

President emphasizes encouraging approaches in terms of population rejuvenation

Social Desk

The National Headquarters of Population convened for its fifth meeting on Monday, with President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi in attendance. The meeting, held before noon, focused on the critical issue of population regulation and the importance of adherence to approved laws and upper-level documents concerning the nation's population rejuvenation. Raeisi underscored the need for a thorough review of the performance of responsible institutions in implementing the National Headquarters of the Population's approvals. He stressed the urgency of addressing delays and bolstering culture-building measures with an encouraging approach, given the existing concern about this significant issue,

according to president.ir. The president highlighted the importance of enhancing encouraging approaches and culture-building for different societal sections as a priority in addressing the population rejuvenation. He stated, "The actions of the institutions in charge should be such that society perceives families with more children as having a higher quality of life." Raeisi also emphasized the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in promoting the issue of population youth, describing it as a crucial culture-building measure. He added, "All cultural productions should focus on encouraging childbearing, so that, over time, the issue of population becomes a dominant discourse." Raeisi stressed the need for a

suitable roadmap for institutions responsible for population regulation, emphasizing the continuity of updated policies and decisions to achieve appropriate results in this area. In a bid to strengthen preventive approaches to abortion, Raeisi ordered the secretary of the National Headquarters of Population to form a working group. The group, comprising officials from the Ministry of Health, the vice president for Women and Family Affairs, and the judiciary, is tasked with examining the various aspects of the issue and taking action to resolve them. The fifth meeting of the National Headquarters of Population concluded with the approval of eight resolutions aimed at facilitating and removing obstacles to having children.



● IRNA

IFRC to advocate easement of medicinal sanctions on Iran

The head of the Middle East and North Africa regional office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Societies said Tuesday that the organization is working to reduce the impact of pharmaceutical sanctions on Iran.

Hossam Elsharkawi stated that he recently met with leaders of the Iranian Red Crescent Society and promised to advocate for easing sanctions that have made it difficult to get medicine and medical supplies into Iran, Mehr news agency reported.

"In the past two years, I have traveled to Iran and have seen firsthand the high operational capacity and large number of volunteers" in the country's Red Crescent branch, Elsharkawi said on the sidelines of a meeting of the International Federation's Islamic Advisory Committee in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

He said he plans to send colleagues to Tehran in the coming weeks to learn from the Iranian Red Crescent's experiences in several humanitarian fields. The comments came after Elsharkawi met with the secretary general and deputy director of international affairs for



● MEHR

the Iranian Red Crescent Society, Yaqub Soleimani and Razieh Alishvandi. Alishvandi spoke about the role of Iranian women in the Red Crescent and said the organization can serve as an example of "the capabilities and effective presence of Iranian women, especially in the field of relief and humanitarian actions."

Soleimani called for more advocacy to document and reduce the impact of sanctions on humanitarian operations. He also pointed out that the Iranian Red Crescent's network of thousands of local Crescent Houses that mobilize communities to prepare for disasters is a successful model that was welcomed by the federation and member societies.

Eight attractive Iranian villages to vie on global stage

Social Desk

Eight villages have been announced as Iran's final candidates in the project of the best global tourism villages, positioning them to compete on the global stage. The initiative, proposed by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2021, aims to promote the role of tourism in safeguarding villages.

To evaluate the candidate villages, the UNWTO has established key indicators encompassing various aspects. These indicators include the availability of resources and attractions, restoration and protection of resources, social and environmental sustainability, tourism value chain, infrastructure and communications, as well as safety and security, according to Mehr News Agency.

These indicators are further divided into 40 sub-indices, providing a comprehensive framework for assessing the villages. Initially, 130 villages from across Iran entered the selection process. Following the evaluation based on the UNWTO's indicators, this number was narrowed down to 30 villages. Finally, taking into account the designated capacity



● Kandovan Village
● UNWTO

for each country, eight villages emerged as the final candidates representing Iran.

The selected villages that will participate in the global competition are Kandovan in East Azarbaijan, Meymand in Kerman, Soheili in Hormozgan, Qasemabad in Gilan, Kandolus in Mazandaran, Abyaneh in Isfahan, Palangan in Kordestan, and Bisheh in Lorestan.

In preparation for the competition, Iran has completed the documentation for its candidate villages. This includes the submission of supporting materials such as video clips showcasing the tourism attractions and potentials of each village, as well as relevant images. These materials have been prepared and uploaded to the World Tourism Organization's system.

PIC OF THE DAY



Every year, the women of Lasjerd Village in Sorkheh City, Semnan Province, uphold the old tradition of offering bread by diligently preparing and baking thousands of their traditional breads in their home tanooors (ovens). These breads are then distributed to the mourners during the nights of Muharram in the village's Hosseiniyehs. Located 40 kilometers west of the center of Semnan Province, Lasjerd is a living testament to the rich cultural heritage of the region.

● MASOUD MOHAQE/ISNA

Thousands more evacuated as Greece 'at war' with fires

Authorities evacuated nearly 2,500 people from the Greek island of Corfu on Monday as the heat-battered nation was "at war" with several wildfires.

Tens of thousands of people have already fled blazes on the island of Rhodes, with many frightened tourists scrambling to get home on evacuation flights, according to phys.org. About 2,400 visitors and locals were evacuated from the Ionian tourist island of Corfu from Sunday into Monday, a fire service spokesman said, adding that the departures were a precaution. "We are at war and are ex-

clusively geared towards the fire front," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told parliament, warning that the nation faced "another three difficult days ahead" before high temperatures are forecast to ease.

Greece has been sweltering under a lengthy spell of extreme heat that has exacerbated wildfire risk and left visitors stranded in peak tourist season.

Kelly Squirrel, a transport administrator from the United Kingdom, said police had ordered people from her hotel on Rhodes to evacuate. "We had to keep walking,"



● GETTY IMAGES

she told AFP at the international airport. "So we walked for about six hours in the heat." Rhodes, which counted 2.5 million visitor arrivals in 2022, is one of Greece's leading holiday destina-

tions. Greek television broadcast images of long lines of people, some in beachwear, lugging suitcases along the island's roads on Saturday, when the evacuations were ordered.