



## Iranian students champs of Astronomy Olympiad with 5 golds

Iran's five-member student team has taken the top spot at the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Brazil, winning five gold medals and outshining competitors from 53 countries. The Iranian team, comprising Hannaneh Khorramdashti, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, Arya Fateh-Kerdari, Ali Naderi-Lordjan, and Arvin Rasoulzadeh, participated in the event held in Vassouras, Rio de Janeiro, from August 17 to 27. The team was led by supervisors Hossein Haqqi, Arman Vosouq-Zadeh, and Amir-Hossein Mousavi.

The achievement marks a significant improvement from last year's competition in Poland, where Iran ranked third after winning three gold and two silver medals. Britain and India took the top two spots in the 16th IOAA, with the US, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, and Canada following Iran in the ranking. In the 15th IOAA, held in Georgia in 2022, Iran ranked first in the world. The IOAA is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads, founded by five countries (Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Poland) in 2007.

The competition aims to foster interest in astronomy and astrophysics among young people from participating countries, as well as to strengthen ties between different nations and promote the exchange of scientific and cultural knowledge and experiences. In this year's event, over 250 students from 53 countries participated. The top-ranking countries after Iran were the United States, Romania, Canada, Singapore, Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, and Thailand. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated the team on their victory,

saying, "I congratulate the scientific community and the people of Iran on this achievement. Our five Iranian stars have brought honor to our country. We are proud of them." Pezeshkian dropped some lines on his X account to express his pride, saying, "I congratulate the scientific community and the people of Iran on this achievement. Our five Iranian stars, Hannaneh Khorramdashti, Arya Fateh-Kerdari, Arvin Rasoulzadeh, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, and Ali Naderi-Lordjan, have brought honor to our country. We are proud of you all."

## Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan sign MoU on chemistry, environment

Universities from Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost scientific cooperation in chemistry and environmental fields.

The agreement, signed on the sidelines of the 11th International Seminar on Chemistry and Environment (ISCE2024), aims to promote joint research, student and faculty exchange, and organization of scientific conferences, IRNA wrote.

According to the MoU, Erciyes University of Turkey, Khazar University of Azerbaijan, and Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University of Iran will work together to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.

Mohammad-Baqer Sadeqi-Azad, Chancellor of Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, emphasized the importance of protecting the environment, saying it is a "precious legacy" that must be preserved for future generations. Sadeqi-Azad noted that the increasing population and industrial activities have put pressure on natural resources, lead-



ing to destructive effects on the environment.

He called on scientists and researchers to find solutions to environmental challenges and guide humanity towards sustainable development.

The agreement was signed during the three-day ISCE2024 seminar, which brought together academics, researchers, and students from Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan to share their research on chemistry and environmental issues. The seminar, organized by the Iranian Chemical Society, featured presentations by local and international experts on various topics related to chemistry and the environment.

## Seven Iranian children win accolades in Japan's int'l painting contest



### Arts & Culture Desk

Seven Iranian children won awards in the 23rd JQA International Environmental Children's Drawing Contest in Japan, with one 13-year-old girl taking top honors. The contest, held under the theme "Joyful Times for People and Nature,"

attracted over 9,947 entries from 83 countries worldwide, IRNA wrote. Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, aka IIDCYA, participated with 50 artworks, and seven of its members received awards and honorary diplomas. Zina Jalali, 13, from Kerman, won

first prize in the international category. Six other Iranian children received honorary diplomas: Radin Qarechahi, 11, from Fars; Ilya Shahi, 11, from Ardebil; Sonia Mehdizadeh, 18, from Ardebil; Sevin Ebrahim Nejad, 10, from Ardebil; Mohammad Javad Hassanzadeh, 11, from Isfahan; and Aylin Qanbari, 13, from Ardebil.

## Iran to host 2nd Music Industry Exhibition

The 2nd Music Industry Exhibition is set to take place from October 1-4 at the Milad Tower Exhibition Center in Tehran, bringing together music industry professionals and enthusiasts from across the country. The expo, which promises

to be a major event in the Iranian music calendar, comes at a significant time for the industry, with the government recently lifting a ban on the import of music instruments, ISNA wrote. The ban, which was im-

posed in 2017 as part of the government's efforts to manage foreign currency resources following the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal, had been a major hurdle for music instrument importers. However, following com-

plaints from importers and efforts by the expo organizers, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance intervened, leading to the lifting of the ban. The lifted ban covers a range of music instruments, including pianos, brass and

wind instruments, and percussion instruments such as drums and xylophones. The expo is expected to feature a wide range of music instruments and equipment, as well as workshops and performances by local musicians.

