held from December 6 to 7.

Referring to the strategic partnership between Iran and Russia, Iran's ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, said the two countries have a high capacity, and the expansion of collaborations will be beneficial to both sides.

For his part, Alexander Shoitov, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation, said the memoranda of understanding and the agreements reached today are the result of ongoing efforts over the past few years.

DOE, UNEP DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AT UNEA-7

Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), and Inger Andersen, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have discussed environmental challenges in the country.

The officials met on the sidelines of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), taking place from December 8 to 12 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the meeting, Ansari elaborated on major environmental problems of the country, such as sand and dust storms (SDSs), drought, climate-change impacts, the drying of wetlands, and problems caused by dam construction in Afghanistan affecting the Hamoun wetlands and the social consequences.

For her part, Anderson expressed regret over the existence of oppressive sanctions, lauding the role of the country in the United Nations' environmental activities, particularly its initiative on SDSs despite sanctions. She stressed that the agenda of the UNEP is non-political, focusing on environmental and humanitarian aspects.





SOCIETY & CULTURE

MEHR MEDIA GROUP SHINES IN MOSCOW, NAMED AS INTERNATIONAL EXPERT OF THE YEAR 2025



In a distinguished ceremony held in Moscow on Tuesday, the Mehr Media Group has been recognized among the top three international winners at the 14th edition of the Expert of the Year 2025 awards.

This accolade underscores Mehr's influential role in fostering media cooperation between Iran and BRICS member countries.

The award event, which gathered media experts, industry leaders, economic officials, and prominent figures from 12 countries including Iran, India, and Brazil, celebrated outstanding projects across 16 categories. The Expert of the Year Award honors specialists introducing innovative ideas and groundbreaking initiatives in economics, media, public management, culture, industry, and social activities—often operating behind the scenes but significantly impacting national development and international collaboration.

IRANIAN ARTISTS, ENSEMBLE WIN AT FALL EDITION OF CLASSICAL MUSIC STARS COMPETITION



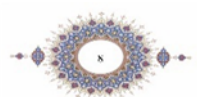
One ensemble and three artists from Iran are among the winners of the fall edition of the Classical Music Stars Competition in Poland.

Mithra Orchestra, Seraj Rohanifard, Mohammadreza Hatami, and Sana Najaf Pour are the Iranian winners at the event, IRNA reported.

Mithra Orchestra was the Absolute Winner in the Chamber Music category.

The orchestra has performed pieces from romance to modern works, performing works by European composers such as Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Britten, and Shostakovich. It has also performed many pieces from the most famous Iranian composers such as Pourtorab, Dehlavi, and Baghcheban.

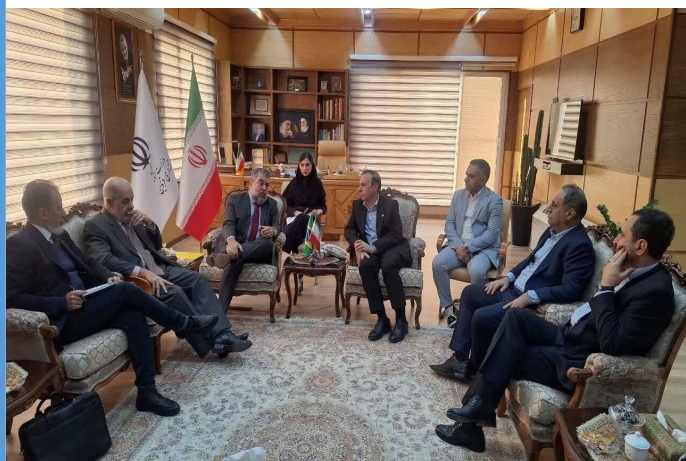
Seraj Rohanifard and Mohammadreza Hatami received First and Second prizes in the Composition category.





TRADE & ECONOMY

ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN FOCUS AS BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR MEETS QAZVIN GOVERNOR



Brazil's Ambassador to Iran, André Veras Guimarães, met with Mohammad Nozari, the governor of Qazvin Province.

Nozari described Qazvin as a major and strategically important province with strong industrial and tourism potential, saying the region is well-positioned to expand its relations with Brazil.

He added that Brazil is a large and influential country best known to many Iranians for its renowned football players, and noted that the two nations enjoy positive relations.

He expressed hope that the ambassador's visit would pave the way for deeper cooperation in industrial and tourism sectors.

The governor said Qazvin is a leading province in diversified exports, construction materials, and glass and ceramic production, stating that it can help meet Brazil's needs in various fields.

INDONESIA AIMS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH IRAN, ENVOY SAYS

Indonesia is seeking to deepen economic cooperation with Iran, with a focus on high-tech industries, investment and private-sector engagement, the country's ambassador said during a meeting with the governor of Isfahan.

Roliansyah Sumirat said both countries, as developing economies, need to concentrate on strengthening domestic production and reducing external dependency. He added that Jakarta is ready to expand cooperation with Iran across economic fields, especially advanced technologies.

The envoy called for broader private-sector links and province-level economic exchanges, saying economic ties should not rely solely on central governments. He said increasing business-to-business cooperation would help unlock opportunities in technology, industry and investment.

Sumirat highlighted tourism as an economic driver and noted that Indonesia is working to promote travel through targeted programs, including curated tours for influencers and journalists. He added that joint economic events such as exhibitions, trade fairs and sector-specific festivals could further support bilateral commercial ties.





What Iran is known for

ALBORZ MOUNTAINS



The Alborz mountain range is home to the loftiest mountains in Iran, dazzling its visitors with snowy peaks and numerous natural attractions.

The Alborz or Elborz Mountain range is a narrow range that curves all along the southern shore of the Caspian Sea from the Azerbaijan province of Iran in North West to the Aladak Mountains in the northeast measure about 600 mi or 970 km long.

This range forms a climatic barrier between the Caspian and the Central part of the Iranian Plateau which results in receiving a good deal of snow and rain in the fertile region of the northern side; in stark contrast, the southern side has very little vegetation and is characterized by barren brown slopes and deserts.

The word Alborz is derived from Hera Barziti, which is the name of a legendary mountain in Avesta consisting of the word “Barziti” meaning tall, which is still used in Persian today and the prefix “hera” has Indo-European roots and means care and guard.





IRAN NATURE



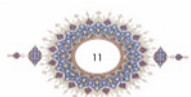
Geographical feature

Originally, the Alborz Mountains as well as their neighboring range of the east, the Kopet Dag, are volcanic and retain the verticality typical of this origin and rise almost as a wall from the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. This range is among the highest in the continent and includes Iran's highest peak, Damavand (18,934 ft or 5,671 m). Alburz is always important in Persian mythology as a remote base of mythical heroes and gods.

The Elburz range forms a climatic barrier between the Caspian and the Central Iranian Plateau. The northern side receives a good deal of snow and rain and is blanketed by lush forests and a fertile coastal plain. The

southern side, in stark contrast, has few trees and is characterized by barren brown slopes and desert below. Damavand

Mount Damavand is one of the most iconic places in Iran. That is not just for the challenge of climbing Damavand. Damavand peak has had a notable role in Iranian mythology and literature. It is a symbol of resistance and strength in Iranian folk stories. It is regarded as an epic mountain in Shahnameh, the popular Iranian book of poems. Every Iranian anywhere in the world can tell you exciting stories about Zahaak, the devil king, imprisoned in the Damavand peak for thousands of years. It is the highest volcanic mountain in the middle east mount (5671M).





IRAN NATURE

Damavand



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Flora and fauna of Alborz

The southern slopes of the Alborz Mountains are usually semiarid or arid, but the northern slopes of the range are usually humid and very fertile,



especially in Gilan province located in the western parts of the Central Alborz. The higher elevations of the southern part such as Damavand have very few trees including the Juniper which is the most common tree in the highest parts, other common plants of the region are pistachio, maple, and almond. in the fertile area of the northern slopes, the Caspian Hyrcanian forests' lush eco-region is the most important phenomenon. The natural plants in this region grow in distinct zones, The wild cypress as well as the olive trees grow in the western valleys of the Central Alborz near the Sefidrud river.

The most important animals and birds of Alborz are bezoar ibex, Blandford's fox, Rappel's fox, red fox, Persian fallow deer, wild boar, Syrian brown bear, Persian leopard, Indian wolf, buzzard, goose, woodpecker, griffon vulture, and eagle. The extinct Caspian Tiger lived around the Caspian Sea through Central Asia to northern Afghanistan and Xinjiang in western China.

Tourist attractions

Due to the great snow, there are several ski resorts in different parts of the central range of Alborz. Some of them such as Dizin, Shemshak, Tochal, Abali, and Darbandsar are among the best in the whole world.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INCREASING TRADE, ECONOMIC EXCHANGES WITH IRAN SERIOUSLY PURSUED: BELARUSIAN AMBASSADOR



In a meeting with Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Belarusian Ambassador to Iran Dmitry Koltsov stated: "We are seriously pursuing increased trade and economic exchanges between Iran and Belarus".

In the mentioned meeting, the TPO head emphasized the expansion of trade cooperation between the two countries, stating: "Holding the joint committee meeting can facilitate many trade issues between the two countries."

He stressed the development of trade cooperation between the two countries, saying: "There are diverse capacities for trade exchanges between Iran and Belarus, and we strive to expand economic relations between the two countries in various fields."

Dehghan Dehnavi further listed some trade issues that would lead to the development of bilateral trade relations, expressing hope: "The joint committee meeting can facilitate many trade matters between the two countries."

TEHRAN, YEREVAN DISCUSS WAYS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC, TRADE, INVESTMENT CO-OP

During a meeting between the ambassador of Armenia to Iran and the secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones, they discussed ways to develop bilateral cooperation and strengthen economic, trade, and investment relations between the two countries.

Grigor Hakovian, the ambassador of Armenia to Iran, met with Reza Masrour, the secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones, to explore avenues for expanding bilateral cooperation and enhancing economic, trade, and investment ties between the two nations.

During this meeting, the two sides exchanged views on existing economic capacities between the two countries and emphasized the introduction of investment opportunities and the development of joint packages to attract domestic and foreign investors.

The Armenian ambassador and the secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones noted the advantages of Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, describing it as a valuable opportunity for Iranian free zone producers and investors to gain broader access to the markets of the union's member states.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRANIAN INDUSTRIALISTS DISCUSS EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN



In a recent meeting of the Industry and Mining Committee of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), private sector representatives hosted the head of the Spanish Embassy's Economic Office in Tehran.

During this meeting, the capacities and opportunities for commercial cooperation between companies of the two countries were reviewed.

During this session, in a dialogue between Iranian private sector representatives and Iñigo Gil Casares, both sides emphasized laying the groundwork for expanding economic relations between the two countries amid the reopening of the international environment for Iran. They also deemed greater interaction between the two countries' chambers of commerce essential for identifying trade opportunities and introducing reputable companies.

Hervik Yarijanian, Chairman of the Tehran Chamber's Industry and Mining Committee, began the meeting by referring to the longstanding political and economic relations between Iran and Spain.

ISFAHAN, IRAQI KURDISTAN EXPLORE WAYS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION



During a recent meeting held at the place of Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, the ways to expand cooperation in different areas, especially economy and trade, between Isfahan and Kurdistan Autonomous Region of Iraq were discussed.

Representatives from both sides described Isfahan as a strategic city for expanding exchanges and the active presence of Iraqi traders, tourists, and students.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, the meeting also stressed the necessity of establishing direct flights between Isfahan and Sulaymaniyah as an effective measure to facilitate travel and expand economic and cultural interactions.

Mohammad Reza Gol-Ahmad, a member of the Board of Representatives of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the extensive economic and cultural capacities of the province, stating: "Isfahan is a city with a rich historical background and valuable ancient artifacts, and its handicrafts can be highly attractive to visitors."

GOL-AHMAD EMPHASIZED ISFAHAN'S PROMINENT INDUSTRIAL



IRANIAN CUISINE

KHORESHT-E KADU HALVAI – PUMPKIN AND CHICKEN PAN



Autumn is knocking on the door, and happily, it's also the start of pumpkin season. Pumpkin is one of the characteristic of this savory pumpkin and chicken pan is the flavor that results from the combination of juicy chicken thighs, nutty Hokkaido pumpkin, onion, spicy tomato paste, aromatic saffron, and cinnamon. And you don't even need to peel the Hokkaido pumpkin, as its skin is edible. The sweet and sour prunes pair perfectly with the chicken thighs, providing a smooth texture in the sauce and adding a sweet and sour kick to the dish. A couple of squirts of lime juice round off this tasty dish.

Ingredients:

oil, chicken thighs, cinnamon, salt, pepper, tomato paste, dried plums, pumpkin, juice of lime



TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, PAKISTAN INK SEVERAL MOUS IN KARACHI INTL. FOOD, AGRICULTURE EXPO



The ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran stated that a trade delegation from Iran participated in the Karachi International Food and Agricultural Exhibition, and during the event, the two countries signed several memoranda of understanding, including a \$4 million trade agreement.

Muhammad Mudassir Tipu announced in a message that a 12-member trade delegation from Iran participated in the third International Food and Agriculture Exhibition 2025, the largest trade exhibition of food products in Karachi, Pakistan.

He added: “The Iranian delegation attended extensive meetings with Pakistani companies in key sectors, including citrus fruits, agricultural products such as rice and meat.”

During this exhibition, three memoranda of understanding, including trade commitments worth over \$4 million, were signed.

TEHRAN, ASTANA PLAN TO BOOST TRADE, DEEPEN TRANSPORT, PRIVATE- SECTOR TIES

An Iran-Kazakhstan business conference convened in the Kazakh capital Astana on Thursday, with the presidents of both countries, senior ministers, private sector officials, and business delegations from the two countries in attendance, seeking to deepen commercial ties.

Officials from Kazakhstan’s National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and representatives of Iranian and Kazakh companies also attended the event.

Speaking at the conference, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran aims to build a stable network of cooperation and mutual investment between the private sectors of the two countries, calling the Central Asian nation a strategic partner.



IRANIAN SPORTS

IRANIANS WIN ACCOLADES AT 2025 WORLD TAEKWONDO U21 CHAMPIONSHIPS



Abolfazl Zandi of Iran was chosen the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the inaugural Nairobi 2025 World Taekwondo Under 21 Championships. He won a gold medal at the Men's -58kg, defeating Magomed Magomedov (AIN) in the final.

Also, Iran's men's team claimed the title of the inaugural edition and Majid Aflaki won the Best Team Coach Men accolade. Iran claimed four gold medals, one silver and three bronzes.

IRAN WIN 2025 ISF U15 WORLD SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Iran's boys' team defeated Chinese Taipei 3-1 (15-25, 25-18, 25-22, 25-17) at the 2025 ISF U15 World School Volleyball Championship final.

Iran had defeated Nigeria, China, Saudi Arabia, China and India on their way to the final match.

PARA TAEKWONDO ATHLETES SNATCH THREE GOLDS AT 2025 AYPG

Iranian Para taekwondo athletes won three gold and one silver medals at the Dubai 2025 Asian Youth Para Games.

Abolfazl Imani defeated Uzbekistan's Fayyozbek Valijonov 2-1 in the final of the Seniors Male-K44 -58 / Seniors -58kg.

Amirhossein Alizadeh seized a gold medal at the Seniors Male-K44 -63 / Seniors -63kg after defeating Uzbekistan Muhammadsodik Usmonov 2-1 in the final match.

Maryam Abdollahpour beat her compatriot Zahra Rahim 2-1 in the final bout of the Seniors Female-K44 -57 / Seniors -57kg.



IRANIAN SPORTS

PARA POWERLIFTERS START ON A HIGH NOTE: 2025 AYPG



Three Iranian para powerlifters won gold medals at the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games. Zahra Pouladi won gold in the girls' 41kg with a lift of 70kg, Mahdijeh Ehsani also claimed gold in the girls' 45kg, lifting 59kg in her best effort. Amirali Rashidi secured Iran's third gold in the Games, lifting 129kg in the boys' 49kg.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAMS WIN GOLD AND SILVER AT 2025 AYPG



Iran's boys' and girls' wheelchair basketball teams won a gold and silver medal at the Dubai 2025 Asian Youth Para Games.

GHOLAMI TAKES GOLD AT 2025 WORLD U21 TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Amirreza Gholami of Iran won a gold medal at the 2025 World U21 Taekwondo Championships. Also, Iran's Hasti Mohammadi claimed a bronze medal in the Women's -57 kg.



IRANIAN TAEKWONDO ATHLETES WIN TWO MORE GOLDS AT 2025 WORLD U21



Iran's Mobina Nematzadeh and Radin Zeinali won two gold medal at the 2025 World U21

IRANIAN SPORTS

IRAN RUNNERS-UP AT 2025 ASIAN YOUTH PARA GAMES



Iran finished second at the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG) in Dubai.

A 194-member Iranian contingent collected a total of 262 medals, including 76 gold, 96 silver, and 88 bronze, at the Games held in Dubai, the UAE, from Dec. 10 to 13.

Iran's para swimmers won 104 medals, while para athletes secured 82 medals across various disciplines.

The event brought together around 1,500 athletes from 35 national federations across Asia. Uzbekistan topped the medals table with 153 medals, including an impressive 99 gold medals. Japan finished third with a total of 77 medals, comprising 40 gold, 25 silver, and 12 bronze.

Iran had topped the medals standings at the previous edition in 2021 Bahrain, winning 122 medals, including 44 golds.

GIRLS' GOALBALL TEAM CROWNED 2026 AYPG CHAMPIONS

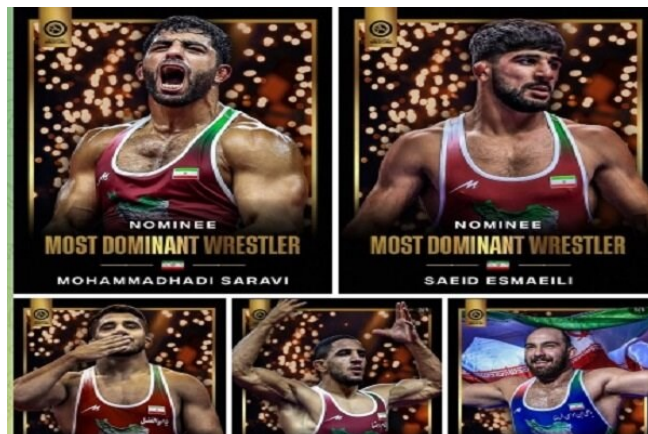


Iran's girls' goalball team claimed the title of the Dubai 2025 Asian Youth Para Games on Saturday.

IRAN HAS FIVE CONTENDERS AT 2025 WORLD'S MOST DOMINANT WRESTLER

Five Iranian wrestlers have been named among the contenders for the title of the most dominant wrestler of 2025 according to United World Wrestling (UWW).

The UWW announced the nominees for the 2025 Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestlers, with Iran's freestyle and Greco-Roman national team members having a notable presence on this list.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

ORANGE HARVEST IN GOLESTAN PROVINCE'S ORCHARDS

