



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



Saving Iranian Cheetah: A race Against Extinction

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MFA NEWSLETTER

On the sidelines of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Portugal, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Spain, and Tunisia. Mr. Araghchi also conferred with the UN Secretary-General in Portugal. They discussed expanding bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.



Meeting with the UN secretary-General



Meeting with Spanish FM



Meeting with Algerian FM



Meeting with Slovenian FM



Meeting with Tunisian FM



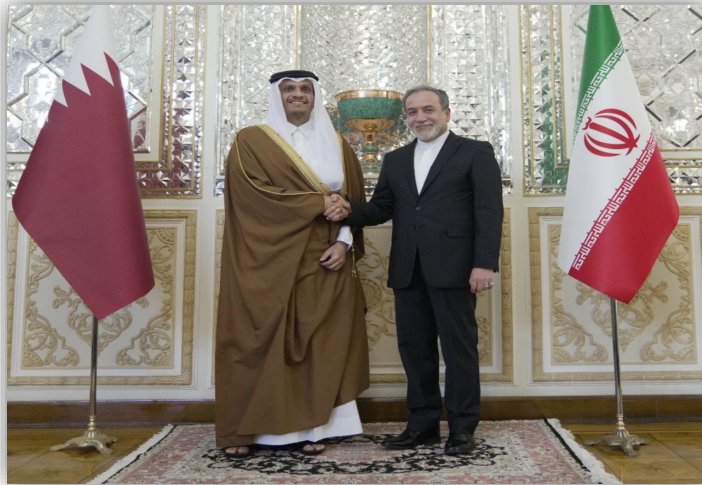
Meeting with Bosnian FM



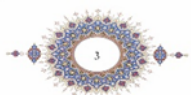


MFA NEWSLETTER

Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani who was visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation for talks over bilateral ties and sensitive regional developments met with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.



Meeting with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister





MFA NEWSLETTER

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi held separate phone conversations with his counterparts from Russia, Singapore, Lebanon, South Africa, as well as the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi.



Iranian and South African FMs



Iranian FM and Rafael Garossi



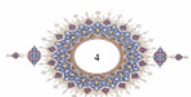
Iranian and Russian FMs



Iranian and Lebanese FMs



Iranian and Singaporean FMs





Nature

ASIATIC CHEETAH

SAVING IRANIAN CHEETAH: A RACE AGAINST EXTINCTION



Meet the Asiatic cheetah, scientifically known as *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*. Often referred to as the “Iranian cheetah,” this subspecies is a true rarity, one of the world’s most endangered big cats. While once roaming across the Middle East from Saudi Arabia into India, today, it only exist in Iran, where its population has dwindled dramatically.

Cheetah; The Faster Runner On Earth

Cheetahs, with their incredible speed and graceful presence, captivate our imagination as one of nature’s finest creations. While many are familiar with the African Cheetah, there exists a lesser-known cousin, the Asiatic Cheetah, a subspecies of these magnificent big cats that inhabit the landscapes of Iran.

Asiatic Cheetah

The Asiatic cheetah is a critically endangered species, facing an uncertain future with only a small population of less than 40 remaining worldwide. Remarkably, Iran is the last habitat to harbor this majestic animal. These beautiful creatures roam free across the desert mountainous terrain in the eastern part of Iran, which is ecologically different from their African cousins. The Asiatic cheetah’s prey are ungulates

such as wild goats and wild sheep that reside in the mountains, just like the leopards. To conserve this magnificent animal, national and international organizations have involved the Asiatic Cheetah conservation in two of the confirmed habitats in northeastern Iran – the Miandasht Wildlife Refuge and Touran Biosphere Reserve. The program has continued for many years and provided valuable information on these rare creatures’ survival and habitat. Recently, camera traps and direct observations suggest that no more than 20 cheetahs live inside these two areas, with a higher abundance found in the Touran Biosphere Reserve.

Where Asiatic Cheetahs Exist?

The Asiatic cheetah’s historical range includes countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. However, today, it is primarily found in the arid regions of Iran. The cheetah’s habitat consists of vast plateaus, deserts, and hilly areas where they can hunt.

Asiatic Cheetah habitats in Iran are divided into three known zones. However, the population seems extinct in the western and southern habitats.

Currently, Iran’s protected areas, such as the Miandasht Wildlife Refuge and Touran Biosphere Reserve, serve as crucial strongholds for the Asiatic Cheetah. These regions provide the minimum space and resources for the cheetah to thrive and hunt. Nevertheless, these two areas will not be enough for their survival in the long run.





Society & Culture

7 IRANIAN FILMS TO ATTEND MUSLIM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN CANADA



Seven films from Iran will take part in the 5th Muslim International Film Festival (MIFF) that is to be held in Canada from November 29 to December 3.

The Iranian films in the festival include six short films and a feature film by young filmmakers produced in the past two years, ILNA reported.

“Ahmad” directed by Amir Abbas Rabiei is the only feature film from Iran participating in the event. It recounts the untold story of the first 18 hours of the 2003 Bam earthquake, in Kerman Province, and a heroic action by the late army brigadier general Ahmad Kazemi.

One of the most notable soldiers in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Ahmad Kazemi (1958-2006) mobilized the IRGC AF fleet to rescue the Bam earthquake victims by preparing the Bam Airport in such a way that, a plane and a helicopter flew in every 13 minutes and a total of 30,000 wounded were moved by the IRGC AF fleet.

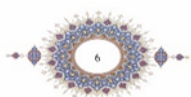
ACTOR MOSTAFA ZAMANI HONORED AT TUNISIAN NATIONAL THEATER FESTIVAL



Iranian actor Mostafa Zamani was honored at the closing ceremony of the 2nd Tunisian National Theater Festival for his performance in the Iranian series “Prophet Joseph”.

The festival, which was held in Tunis from November 7 to 14, honored Zamani for his role as Prophet Joseph in the historical drama series, ISNA reported on Friday.

Produced, written, and directed by Farajollah Salahshour, the series was first aired in 2008 in Iran. It is based on the Islamic account of Joseph from Quran and Islamic traditions. The series, dubbed in several languages such as English, Arabic, Urdu, and Turkish, is sometimes regarded as the world's most watched Iranian TV series.





Society & Culture

PERSIAN LANGUAGE COURSES LAUNCHED AT UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



The Persian language courses, organized by the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Saadi Foundation, have been launched at the Center for Persian Studies at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, attracting numerous enthusiasts eager to learn Persian.

These courses are offered at two levels, beginner and intermediate, taught by Saeed Safari, a distinguished professor of Persian language.

The Persian language courses for interested individuals will be conducted twice a week, emphasizing not only the instruction of the Persian language but also offering participants a deeper understanding of Iran's culture, history, and literature, the report added.

Moreover, the program will include activities such as film screenings and participation in cultural and literary discussions.

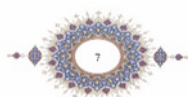
AZERBAIJAN SEEKS STRONGER TIES WITH IRAN



Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, met with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Iran Press/ Asia: The Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan expressed gratitude for Reza Salehi Amiri's presence in Baku and at the Tourism Ministers' meeting. He said that the visit of Iran's Minister of Tourism to Azerbaijan demonstrates both countries' desire to further improve their relations.

He also proposed the establishment of a specific mechanism between the two countries to protect cultural heritage from climate change and prevent the smuggling of historical artifacts, adding, "If this mechanism is placed within a defined global framework, it could also benefit from international support."





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DR. MOHAMMADREZA KARIMI SHINES AT SVIIF 2024



The distinguished Iranian dentist-inventor, Dr. Mohammadreza Karimi, achieved remarkable success at Silicon Valley International Invention Festival (SVIIF 2024), America's Largest Innovation Exposition, held from July 26–28, 2024. He earned a gold medal and a silver medal in recognition of his outstanding inventions.

SVIIF 2024 grants unique awards—gold, silver, and bronze—to honor the top three inventions of the year. A panel of esteemed judges meticulously evaluates various criteria related to technological innovation and creativity.

This globally renowned festival is organized by the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA), with the support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) under its international patronage. It is also endorsed nationally by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the United States Institute of Inventors of America (UIA). Hosted at the Santa Clara Exhibition Center in California, in the heart of Silicon Valley, the event welcomed inventors, prestigious academic institutions, and leading research organizations from more than 30 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, China, South Korea, Egypt, Iran, Sweden, Poland, Spain, and many others.

IRAN RANKS FIRST IN 4D PRINTING PUBLICATIONS AMONG ISLAMIC NATIONS



With 65 publications on four-dimensional (4D) printing over a period of ten years, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries, according to a report released by the Web of Science.

The report has included data from 2014 to 2023. The country's global ranking in 4D printing publications is 11, IRNA reported.

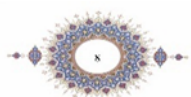
Iran also ranks second in publications related to the fifth generation of the industry (Industry 5.0) with 1,625 documents. Turkey (with 1,817 documents) and Malaysia (with 1,611 documents) rank first and third, respectively.

3D printing refers to the process of creating three-dimensional objects layer by layer. Each layer is placed one after another.

Four-dimensional printing (4D printing) uses the same techniques of 3D printing through computer-programmed deposition of material in successive layers to create a three-dimensional object.

However, in 4D printing, the resulting 3D shape is able to morph into different forms in response to environmental stimulus, with the 4th dimension being the time-dependent shape change after the printing.

It is, therefore, a type of programmable matter, wherein after the fabrication process, the printed product reacts with parameters within the environment (humidity, temperature, voltage) and changes its form accordingly.



FOOD DIPLOMACY

IRANIAN FOOD: GHEYMEH NESAR - PERSI JEWELLED RICE WITH MEAT



Gheymeh Nesar is a divinely luscious dish from Qazvin, Iran. This luxurious rice dish is a celebration of color with a heavenly taste. Gheymeh refers to the small pieces of meat and Nesar means something like 'offering', highlighting how precious this dish is, which is why it is often prepared on special occasions.

Other than with Polo, the rice is combined with the stew in the end, at serving time. It is then jewelled with caramelised barberries, bitter orange peel, and slivered almonds and pistachios. The many warm spices in the sauce contribute to the multifaceted flavour of this mouthwatering, sweet and sour dish.

Ingredients:

meat, onion, tomato paste, rice, water, Salt and pepper as needed, Cinnamon stick as needed, cardamom, Brewed saffron as needed, Oil as needed, Slice pistachios and almonds as needed, Barberry as needed, Sliced orange peel as needed



TRADE & ECONOMY

TEA EXPORT STANDS AT 10,000 TONS IN 7 MONTHS



Iran exported 10,000 tons of tea in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to the Head of Iran's Tea Organization (ITO) Habib Jahansaz.

Jahansaz said the country also imported 30,000 tons of tea in the mentioned seven months.

According to the official, the government has purchased 11,500 tons of tea leaves from domestic farmers in the mentioned period, Mehr News Agency reported.

Picking green tea leaves in Iran begins in early May every year and usually continues until late October, the official said.

This year, over 124,590 tons of green tea leaves were harvested, and the extracted tea, processed by 158 factories, was about 28,033 tons.

He put the country's demand for black tea at about 70,000 tons, of which 30,000 tons were imported in the first seven months of this year, compared to 40,000 tons last year.

'IRAN CAN BECOME TRANSIT CORRIDOR FOR TRANSFERRING JAPANESE PRODUCTS'

Iran's transit corridor which is a regional hub can play a significant role in transporting Japanese products in the region, Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeltjeh said in a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Iran Tamaki Tsukada.

"The deep relations between Iran and Japan on environmental issues, especially water, are a good basis for expanding relations between the two countries," Nouri said.

Japanese Ambassador, for his part, referred to his trip to the northwestern provinces of Iran and Lake Urmia, saying that key topics were discussed regarding agriculture, water management, and the restoration of Lake Urmia in the presence of the head of the Iran-Japan parliamentary group.

In October 2023, former Iranian Vice President Mohammad Mokhber proposed a comprehensive transit to link all the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states through Iran.

In his speech, he expressed Iran's readiness to provide transit opportunities to SCO member states for the North-South and East-West corridors.





TRADE & ECONOMY

IRAN, INDIA, AFGHANISTAN, UZBEKISTAN DISCUSS BOOSTING TRANSIT VIA CHABAHAR PORT



Officials from Iran, India, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan convened for the third joint working group meeting in Mumbai to explore strategies for enhancing commercial transactions and facilitating the transportation and transit of goods through Iran's Chabahar Port.

TEHRAN, RIYADH DISCUSS JOINT INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

Officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia weighed plans to further mutual investment opportunities, Tasnim News Agency reported.



Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid A. Al-Falih met on the sidelines of the 28th WAIPA World Investment Conference in Riyadh.

The officials talked about the opportunities for joint investment between Iran and Saudi Arabia to achieve economic development and fulfill the mutual interests of the two nations.

IRAN READY TO EXPAND MARITIME COOPERATION WITH IMO MEMBERS

Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh has said the country is ready to expand maritime cooperation with members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), IRIB reported.

Sadegh made the remarks in a meeting with Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization Arsenio Dominguez in Tehran.

In this meeting, Sadegh emphasized the importance of Iran to the maritime sector in the region and said: "Despite the sanctions, Iran has no problem with any of the member countries of the International Maritime Organization and is always ready to cooperate more with other countries in this field."



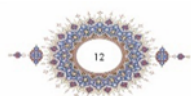


SPORTS

IRAN CLIMB ONE SPOT IN FIFA RANKING



Iran national football team climbed one spot to 18th in the FIFA Men's World Ranking released on Thursday. Team Melli are second in the ranking, followed by Korea Republic and Australia. Japan maintained their position as Asia's top side in the latest ranking. Starting at the summit, things really couldn't be any tighter between the sides gracing the podium. The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on Dec. 19.





SPORTS

IRAN CLAIM FIRST EVER CEREBRAL PALSY WORLD CUP TITLE



Iran defeated Ukraine 3-0 Friday night to win the Cerebral Palsy World Cup for the first time. Team Melli had finished runners-up four times. Mehdi Shokouhi scored twice as well as a goal from Mehdi Bakhshi.

IRAN WIN FIVE GOLDS AT BAHRAIN 2024 PARA TAEKWONDO OPEN

Iranian athletes claimed five gold and three bronze medals at the Bahrain 2024 Para Taekwondo.



Ailar Jami of Iran won a gold medal in the K44 Women -47kg after defeating Khwansuda Phuangkitcha of Thailand 12-4 in the final match. Iran's Narges Javadi claimed a bronze medal in the weight class.

Zahra Rahimi took a gold medal by beating Uzbekistan's Karomatoy Rustamova 19-6 in the K44 Women -52kg final. Roza Ebrahimi seized a bronze medal in the K44 Women -57kg.

Amirhossein Alizadeh defeated Uzbekistan's Rasuljon Olimov 15-14 in the K44 Men -63kg gold medal match.

IRAN THIRD AT 2024 IWBF U23 ASIA OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Iran defeated the Philippines 66-19 on Friday to come third at the 2024 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) U23 Asia Oceania Championship.





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

ESFAHAK VILLAGE IN GLOBAL TOURISM VILLAGE

Esfahak village is located 38 km east of Tabas city in South Khorasan province with an ancient history in the east of Iran. This beautiful and historical village was rebuilt after the severe earthquake of 1979, which destroyed many parts of it, with the efforts of the village residents and experts.

Historical monuments in Esfahak village, such as the Jameh Mosque, the old bathhouse, and the desert observatory, have been preserved and restored. Due to the native architecture of desert areas and houses made of clay and mud, Esfahak has been able to attract the attention of domestic and foreign tourists to visit this village with its ecotourism features. Geographical conditions and abundant water resources have made Esfahak village one of the tourist destinations.

Due to its age, customs, and historical and natural attractions, Esfahak is one of the world's symbols of tourism. Seyyedreza Salehi Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran, said about the globalization of Esfahak tourist village, that Esfahak was registered in the list of the best tourist villages in the world in competition with 150 villages.

