



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Issue #45, October 1 – 15, 2021

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MFA NEWSLETTER

AMIRABDOLLAHIAN MEETS WITH SERGEI LAVROV IN MOSCOW



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, who visited Moscow at the official invitation of his Russian counterpart, met with Russia FM Sergey Lavrov in Moscow.

The meeting happened at the Russian Foreign Ministry and the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest at regional and international levels.

Amirabdollahian and Lavrov, while explaining the latest state of bilateral relations, emphasized the need for comprehensive expansion of cooperation and interactions between the two countries in all areas.

They announced their readiness to further enhance relations between Tehran and Moscow. The top diplomats also discussed other issues like

preparing the ground for a joint economic commission, strengthening interactions on trade and economy and energy and also paving the way for the promotion of cultural and consular cooperation as well as cooperation in the fight against Covid-19.

Amirabdollahian thanked Russia for its support for the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation in regional and international issues. Referring to his recent visit to Tehran and the signing of an agreement to establish cultural centers between the two countries, Lavrov also called for the implementation of the document. Amirabdollahian and Lavrov also held talks over the situation in Afghanistan and Yemen, the developments in the Caucasus, the state of the Iran nuclear deal, and other regional and international issues.

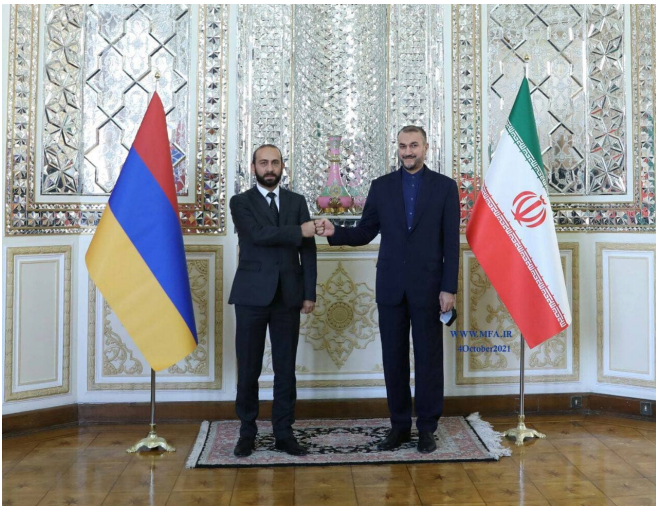




MFA NEWSLETTER

IRANIAN, ARMENIAN FMS DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, INTL. DEVELOPMENTS

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, who visited Tehran, has met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian. The two sides exchanged views on issues of mutual interest in bilateral, regional and international fields.



During the meeting, Amirabdollahian referred to the useful and constructive talks between the Iranian president and Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

“We consider our borders with Armenia as borders for interaction and cooperation, including in connection with the Eurasian Economic Union,” Amirabdollahian said.

While emphasizing Tehran's determination to expand relations with Armenia in different political, economic and cultural fields, he

expressed hope that through joint cooperation, outstanding economic plans and semi-finished projects will become operational, and the shortcomings and problems of roads between the two countries will quickly be resolved so that bilateral trade will expand to a new level.

During the meeting, the Armenian foreign minister also stressed the long-standing friendly relations between the two nations, saying that rapid international and regional developments have led senior officials of the two countries to meet frequently.

Unfortunately, the involvement of third parties in the Caucasus crisis has led to the presence of terrorist forces from Iraq and Syria in the region, he said.

He stated that Armenia is ready to open the blocked roads between the two countries, but that obstructionism by some had slowed down the process.

Ararat Mirzoyan praised the Islamic Republic of Iran' stance that changing international borders is unacceptable, and described it as very important.

He enumerated his country's efforts to facilitate trade between the two countries, and stressed the Armenian government's interest in the activities of Iranian businessmen and technical experts in Armenia's market.



MFA NEWSLETTER

IRANIAN FM MEETS LEBANON PRESIDENT IN BEIRUT



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has held talks with Lebanon's President Michel Aoun at the beginning of his meetings with Lebanese officials in Beirut.

In the meeting that happened at the Lebanese presidential palace, Amirabdollahian and Aoun discussed Iran-Lebanon ties and regional developments.

The Iranian foreign minister congratulated Aoun on the formation of Lebanon's new government. He also reaffirmed Iran's strong backing for Lebanon, saying Tehran is ready to give all-out support for Beirut.

The Lebanese president said both the people and the government of Lebanon view Iran as their friend and that "we always feel Iran's support at our disposal".

Aoun also described talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia as important and said good ties between them will make Lebanon happy

and will strengthen peace in the region.

IRANIAN FM MEETS LEBANESE PM IN BEIRUT

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has met with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati to discuss bilateral relations, regional developments and international issues as he continued his meetings with high-ranking Lebanese officials in Beirut.

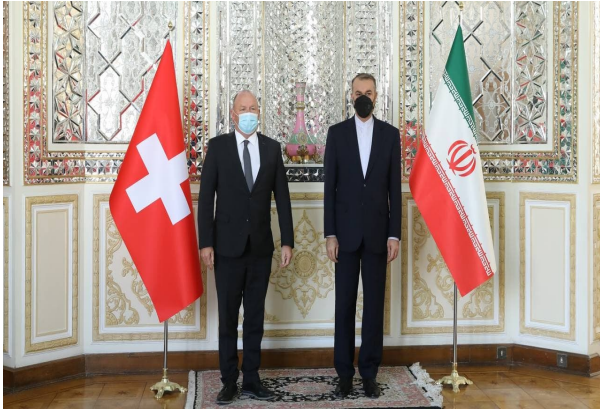
While congratulating on the formation of the new Lebanese government headed by Najib Mikati, FM Amirabdollahian, said the Islamic Republic, as always, stands by the Lebanese people in every field and is ready to help this country.

The Iranian foreign minister explained the areas of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of energy, electricity, oil and gas. Lebanon's prime minister expressed gratitude for the good will of the Islamic Republic of Iran in expanding relations with his country. Mikati described Iran as a great and active economic power and stressed that Iran is powerful in the economic field. He said cooperation between the countries of the region and Iran is beneficial for the whole region.





IRANIAN FM, SWISS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HOLD EXTENSIVE TALKS



The Speaker of the Swiss National Assembly Andreas Aebi met with FM Amirabdollahian, to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views over regional and international issues.

Amirabdollahian, in the meeting, referred to the good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland, describing as important parliamentary diplomacy between the legislative bodies of the two countries and the role of parliaments in the comprehensive development of cooperation.

Amirabdollahian also called the Swiss National Assembly speaker's trip an important step for the development of parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

The foreign minister further explained the vision of the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding balanced relations with foreign countries and said the

development of ties with Switzerland in various areas is important.

Amirabdollahian also spoke of the important capacities of bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields between Iran and Switzerland, saying the cooperation between their small and mid-size enterprises could be enhanced. He stressed the need to hold a joint commission for cooperation between the two countries.

The speaker of the Swiss National Assembly also said he was pleased to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country with a pivotal role in the region. Aebi described his meetings with the Iranian parliament speaker and other parliamentary officials as constructive. He went on to refer to the role of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran as a guardian of the interests of some countries and the importance of strengthening this role.

He also praised the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in taking in millions of Afghan refugees over the past decades and Tehran's current approach to providing services to the Afghan people.



CITIZENS OF CAPITAL MARK TEHRAN DAY ON OCTOBER 6

October 6 is marked as Tehran Day based on a 2016 decision by members of the City Council, celebrating the day when the city was officially chosen as the capital of Iran by the Qajar dynasty back in 1907.





Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks the National Day of China (October 1)

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks the National Day of Nigeria (October 1)



Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks the National Day of Uganda (October 9)

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks the National Day of Spain (October 12)





TWIPLOMACY

The leader of Iran congratulated Iranian free-style wrestlers for their achievements in world games

The leader of Iran congratulated Iranian Greco-Roma wrestlers for their achievements in world games

← Tweet



Khamenei.ir
@khamenei_ir

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

The glorious victories of our wrestling champions have brought joy to everyone, particularly to the youth of the nation. I sincerely thank them.

11:50 PM · Oct 4, 2021 · Twitter for Android

337 Retweets 58 Quote Tweets 2,801 Likes



Khamenei.ir
@khamenei_ir

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful [#Congratulations](#) to the country's Greco-Roman wrestling champions and to their coach who have brought joy to all Iranians, especially the youth. God willing, you will continue to be successful.

9:07 AM · Oct 11, 2021 · Twitter for Android

280 Retweets 5 Quote Tweets 2,113 Likes

Excellent talks in Moscow; Iran FM meets his Russian counterpart

Upon returning from his Lebanon visit, FM Amirabdollahian says Iran will remain supportive of Lebanon during their difficult days.



H.Amirabdollahian
@Amirabdollahian

Excellent talks in Moscow with FM Lavrov on wide range of issues of mutual interest, IBNLT Afghanistan, Caucasus, Syria, Yemen and the JCPOA.

Agreed to closely coordinate on regional & global issues, and to further enhance bilateral political, economic and cultural relations.



11:06 AM · Oct 7, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



H.Amirabdollahian
@Amirabdollahian

گفتگوهای مهمی با مقامات عالی‌رتبه ، روسای احزاب و نخبگان [#لبنان](#) داشتم. ساعات مفیدی هم با دبیرکل حزب الله به رایزنی گذشت. تشکیل دولت جدید را به همه لبنانی ها تبریک گویم. زمینه توسعه همکاری ها فراهم است. در روزهای سخت، آماده حمایت و یاری لبنان هستیم.



1:22 AM · Oct 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



Society & Culture

IRANIAN CINEMATOGRAPHER AMINI TIRANI AWARDED AT ASIAN FILM AWARDS



Iranian cinematographer Masoud Amini Tirani won the 15th Asian Film Awards' Best Cinematography Award for 'The Wasteland'.

The 15th Asian Film Awards ceremony was held on October 8 in Busan, South Korea, IRNA wrote.

The ceremony, which was also streamed live on YouTube, was held in a hybrid format with a total of 80 nominees attending onsite or participating online.

The film was nominated for Best Director and Best Cinematography.

'The Wasteland,' which has already participated in over 25 international festivals and won various awards, has been shot in black and white and narrates the story of workers.

IRANIAN MOVIES HONORED AT RELIGION TODAY FESTIVAL

Iranian movies "Holy Bread", "I Won't Remain Alone" and "Congenital" have won awards in

different categories of the 24th edition of the Religion Today Film Festival in Italy.

The closing ceremony of the festival, which took place in the town of Trento, was organized on Thursday.

"Holy Bread" directed by Rahim Zabihi won the award for best documentary.

"I Won't Remain Alone" was given the award for best short documentary.

Directed by Yaser Talebi, in this documentary, an elderly disabled couple living in a small village in the northern part of Iran, faces an unfathomable tragedy when their youngest son falls into a coma after an accident. Defying the Islamic traditions of burial, overcoming problems of red tape, and turning devastation into hope, the parents agree to donate their son's organs. Five years after their brave decision, a film crew visits them and records their slow path of reconciliation with death – or rather, their acquaintance with eternal life.

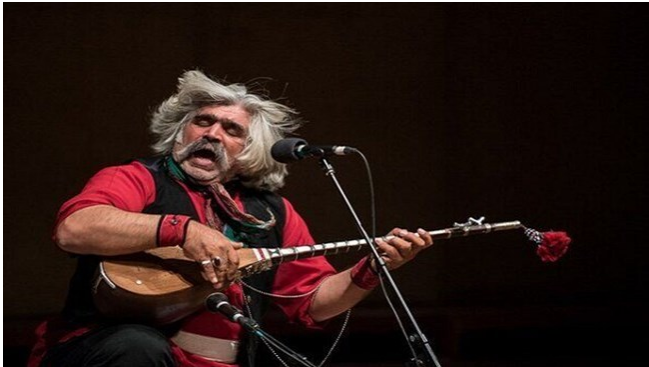
"Congenital" co-directed by Saman Hosseinpour and Ako Zandkarimi won the award for the Film for Our Future category.





Society & Culture

IRANIAN MUSICIAN VALINEJAD SHINES IN UZBEKISTAN'S BAKHSHI FESTIVAL



Iranian musician Hossein Valinejad, from the city of Shirvan, Iran's northeastern province of North Khorasan, won first place in the second International Bakhshi Art Competition, known as Bakhshi Art Festival, held in Nukus, Uzbekistan. More than 100 participants and guests from 22 countries took part in the international festival, including representatives of such organizations as UNESCO, TURKSOY, distinguished guests, experts in the field of local heritage, science, art and other spheres, as well as representatives of various domestic and foreign media, uzdaily.uz wrote.

Valinejad had previously received an honorable mention from the Silk Road International Ethnic Music in Uzbekistan in 2019.

He has also Second Degree Art Certificate and has been awarded in various national and international music festivals.

A narrator of east Iranian music culture, Valinejad plays dotar (a traditional long-necked two-stringed lute widely played in Iran and Central Asia).

IRAN TO REVIEW CHINA'S CINEMA INDUSTRY

Iran will review China's cinema industry at a program titled 'the 2nd Chinese Cinema at a Glance' from October 16 to 22.

Organized by the Art and Experience Institute of Iranian Cinema and in cooperation with China's Embassy in Iran, the program will be held in-person and online, IRNA reported.

The event featuring seven Chinese films is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between China and Iran.

The first round of the program was held three years ago in a number of Iranian cities.



CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION IN IRAN PROGRESSING WELL: WHO



World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain has said that the process of vaccination against coronavirus in Iran is progressing well.

Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers (called Behvarz in Iran), he stated, IRNA reported.

Iranian health centers have good experience to meet the needs of society, he noted, highlighting, In Iran, despite sanctions, most health indicators, such as the health of infants, pregnant women, access to health services, and health insurance coverage, are in good condition.

IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES AMONG INSTITUTES PRODUCING WORLD-CHANGING GRADUATES

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian

universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

This year, Sharif University of Technology and the University of Tehran, with a rank in the range of 301-500, were listed among the top 500 universities in the world for the first time in this field, and Amirkabir University of Technology was also ranked in the +501 category.

In the first year of the ranking, 300 universities worldwide were included in the evaluation. In 2022, 550 universities from 78 countries were are producing the most employable graduates.

Iranian universities make progress in world rankings

Most recently, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

The Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

FOOD DIPLOMACY

Fesenjan, a classic Persian chicken stew with walnut and pomegranate molasses



Fesenjan or fesenjun is simply one of the wonders of Iranian cuisine! The chicken stew with walnut and pomegranate molasses may be described as one of the most delicious, nutritious, and elegant dishes one can try, and this is no exaggeration. The sweet and sour taste of pomegranate molasses, the silky texture of ground walnut, and the magnificent odor of fesenjan will take one to the heart of northern Iran, Gilan. The dish has originated from northern parts of Iran, Gilan Province, along the Caspian Sea where the sour pomegranate trees grow.

The sauce is rich from ground walnuts and with an unusual sweet-tart flavor from pomegranate molasses. It is a classic Persian dish that deserves to be better known.

The Gilan region is known for its ducks, and so it's no surprise that this dish is sometimes made with duck, according to carolinescooking.com. Chicken is popular, or you can find a meatball version.

The pomegranate molasses which is responsible for the sour and sweet taste of fesenjan is not a common ingredient in supermarkets outside Iran. Pomegranate fruit could be sweet or sour depending on the climate it is growing. This is why pomegranate molasses made out of fresh pomegranates could vary from sour (dark brown) to sweet (light brown) as you move from the northern part of the country to the hotter climates in the south.





TRADE AND ECONOMY

KAZAKHSTAN, IRAN ENJOY GREAT POTENTIALS TO BOOST BILATERAL TRADE: DEPUTY MINISTER



Kazakhstan and Iran enjoy great potentials to expand bilateral trade, said Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Trade and Integration Kairat Torebayev.

Speaking at the Joint Business Forum of Iran-Kazakhstan in Tehran, Torebayev said COVID-19 restrictions left a negative effect on trade between the two countries last year, reducing it by 37 percent.

However, according to Torebayev, the bilateral trade is now recovering. The 8-month volume of trade between the two countries has already exceeded the volume of last year's bilateral trade, he said.

The trade between the two countries will be facilitated by the operation of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, said Torebayev adding that this railway provides an opportunity to transfer 10 million tons of cargo per year.

The Kazakh deputy minister said a contract was recently signed between Aktau Port and Qazvin Chamber of Commerce for the construction of a

commercial and logistics complex in the port city of Kazakhstan.

"A wheat trade agreement has been signed between Kazakhstan, Iran and Russia, allowing transit and export of Kazakh wheat to these countries," he noted.

TEHRAN, BERN SEEKING TO BOOST AGRO TIES

Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadatinejad met with Switzerland's Parliament speaker during which the two sides stressed the expansion of agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking at the meeting, Sadatinejad said Iran seeks to develop agricultural cooperation with Switzerland in the form of two investment projects in the north and south of the country, iribnews.ir reported.

According to Sadatinejad, the project in the north of the country is in the field of rice production, and with the implementation of this project 1.2 million tons will be added to the country's rice production.

The investment project in the south of the country is in Khuzestan Province, covering 250,000 hectares of land, aimed for boosting grain production.

"In our country, there are unique opportunities for cooperation with Switzerland, and we can have closer relations in the field of agriculture," the





TRADE AND ECONOMY

TRAVEL TO IRAN FROM DUBAI EXPO 2021



Iran pavilion at the prestigious Expo 2020 Dubai has been hailed by visitors, CHTN reported.

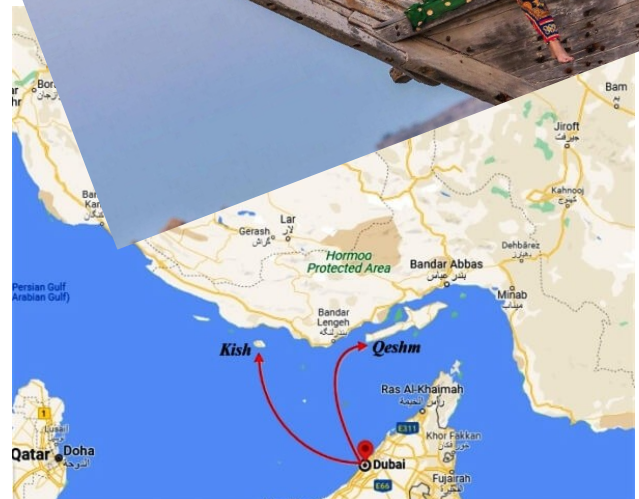
Visitors are offered to soak up the ancient land in terms of rituals, handicrafts, cultural heritage, and travel destinations. The pavilion also reveals more about medical tourism, novel startups, and off-the-beaten tracks.

The pavilion is planned to showcase each Iranian province's strengths and assets in tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance.

Many countries and companies are also looking to the expo - the first major global event open to visitors since the coronavirus pandemic - to boost trade and investment.

According to organizers, the Expo, an exhibition of culture, technology and architecture under the banner "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", is expected to be a demonstration of ingenuity, and a place where global challenges such as climate change, conflict and economic growth can be addressed together.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MUSTAFA PRIZE 2021 ANNOUNCES WINNERS



Five scientists were announced winners of the Mustafa Prize 2021, a prestigious biennial award launched in 2013 aiming to promote science and technology in the Islamic world.

It is awarded in four categories of information and communication science and technology, life and medical science and technology, nanoscience and nanotechnology, and all areas of science and technology.

The winners will be granted cash prizes amounting to \$1 million on October 21, ISNA reported.

During this period, a joint award will be given to two scientists from the Islamic world residing in a non-Muslim country and a joint award will be given to three scientists residing in Islamic countries.

In the public section, the Mustafa Prize 2021 will be shared between Professor Kamran Vafa, an Iranian Muslim, and Professor Zahed Hassan, a Bangladeshi scientist.

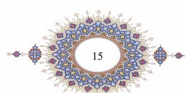


Three other scientists living in Islamic countries will also share the prize, namely, Professor Mohammad Saegh, Professor Iqbal Chaudhry, and Yahya Tilati from Morocco.

In all specialized fields of the Mustafa Prize, the nominees should be Muslim and have a high profile in scientific research. However, there would be no other limitations regarding gender and age.

The Mustafa Foundation seeks to encourage education and research and is set to play the pioneering role in developing regional relations between science and technology institutions working in member states of the Organization of Islamic Countries.

The event is held during the Islamic Unity week in Iran, which is annually celebrated between two dates of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by Sunnis and Shia.





SPORTS

IRANIAN NATIONAL FREESTYLE TEAM RANKS 3RD IN WORLD



The Iranian National Freestyle Team gained 3 gold, 3 silver, a bronze, and 162 points, ranking 3rd in world in Oslo, 2021 World Wrestling Championship in Norway, while Russia and the United States with 173 and 165 points ranked first and second, respectively.

Iranian team's Hossein Yazdani in 86 kg, Kamran Qassemppoor in 92 kg, and Amir-Hossein Zare in 125 kg won gold medals, Ali-Reza Sarlak in 57 kg, Amir-Mohammad Yazdani and Mohammad Nokhodi in 79 kg gained silver medals, and Mojtaba Golij in 97 weight won the bronze medal.

IRANIAN WOMAN JAMALI MAKES HISTORY IN YOUTH WORLD WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Yekta Jamali of Iran made history in the 2021 Youth World Weightlifting Championships by winning a silver medal in the -81kg weight category in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

It's Iran's first silver medal in the women's weightlifting in history.

She lifted 90kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk.

Jamali won the silver medal with a total of 205kg.

Jamali had won the country's first medal in the history in the 2021 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships in May in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

She took the bronze in the 87kg with 92-116-208.

IRANIAN FEMALE KARATEKA WINS WORLD KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD MEDAL

Iranian female karate athlete Fatemeh Hedayatnejad won first place in the world karate championship held online.

Abadan Sports and Youth Administration Chair Ali Rezaei said on Monday that Hedayatnejad won gold medal and became champion in Japan Karate Federation world competitions held online hosted by the United States.

850 athletes from 38 countries competed online and sent videos of their performance to be judged by the jury, according to Rezaei.

Hedayatnejad works at Abadan Medical University and is an official referee and coach in this field.





SPORTS

IRAN'S WRESTLING SHINES IN OSLO CHAMPIONSHIPS



Iran's national Greco-Roman wrestling team scooped 4 gold and 2 bronze medals with 146 aggregate scores, winning the second world status in 2021 Oslo Championships.

Greco-Roman wrestling competitions ended in Oslo with Iran's Meysam Dalkhani in 63k, Mohammad Reza Geraei in 67k, Mohammad Hadi Saravi in 97k, and Ali Akbar Yousefi in 130k categories winning gold medals. Also, Mohammad Ali Geraei in 77k and Pejman Poshtan in 82k categories won bronze medals.

In the overall ranking, Iran's team gained 146 scores, winning the world second status. Russia and Republic of Azerbaijan gained respectively 152 and 107 scores, securing the first and third places. Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling team first gained the world first status in 2014. It has also won a world second in 2009 and two world thirds in 2011 and 2017.

The team managed to send four wrestlers to the finale and gain four golds, too, for the first time since 1961 Japan championships.

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team also made history with the total number of seven medals in 2021 Oslo championships.





FOREIGN MISSIONS IN IRAN

Diplomacy with a taste of poetry; Diplomats in Swiss embassy recite Iranian poets



Russian ambassador and UN envoy discussed the question of Afghanistan in Tehran



Iran and India to increase cooperation in pharmaceutical fields



UK ambassador recites Hafiz, highlighting the importance of one of the greatest poets ever



October 12; Day of commemoration of Hafez-e Shirazi



October 12th has been registered in the Iranian calendar as the commemoration of Hafez-e Shirazi, the famous Iranian poet.

Iran Press/ Iran news: Hafez-e Shirazi, a famous poet of the 8th century AH, symbolizes the Iranian identity, historical, and cultural memory.

He is also one of the most influential poets globally, and the Divan of Hafez is known to everyone in the world.

Hafez-e Shirazi's poems have been translated into various languages in Europe, and the name of this Iranian poet has been heard in the Western world as well.

In describing Hafez-e Shirazi, German poet Goethe called him a poet of world poets, an expert on Hafez ideologies told Iran Press News Agency.

The tomb of Hafez, located in Shiraz city in Hafezieh, is a place full of fragrance and beauty of flowers mixed with the passion of the poems. The Tomb of Hafez is one of the most important tourist attractions in Shiraz.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

1ST NATIONAL PLUM FESTIVAL AT “HEIDAREH GHAZIKHANI” VILLAGE

The First National Plum Festival was held in the tourist destination village of “Heidareh Ghazikhani”, Hamadan province on October 9th.

