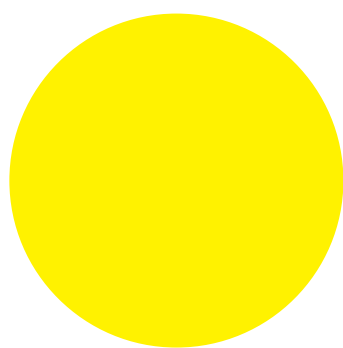


Araghchi describes US efforts for dialogue as 'positive step'



2 >



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2 >

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3 >



Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh (c) and other attendees stand for Iran's national anthem during the first meeting on Iran-Africa agricultural cooperation in Tehran, Iran, October 31, 2026.

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China's pottery capital offers potential for sister-city ties with Iran's Lalejin

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

FEATURE REPORT EXCLUSIVE



Journalists experience pottery making at a pottery factory in Yixing City, China, on October 29, 2026

Yixing, a county-level city administered by Wuxi in east China's Jiangsu Province, is widely known as China's "pottery capital." Its centuries-old tradition of purple clay pottery could provide a basis for closer cultural ties with Lalejin in Iran's Hamedan Province, which has been recognized internationally as a World City of Pottery. Best known for its distinctive purple clay, or zisha, Yixing has a pottery-making tradition dating back to the Song and Yuan dynasties (960-1368), which flourished during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Pottery made from Yixing's purple clay has earned international recognition, with the techniques used to produce it inscribed on China's national intangible cultural heritage list in 2006. The craft's reputation is closely intertwined with the spread of Chinese tea culture, particularly the use of distinctive purple clay teapots. Zisha clay is extracted from red ore deposits in Huanglongshan and Zhaozhuangshan, two mountains overlooking Dingshan, the area of Yixing where most pottery artisans live and work.

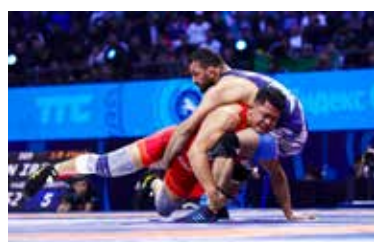
Page 8 >



What happens after midterm election

OPINION

4 >



Wrestling World Championships:

Iran finds freestyle consolation as Yazdani, Amouzad salvage bronze

6 >



UNESCO inscription decision on Masouleh to follow expert evaluations

7 >

