



National Day of Villages and Nomads

Pezeshkian hails Iran's unity in diversity

Iran won't be a 'playground' for enemies

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's cultural solidarity and resilience on Tuesday while addressing the National Day of Villages and Nomads at the IRIB International Conference Center in Tehran. The annual event drew rural and nomadic entrepreneurs, producers, and innovators from across the country. "Iran, with all its diverse ethnic and cultural groups, belongs to all Iranians," Pezeshkian said. "The presence of entrepreneurs, producers, and innovators is a symbol of Iran. All Iranian ethnic groups are striving to tackle problems together," president.ir reported. He underlined that Iranian culture is rooted in mutual assistance and helping one another, adding that the government is working to resolve the nation's pressing issues with broad participa-

tion from citizens. The president highlighted Iran's resilience in the face of external threats, referring to the June conflict with Israel. "The enemy believed that if they attacked Iran, the country would descend into chaos. However, the Iranian people stood firm against their adversaries and achieved significant accomplishments on all fronts," he said. Pezeshkian vowed that Iran would not allow its territory to become a "place of marauding by evildoers and enemies." He also condemned recent violence in Gaza, quoting the Azerbaijani poet Shahriar, "It is very difficult to tolerate those who talk of human rights while killing innocent people. Individuals blinded by money and power will stop at no injustice." Abdolkarim Hosseinzadeh, Vice President for Rural Development and Disadvantaged Regions, praised the techno-



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the National Day of Villages and Nomads at the IRIB International Conference Center on October 7, 2025.
● president.ir

logical and entrepreneurial capacities of rural and nomadic communities. He said the event aimed to provide innovative models and training for small producers and entrepreneurs, underscoring that Iran's people are its greatest national wealth. Pezeshkian unveiled a commemorative stamp for the National Day of Villages and Nomads. He also visited an exhibition showcasing rural and nomadic achievements, engaging directly with innovators, entrepreneurs, and producers, and ordered follow-up measures to support their initiatives.



Basra Roadshow

Expansion of historical, health tourism with Iraq 'essential,' says minister



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, appears on a video screen during the opening of the first Iran-Iraq Tourism Roadshow in Basra, Iraq, on October 7, 2025.
● ILNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, urged the expansion of historical and health tourism between Iran and Iraq in a video message delivered at the opening of the first Iran-Iraq tourism roadshow in Basra. He described the two nations as "linked by cultural, civilizational, political, religious and historical relations," noting that they share interests across multiple markets, ILNA reported. Salehi Amiri highlighted the centuries-old bonds forged through pilgrimage sites such as Najaf, Karbala, Kadhimiya, and the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad. "The people of Iran belong to Islam and Ahl al-Bayt," he said, underlining the depth of religious and cultural ties. He added that Iraq serves as "Iran's first home in the region and the world," making it a central target for Iran's tourism initiatives. The minister also promoted Iran's medical tourism sector, citing its specialized doctors, equipped hospitals, and affordable treatment costs. He said Iran can host Iraqi

visitors seeking healthcare, in addition to cultural and pilgrimage tourism. Salehi Amiri called for strengthened cooperation in preserving and promoting the shared historical heritage of both nations, noting Iran's 29 UNESCO-listed sites and 27 intangible cultural heritage entries as a foundation for further collaboration. The roadshow, taking place from October 6 to 9 in Basra, Baghdad and Karbala, involves a 40-member Iranian delegation from major travel agencies, airlines, hotels, and digital platforms. Hormatollah Rafiei, head of the Association of Iranian Travel Agencies, said bilateral tourism should no longer focus solely on Western visitors. He stated that "the largest volume of tourism exchange must occur between Iran and Iraq," citing France and Turkey, which attract most foreign visitors from neighboring countries, as models. He stressed that the roadshow should mark the start of increased tourist flows and help stimulate both nations' economies. Head of the Basra Tourism Department Hussein Al-Rafiei, and Basra lawmaker in

Iraqi Parliament, welcomed the Iranian delegation and expressed appreciation for their participation. "We will not only use the experience of the Iranian team but also provide full support for private-sector tourism cooperation," he said. He added that the event is designed to showcase opportunities and capacities for joint development, with the aim of a significant rise in tourist exchanges between the two nations. According to Iranian officials, more than 11 million tourists travelled between Iran and Iraq last year, including 8 million Iranians visiting Iraq and 3.4 million Iraqis visiting Iran. Moslem Shojaei, the director of marketing and foreign tourism development at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, called the cross-border movement "a unique opportunity for the private sector" to expand collaboration. He said the roadshow highlights Iran's safety, infrastructure, and readiness to host Iraqi tourists, not only for pilgrimage but also for recreation, shopping, and medical tourism. Shojaei added that tourism is a vehicle for understanding cultures, fostering dialogue, and promoting peace. "It has become a major cultural and economic power," he said.

Italy's Paladino d'Oro Film Festival to screen 'Dandelions Girl'

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Azadeh Masihzadeh's short film 'Dandelions Girl' was named a finalist at the 45th Paladino d'Oro Sport Film Festival in Palermo, Italy, slated for December 1 to 7. First held in 1979, the Paladino d'Oro festival will showcase around 150 films from 35 countries this year, with support from the Sicilia Film Commission, the Palermo municipality and Italy's National Paralympic Committee, Mehr News Agency reported. The awards gala is scheduled for December 7 at the city's Teatro Politeama Garibaldi. Written and directed by Masihzadeh and produced by Raziye Gholami, 'Dandelions Girl' follows a young girl who defies social barriers to play football and, through her struggle, exposes the tension between "truth and deceit." The film portrays the determination of Iran's young generation to stand their ground in the face of obstacles. The cast includes Tara Soroush, Benyam Afrangh and Abdollah Bahadori, with international distribution managed by Masihzadeh's AtoZinema.



The film has already earned international recognition, taking second prize at India's International Children's Film Festival (ICFF) Jaipur earlier this year, where it was the only Iranian entry in competition. Masihzadeh, who described the selection as "a proud moment for Iranian cinema," said she hopes the film will "speak to universal courage — the kind that begins on a playground and grows into something larger."

UN migration agency extols Iran's extensive services to Afghan refugees

The United Nations migration agency expressed its appreciation towards Iran over the extensive services that the Islamic Republic has been providing to the millions of Afghan refugees staying in the country. A senior advisor to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s director-general made the remarks to Mohammad Bat'haei, deputy Iranian interior minister, in Geneva on Monday. The officials were meeting on the sidelines of the 76th Annual Session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Press TV reported. Kim Eling praised the Islamic Republic's successful efforts aimed at hosting the Afghan nationals, while regretting the decline in contributions from donor coun-

tries. He identified the decline as one of the main challenges that faced the UN in advancing its projects geared towards accommodating the needs of migrants worldwide. Bat'haei, who also heads Iran's Social Affairs Organization, noted how the Islamic Republic has been rendering "remarkable" services to the monumental number of Afghan migrants and individuals from other origins, who have been seeking refuge across the country. Tehran has been providing the support, despite simultaneously suffering under Western states' "oppressive unilateral sanctions," he lamented. "Iran hopes that donor countries, in accordance with their share of responsibility, will allocate appropriate support to the ongoing projects in Iran," the official added.

The officials, meanwhile, reviewed the latest status of interactions between the Islamic Republic and the IOM regarding the organization of foreign nationals residing in the country. Iran hosts 3.8 million refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations. Afghan nationals comprise the majority of this number. The number of refugees began to significantly rise after the 2001 invasion of the Central Asian nation by the United States, which triggered a huge backlash by the Taliban. The US's sudden withdrawal from Afghanistan amid a wholesale Taliban offensive in 2021 similarly unleashed another refugee wave onto the country's neighbors.