



Craft Week programs

Iran Craft Week will take place in five provinces starting from June 7. The opening day will feature a press conference in Tehran, followed by events in Alborz, Zanjan, Ardebil, and Isfahan. A special program will be held in Isfahan on June 10 to commemorate World Handicrafts Day, with the presence of local and international guests, along with officials from the World Crafts Council and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Tobacco health risks under spotlight: Hookah more harmful than cigarettes



mune system, including rheumatoid arthritis. Iran is among countries that are grappling with adverse impacts of tobacco use. Experts say Iranians smoke up to 60 billion cigarettes every year. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent annually to treat diseases caused by smoking in the country.

Zahra Sheikhi, the spokesperson of the Iranian Parliament's Health Commission, told Iran Newspaper about the harmful effects of tobacco use. "The consumption of tobacco such as smoking cigarettes and hookah is among main causes of developing all kinds of cancers. Approximately 90 percent of lung cancers are caused by smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products, which inflict irreparable damage to the society," she said. The lawmaker added that western sanctions have hampered Iran's efforts to import life-saving drugs. She, however, said the sanc-

tions imposed by the West on Iran have not applied to tobacco products such as cigarettes. Sheikhi called for raising taxes on tobacco products in order to reduce their consumption. "On the one hand, increasing taxes on tobacco products can deter people from smoking. On the other hand, the related revenues can be spent on promoting the health sector and building sports centers." Masoud Ehtesham, a lung specialist and faculty member of the University of Medical Sciences of Yazd, also weighed in on the harmful effects of smoking. "World No Tobacco Day reminds people and officials that they should take the harmful effects of tobacco consumption seriously. Nothing justifies the use of cigarettes because cigarettes are the killers of people in the society," he said. The specialist noted that family members of smokers are not immune from the harmful effects of cigarettes. "Family members of smokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke are at risk of developing cancers."



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Ehtesham also rejected the idea regarding harmlessness of electronic cigarettes. "E-cigarettes have a mechanism which is like regular cigarettes. They cause the release of toxic substances in the body, an abnormal buildup of fluid in the lungs and damage the respiratory system." The specialist also raised the alarm about the health risks posed by smoking hookah. "Scientific studies have revealed that smoking hookah for a session is equivalent to smoking 70 ciga-

rettes," he said. Gholamreza Heydari, director of Tobacco Prevention and Control Research Center at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, also touched upon the percentage of Iranian who consume tobacco products. "With regard to the number of those who smoke cigarettes and hookah as a hobby, between 20 percent and 25 percent of Iranians use tobacco products. Compared to global statistics, we are in an average position."

Experts say Iranians smoke up to 60 billion cigarettes every year. euronews.com

Social Desk

The harmful and deadly effects of tobacco once again came under the spotlight on the occasion of the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) that was marked on Wednesday. The member states of the World Health Organization passed a resolution in 1988, calling for the annual celebration of World No Tobacco Day on May 31. This year's theme is "We need food, not tobacco". The 2023

global campaign aims to highlight alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable and nutritious crops. Smoking causes cancer, heart and lung diseases, stroke, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Smoking also increases the risk of tuberculosis, certain eye diseases and problems of the im-

Shahrud's handicraft sector is thriving



Pottery items of Shahrud
IRNA

Iranica Desk

Shahrud, a city in the north-central province of Semnan, with an area of 41,000 sq.km, stretches from the southern slopes of Alborz mountain range to Dasht-e Kavir. A decrease in elevation from its northern to southern parts has helped create various types of climate and ecosystems. More than 60 fields of handicrafts are produced in the city including pottery-making, textile weaving, precious and semi-precious stone cutting, namad-mali (felt-beating), as well as wood, leather and metal crafting, kilim-weaving, jajim-weaving and monabat-kari, chtn.ir wrote. The skills of weaving wool and cotton fabrics in the city have been registered on Iran's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

The largest number of textile weaving workshops are in Kalateh-ye Khij town, located 56km from Shahrud.

Pottery-making

The creative local potters use the rich soil of the region to produce various ceramic items. The city is known as one of the main hubs of pottery production. The lightest, largest and thinnest clay bricks of the world are among the works created by proficient Shahrudi artisans.

Kilim-weaving

Kilim is a type of thin handwoven floor covering. Nomadic women living in the region are among the most skilled kilim-weavers of the country. Thanks to the training courses held by Shahrud's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the kilim-weaving

craft has become very prevalent in the city in recent years. Ground looms are used by the city's craftspeople for weaving traditional kilims. The kilims woven in the city feature designs inspired by nature, include animals, birds, black tents and geometric shapes.

Jajim-weaving

Jajim is among the most beautiful and colorful traditional textiles woven mostly in the mountainous parts of Shahrud. After spinning and dyeing the wool, the craftswomen, working mostly in traditional workshops of the region, weave the delicate patterned jajims, which are very famous in the region and country.

Monabat-kari

Monabat-kari craft is also very common in Shahrud and its

surrounding areas. The artworks produced in the regions not only meet the demands of the domestic market but are also exported to various foreign countries. A number of master carvers living in Shahrud and a number of its villages make exquisite wood carved tableaus, which have many customers across the country and the world.

Namad-mali

Namad-mali (felt-beating) is the art of beating the interweaving wool fibers, with soap and water. Namad is a type of traditional fabric which is used as floor covering or shepherds' clothing. Felt is a kind of textile that is made without the use of a loom. The craft has long been practiced in various cities of Semnan Province.

Iranian Writers Int'l Book Database launched



Arts & Culture Desk

The president of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) announced on Wednesday the launch of the Iranian Writers International Book Database. This citation database was established to strengthen the diplomacy and scientific and technological interactions of the country, he added. Seyyed Ahmad Fazelzadeh noted that the high capacity of the Iranian Writers International Book Database is a significant step towards strengthening the scientific and technological authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the international level, IRNA reported. He invited universities, research institutions, and technology centers of the country to submit their published international book information to ISC for review and registration in

this database. Fazelzadeh announced that the database currently covers information on more than 1,200 book titles, adding that the process of its completion and expansion continues. The ISC has launched the first database of Iranian Writers' International Book Information, which includes their writings published by reputable international publishers, he concluded. He stated that the creation of knowledge, as one of the most important missions of scientific and academic centers in the country, can be observed and monitored through the publication of books, articles, and registration of inventions at the national and international levels, noting that citation and information databases facilitate this monitoring, significantly influencing the country's major scientific decisions and policies.