



## Iran to mark Craft Week

Iran will host a series of events in honor of Iran Craft Week, commencing on June 10, announced Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister Maryam Jalali. Drawing attention to the special emphasis placed on handicrafts by Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami, Jalali stressed the importance of establishing handicraft stores in all cultural heritage sites.

# Tehran Int'l Book Fair's significance not diminished by cyberspace: *Official*

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EXCLUSIVE

The Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) retains its significance as the largest cultural event in the country despite the expansion of the internet and cyberspace and the prevalent use of social networks and electronic sources, said an adviser to Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Mahmoud Shalouei made the statement in his interview with Iran Daily, emphasizing that people continue to attach great importance to books, a sentiment evident in their warm reception of the book fair.

As the head of the Iranian Society of Cultural Works



and Luminaries (ISCWL), Shalouei further stated that paper books still hold a prominent position in society.

He underscored the irreplaceable value of paper books, explaining that the deep wealth of information contained within them

cannot be substituted by virtual sources.

Regarding the various methods of publishing books, Shalouei acknowledged that while individuals can now access books online, paper books remain significant and can effectively compete with their

digital counterparts.

In addition to these observations, he highlighted the ISCWL's efforts to honor Iran's esteemed literary figures by publishing their biographies and literary works. The organization considers the publication of cultural and literary

works a central concern and has formulated plans accordingly.

Shalouei mentioned that the ISCWL has already released a collection of works, which are available for purchase through the organization itself and on display at its pavilion

during this year's book fair. Recognizing the simultaneous occurrence of the sixth day of the 34th TIBF and the Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day on May 15, the adviser stated that they have made concerted efforts to showcase works related to the renowned poet in the exhibition.

In conclusion, Shalouei affirmed the enduring significance of the Tehran International Book Fair as a major cultural event in Iran, while re-emphasizing the continued importance of paper books and the ISCWL's dedication to publishing and promoting the country's cultural and literary works.

The 34th edition of the book fair commenced on May 10 and will continue until May 20, providing an extensive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.

## Iran achieves impressive blood donation rates despite challenges

### Social Desk

The need for healthy blood is critical in saving lives worldwide. Without an adequate supply of blood, many individuals undergoing surgeries, chemotherapy or radiation therapy, accidents, premature infants with jaundice, pregnant women during delivery, and thalassemia or hemophilia patients are at risk. Developing countries that expand their diagnostic and treatment capabilities face a continuous increase in the demand for blood and blood products, particularly for cancer patients.

Blood donation rates in middle to high-income countries average 16 per thousand individuals, while high-income countries average 31 per thousand individuals. Disparities in blood donation rates highlight the need for amplified efforts to encourage blood donation in developing countries. Iran, with an impressive blood donation rate of over 26 per thousand people, has taken significant strides in improving its blood supply. Despite several challenges, the country has achieved remarkable success in its blood donation programs, with



Iran has taken significant strides in improving its blood supply. [hamshahriionline.ir](http://hamshahriionline.ir)

the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) playing a pivotal role.

The IBTO holds exclusive authority over blood procurement and distribution in Iran. The organization ensures that blood donation is entirely voluntary. Last year, Iranians donated 2,223,492 units of blood, with North Khorasan Province recording the highest growth rate of 34%. Tehran Province had the highest rate, with 369,523 units donated last year.

**Female donation rate**  
Women donate about 50% of blood in developed countries, with higher blood donation rates and healthier blood.

Women answer pre-donation questions more honestly and donate more frequently than men. Women's blood donation rate in Iran increased by almost 12% last year compared to a year earlier. Lorestan Province had the highest female participation rate, with nearly 10% of blood donation, while Kurdistan and North Khorasan provinces followed with more than 9% and 7.5%, respectively.

Ilam Province, North Khorasan Province, and Kurdistan Province recorded the highest growth in the number of women donors last year, with growth rates of more than 63%, more than 61%, and nearly 51%, respectively.

### Continual donation increases

The IBTO reported that the 54% rate of blood donation by continuous donors demonstrates the importance of regular blood donation in Iran. The number of regular donors has increased by over 7%, with North Khorasan posting the highest growth rate of nearly 34%. The growth rates in various provinces demonstrate that individuals in Iran have incorporated blood donation into their life plans as a self-care practice.

IBTO's efforts have significantly contributed to the improvement of Iran's blood donation rates, as evidenced by the growth rates in various provinces. Semnan Province, Qom

Province, and Yazd Province are the provinces with the highest continuous blood donation rates, with nearly 68%, more than 63%, and more than 62%, respectively.

Over 20,000 patients suffering from thalassemia, traffic accidents, and specialized surgeries require blood and its derivatives, which accounts for the high consumption of blood in the country. As the population ages, regular blood donation becomes even more critical.

### Equitable blood distribution

The National Blood Network distributes blood from provinces with more blood donations and lower consumption to provinces with fewer blood donations and higher consumption, ensuring equitable blood distribution across all provinces. Despite challenging situations like higher demand for blood in certain provinces or a shortage of medical facilities, the national blood supply network ensures that blood distribution remains fair and impartial.

The network has seen a 40% increase in blood distribution in the past year compared to a year before, giving out over 176,000 units of blood and its products.

## Baby elephant alive and kicking



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### Social Desk

The second birthday of a baby elephant was celebrated in the Tehran Zoological Garden, also known as Eram Zoo, on Friday.

The two-year-old elephant calf called "Maysa" is living in a normal condition, said Mohammad Hassan Hosseini, the director of Eram Zoo, ISNA reported.

He added that Maysa's deciduous teeth have completely grown and she weighs 700 kilograms.

Hosseini said the Asian baby elephant weighed 70 kilograms when she was born. Maysa is the baby of two Sri Lankan elephants transferred to Iran a decade ago.

### Asian elephants' features

Asian elephants live in the tropical forests and grasslands of Southeast Asia. They're a little smaller than African elephants but can

grow nine feet tall and weigh nearly six tons. Even newborns are on the hefty side, weighing some 200 pounds. Adults can eat 300 pounds in one day, nearly 75 times what the average human eats! An Asian elephant's ideal meal includes roots, grasses, fruit, and bark.

Much of an Asian elephant's time is spent searching for grub. In fact the animal may travel 50 miles a day to find food.

Asian elephants also enjoy taking dips in the water. To cool down their backsides, the animals will fill their trunks with water and spray it over themselves like a hose.

Asian elephants are gentle and super-social. Related females live with their young in herds. To communicate with each other they use rumbles, bellows, growls, and moans. Some of their vocalizations can be heard more than a mile away.