

Ayatollah Khamenei meets Olympiad medalists

Leader praises elites as 'major asset' to achieve scientific development

Arts & Culture Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the elites are a source of "great, deep and true hope and a major asset" who are the main factor in helping the country achieve its required scientific development. Ayatollah Khamenei on Saturday received a number of Iranian elites and medalists from national and international scientific Olympiads, Press TV reported. The Leader said, "I have complete faith in the youths and the power of youthfulness, and I consider you a great wealth whose value is far greater than your medals." Ayatollah Khamenei acknowledged the rich scientific movement that gained momentum in the 2000s, leading to accelerated

scientific progress in the country. However, the Leader noted a slight decline in this progress in the last few years of 2010s, which has been partially compensated for in the last two to three years. Yet, the Leader emphasized the need for a scientific leap to reach the forefront of global science. Ayatollah Khamenei called on the elites to boost cooperation and synergy to find solutions to different problems and issues. Considering the upcoming June 28 presidential election, the Leader urged collective efforts aimed at increasing participation in the upcoming election. "In the very important upcoming election, it is important to increase the level of participation in the first place," the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei called on Ira-

nian students to make endeavors in the universities and among their family members to boost turnout in the June 28 presidential election. The Leader emphasized that Iranian youths and elites should choose a candidate who is closely pursuing the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and has the ability to work towards them. Ayatollah Khamenei described Iran's political independence as a "tangible reality" and said the Islamic Republic has a position and logic as well as interesting perspectives regarding major issues in the world which even the country's opponents can count on. "This political independence should not be undermined," the Leader stated, stressing that every government in the future must safeguard it.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting with a group of Iranian elites and medalists from national and international scientific Olympiads in Tehran, Iran on June 15, 2024. khamenei.ir

Iran nominates author, illustrator for ALMA 2025



The Children's Book Council of Iran nominated an author and an illustrator for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2025.

Navid Seyyed-Aliakbar is nominated in the writers' category, while Alireza Goldouzian is selected for the illustrators' category, IRNA reported.

Established in 2002 in Sweden, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is an annual prize honoring significant contributions to children's and young adult literature. It is the second most prestigious literary award after the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Seyyed-Aliakbar is recognized for his work that emphasizes children's freedom and creativity, encouraging them to explore and make decisions independently. His stories often challenge authoritarianism and violence in adult society, inviting children to think critically.

Goldouzian, nominated for his impact in children's book illustration, has been active for over two decades. His work has gained national and international recognition, and he has played a significant role in mentoring young illustrators. His illustrations are noted for their unique style and artistic quality, reflecting both Iranian and global artistic traditions.

Tunisia announces visa-free entry for Iranians

Tunisia announced on Friday that Iranian tourists will be allowed visa-free entry starting June 15. The Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that ordinary Iranian passport holders will be exempt from the entry visa, if they stay in the country up to 15 days. This decision aligns with mutual actions taken by both Tehran and

Tunisia. It follows the Iranian cabinet's approval last year to lift visa requirements for 32 countries, a move supported by Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami.

In December 2023, Zarghami stated that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts

proposed the visa waiver, aiming to enhance global engagement and attract more tourists to Iran. Alireza Bikdeli, Deputy for Consular Parliamentary and Iranians Affairs of the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, had earlier highlighted that citizens from 28 countries, including Tunisia, do not require visas for tourism in Iran as of February 4, 2024.

Iran ranks 14th globally for highly cited universities: *ESI*



Iran ranks 14th globally with 134 universities and research institutes listed among the world's most cited institutions, according to the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database. In the Islamic world, Iran holds the second position after Turkey.

Ahmad Fazelzadeh, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center

(ISC), reported that between 2014 and 2024, a total of 9,019 universities and research institutions were included in the ESI database. The number of highly cited Iranian universities and institutes has increased from 115 to 134 compared to last year, Mehr News Agency reported. The US and China lead the global list with 1,200 and 742

institutions respectively. Following Iran in the Islamic world are Egypt with 48 institutions (25th globally), Pakistan with 46 (27th), and Saudi Arabia with 45 (28th). The ESI database, maintained by Clarivate Analytics, highlights top researchers, institutions, publications, and countries across various fields. Institutions are ranked based on citations over the past decade. The database is updated bi-monthly, allowing for changes in rankings. Fazelzadeh noted that Iranian institutions are represented in 19 subject areas, with the highest number in clinical medicine (74 institutions), adding that other prominent fields include engineering (67), chemistry (57), agricultural sciences (29), and materials science (28).

Iranian animation awarded at Tribeca festival



The Iranian animation 'In the Shadow of the Cypress', co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani, won the Best Short Animation Award at the 23rd Tribeca Film Festival in the US, running from June 5 to 16 in Manhattan, New York.

According to the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, seven short animations from Sweden, the Netherlands, the US, Germany, China, and Iran were nominated for the award, IRNA wrote.

The 19-minute film tells the story of a sea captain suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, who lives in isolation with his daughter by the sea, facing the challenges of a difficult life. The fest, founded in 2001 by Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal, has recently focused more on short animations. This year, over 8,000 short films were submitted to the festival.

The animation has previously won the Grand Jury Prize and Best 2D Award at the 19th Animayo Gran Canaria, International Festival of Animation, Visual Effects and Videogames in Spain, qualifying it for the Best Short Animation category at the 2025 Oscars.

Social Desk

An official from the Ministry of Health announced that the habitat of the Aedes mosquito in Iran now surpasses that of malaria and he country's hospitals are ready to tackle dengue fever, a viral infection spread by these mosquitoes.

Iranian hospitals ready to fight dengue fever

Hassan Vaezi highlighted that provinces such as Fars, Khuzestan, Hormuzgan, Bushehr, Sistan and Baluchestan, Mazandaran, Gilan, and Golestan are high-risk areas for this disease, with many imported cases reported.

Vaezi emphasized the global spread of dengue fever and detailed ongoing efforts to train outpatient and inpatient medical staff for timely diagnosis and treatment. Preventive measures

in hospitals include protecting patients from cross-infection, ensuring the safety of medical personnel, and managing waste and sewage effectively. He described dengue fever as a viral infectious disease trans-

mitted to humans by mosquitoes, with its transmission influenced by both biological factors (the virus, vectors, and hosts) and non-biological factors (temperature, humidity, and rainfall). Vaezi stated that emergency

departments, medical teams, laboratories, and epidemiology teams are on the frontline against this virus.

He also noted that children under five who contract dengue fever often require hospitalization, making the coordination of pediatric and neonatal specialists essential.