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Iranian students sweep gold medals at int'l astronomy olympiad

Social Desk

All six members of Iran' national B astronomy team won gold medals at the fifth Open World Astronomy Olympiad in Russia.
Parsia Hassanzadeh also taking first place in the theoretical section at the competition was held from November 6 to 14 in the Sirius Federal Territory, bringing together 70 students from 14 countries.
The Iranian gold medalists were Sarina Alampour, Parsia Hassanzadeh, Elshan Rouhani, Mohammadreza Mohammadi, Bardia Ghilavizadeh and Mehdi Aryafar, Mehr News Agency reported.
A total of 15 participants from Iran, Russia, Armenia and Peru won gold medals. Another 16 contestants received silver medals, while 12 won bronze.
Russia's Nikolai Gamynin was named the overall winner of the competition, after recording the strongest performances in the observational and speed sections.
The fifth edition of the olympiad featured four sections: theoretical, practical, observational and rapid-response tests.
Participants were assessed on their knowledge of astronomy and astrophysics, as well as their ability to analyze astronomical data, identify celestial objects and solve scientific problems under time constraints.
The event brought together young participants from 14 countries, providing an international setting for scientific competition and the exchange of experience.
Iran's results stood out for the consistency of the team's performance, with all six members securing the competition's top medal, while Hassanzadeh also claimed an individual first-place finish in the theoretical section.



IRNA

Private sector plans $5.6m Lake Urmia tourism investment



Tourists enjoy recreational activities on Lake Urmia in northwestern Iran in an undated photo
ALI AGHAYARI/MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's West Azerbaijan province is planning a 15 trillion-rial ($5.6 million) private-sector investment to develop tourism infrastructure along the shores of Lake Urmia, northwestern Iran.
The investment aim to boost tourism, create jobs and strengthen the regional economy while protecting the fragile ecosystem, IRNA reported on Saturday.
Lake Urmia, one of Iran's most important inland bodies of water, lies in the country's northwest between West Azerbaijan and East Azerbaijan provinces.
Provincial Governor Reza Rahmani announced the plan on Saturday during a meeting with the director of the Lake Urmia Ports and Maritime Organization and a private investor.
"The proposed investment would fund the development of tourism facilities and services around the lake," he said.
Plans discussed at the meeting include building a standard-compliant pier, introducing safe and advanced vessels, providing maritime services and expanding recreational and tourism facilities.
Rahmani said supporting investment opportunities was among the province's priorities, citing West Azerbaijan's tourism potential.
"Developing the sector could improve local livelihoods and create employment opportunities for residents," he added.
He also stressed that tourism projects along the lake's shores must comply with environmental requirements, given the ecological importance of the area.
According to the governor, the project will be supported by Iran's Department of Environment and Ports and Maritime Organization, with all financial resources provided by the private sector.
The Urmia Lake has faced a prolonged decline in water levels in recent years, triggering environmental concerns and highlighting the challenges of balancing economic development with the protection of its vulnerable ecosystem.

Iran, Turkey collaborate on historical series about early Islam

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Turkey are joining forces to produce a 16-episode historical series about early Muslim figure Mus'ab ibn Umayr.
Most of the filming taking place in Iran and Turkish actors starring alongside Iranian production crews, IRNA reported on Saturday.
Titled 'Davet Musab', the series is directed by Turkish filmmaker Cem Akyoldaş and produced by Kemal Tekden in cooperation with Tekden Film.
It is being made for tabii, the digital platform operated by Turkey's state broadcaster, Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT).
Filming began in Iran in September 2026 and is continuing at Noor Cinema City, near Qom in central Iran.
The complex was built for Iranian director Majid Majidi's film 'Muhammad: The Messenger of God' and includes sets recreating the cities of Mecca and Medina.
Turkish actors Furkan Palalı and Ekin Aksoy lead the cast, playing Mus'ab ibn Umayr and Hamne, respectively.
Other cast members include Emre Kıvılcım as Habbab, Ali Buhara Mete as Zayd ibn Harithah, Okan Şenozan as Utbah ibn Rabi'ah, Emre Başer as Abu Ayyub al-Ansari and Murat Danacı as Abdullah ibn Jahsh.
The series follows Mus'ab, who came from a wealthy family in Mecca but gave up his privileged life after embracing Islam and travelled to Medina to help spread the faith.
According to IRNA, an Iranian streaming platform is also involved in the production, alongside tabii and Tekden Film.
Most of the filming is taking place in Iran, with the remainder scheduled to be shot in Turkey. The series' release date has not been announced.



'The Daughter of Lady Fairy' wins Moscow screenplay award

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Alireza Motamedi won the best screenplay award at the second Open Eurasian Film Awards in Moscow on November 12 for 'The Daughter of Lady Fairy'.
the film competed with 40 other entries from 18 countries.
The Diamond Butterfly awards were launched on Mikhalkov's initiative in 2025. They are organized by the Eurasian Academy for Cinematographic Arts, with support from Russia's Ministry of Culture and the Russian Culture Foundation.
The event brings together films from different countries that focus on cultural and human values.
Keyvan Moghaddam, the film's production designer, was also nominated for best production design at the Moscow awards. The prize went to the team behind the Russian film 'August'.
Motamedi wrote and directed the film, which marks Motamedi's third feature after 'Reza' and 'Why Don't You Cry?' and continues the introspective storytelling of his earlier works.
As in his previous films, Motamedi directs and takes on the lead role. Soha Niasti, Marziyeh Boroumand and Sahra Asadollahi are the cast.
The film follows a young woman working as a sound designer on a film dubbing project who returns after years away to confront her former lover.
Her unexpected arrival stirs up old memories, forcing him to face unresolved emotions and painful truths about the past.



Iranian filmmaker Alireza Motamedi poses with his prize at the Open Eurasian Film Awards in Moscow, Russia, on November 12, 2026.
ILNA

Adding an international prize to the film's festival run in 2026, 'The Daughter of Lady Fairy' had previously competed in the international competition section of the 42nd Warsaw International Film Festival in Poland in October 2026.