

Over 63m accommodations recorded during Nowruz holiday

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Deputy Minister of Tourism, Ali Asghar Shalbafian, announced the accommodation statistics during the long Nowruz holiday of the new Persian year. From March 14 to April 12, 63 million and 647 thousand overnight stays were recorded, indicating a 5% increase compared to the same period last year. Official accommodations saw a 2.5% increase, ISNA wrote. The authorities emphasized the mandatory utilization of official accommodation capacities. Shalbafian mentioned that Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Hormuzgan, Gilan, Isfahan, Fars, Tehran, East Azarbaijan, Bushehr, and Ardebil had the highest number of stays.

He noted the shift in travel behavior during Nowruz, experiencing three waves of travel: a decrease in the first wave due to climate changes, a similar volume to the previous year in the second wave, and an increase during Eid al-Fitr holidays in the third wave. He also highlighted the launch of 1,047 handicraft markets along travel routes during the one-month period. He also disclosed that the total number of foreign travelers entering Iran by the end of March 19 was 6 million and 382 thousand and 755, compared to over 4 million and 230 thousand the previous year. Shalbafian declared a 58% growth in foreign visits to Iran last year, primarily individual travelers, despite the

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts' focus on organized tours. Mostafa Fatemi, Director-General of Domestic Tourism Development, continued, stating that during the same period, Mazandaran, Gilan, Khorasan Razavi, Hormuzgan, Bushehr, Fars, Khuzestan, Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, Tehran, and Alborz experienced the highest accommodation growth. He added that the highest growth in road traffic was observed in Fars, Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormuzgan, Lorestan, Tehran and Alborz, Yazd, Qazvin, East Azarbaijan, Ardebil, and South Khorasan. Mashhad, Shiraz, Kish, Bandar Abbas, and Tehran were among the cities receiving the most attention from travelers.



Raisi: Relief foundation hands over 23k residential units, up 44%

Social Desk

Over 33,000 residential units were provided to the families supported by the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation throughout the country. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made the statement during a ceremony for the allocation of 33,863 residential units to these people, marking a 44% increase in housing production and distribution for these families during the last Persian year ended on March 19, compared to the previous



year. Raisi expressed satisfaction with the government's efforts to meet the housing needs of applicants nationwide, fulfilling its promises in this regard, IRNA wrote. He praised the collaborative efforts of all sectors and institutions involved in this significant initiative. Raisi emphasized that housing expenses constitute the highest portion of family budgets and applauded the efforts of all agencies in facilitating home ownership.

Iran to participate in Astana Publishing Fellowship



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Astana Publishing Fellowship, a scholarship for publishers held in Astana, Kazakhstan, will host participants from 19 countries including Iran. Reza Hajiabadi, the director of Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publications, highlighted the international attention drawn to Kazakhstan's literature and publishing scene through this event, part of the Eurasia International Book Fair, IRNA wrote. The fellowship, scheduled for April 18-19, aims to showcase Kazakhstan's cultural and artistic initiatives globally. Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publications is the only Iranian invitee among 60 publishers, writers, literary agents, and copyright agencies participating in the inaugural fellowship.

Hajiabadi explained the application process, which ran from December 22, 2022, to March 23, 2024, with successful applicants announced in March. Participants will benefit from three different packages: gold, silver, and bronze. Gold includes free flights, accommodation for three nights, meals, cultural tours, and participation in host-funded sessions for ten publishers from ten different countries. Silver offers similar benefits to twenty participants, while bronze allows for cultural tours and participation in sessions with costs borne by participants. Apart from Kazakhstani publishers, participants from Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan, China, Mongolia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uzbekistan will attend the fellowship.

Life expectancy in Iran 66.2 years, official data shows



Social Desk

The National Organization for Civil Registration announced that the average life expectancy in Iran is 66.2 years, with Gilan having the highest at 71.3 and Sistan and Baluchestan with the lowest at 50.7. The rough mortality rate of the country in the last year (ending March 19) was 5.3 per thousand people, with Gilan having the highest rate at 7.4 per thousand people and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad having the lowest at 3.9 per thousand people, IRNA

wrote. The report emphasizes that the highest number of deaths is in the age group of 85-89 years, with 9.9% of total deaths being male and 12.5% being female, respectively. The organization also reported that 207,663 death events were registered in the first six months of last Persian year, indicating a 0.2% decrease compared to the same period the previous year, which had 208,145 deaths. Of these, 56.8% were male and 43.2% were female. Moreover, for every 131

male deaths, there were 100 female deaths, and male deaths were 6% higher than female deaths. Based on data from the first six months of last Persian year, men accounted for 56.8% and women accounted for 43.2% of registered deaths, compared to 56.9% for men and 43.1% for women in the same period the previous year. Additionally, compared to the same period the previous year, male deaths decreased by 0.3% and female deaths decreased by 0.04%.