

Pezeshkian rings in new school year, urges unity for progress



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses elementary students at Dr. Hassan Askari Shirazi School in southwest of Tehran, September 22, 2024, following a ceremony marking the start of the new school year. president.ir

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian rang the opening bell of the new school year in Tehran on Sunday, marking the beginning of a new academic year in the country. In a ceremony held at Hassan Askari Shirazi School in the Iranian capital, Pezeshkian was joined by the daughter of martyr Abbas Babaei in ringing the bell. The president emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among Iranians, saying that the country's main problem is the petty squabbles and conflicts that lead to division and weakness. "We must work together and provide the necessary support for education, so that our country's future will be better than its present," Pezeshkian said. "If we work well and provide the necessary opportunities for

education, our country will become stronger and more powerful." The president also stressed the importance of friendship and mutual respect, saying that these values are essential for building a strong and prosperous society. "We must help each other and work together to overcome our problems," he said. Pezeshkian also highlighted the need for a well-designed education system that fosters creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills among students. "We will work to create a standard and modern education system that provides equal opportunities for all students," he said. The president also expressed his gratitude to the family of Dr. Hassan Askari, who founded the school.

Ex-diplomat Jaber Ansari appointed as CEO of IRNA New chief vows to strengthen national unity

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, appointed Hossein Jaber Ansari as the new CEO of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). Jaber Ansari, a veteran diplomat with three decades of experience in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was inducted at a ceremony at IRNA headquarters in Tehran on Sunday. Salehi thanked Ali Naderi, former IRNA CEO, for his services over the past three years. In his inaugural speech, Jaber Ansari pledged to follow the national unity lines set by President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration. He also expressed his gratitude to Salehi for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading IRNA. The new CEO noted that he was taking the helm at a time of significant regional and global developments, including the after-



math of the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the Gaza war, as well as the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia. He added that Iran was also entering a new era with the Pezeshkian administration's focus on national unity. Jaber Ansari emphasized that IRNA's responsibility would be significant in these circumstances, given its 90-year history and its role as a national news agency.

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi (C), flanked by new CEO of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Hossein Jaber Ansari (L) and Ali Naderi (R), former IRNA chief, attends the induction ceremony of the new chief in Tehran, on September 22, 2024. IRNA

He said that the agency "will not start from scratch," but rather on the achievements and successes of the past and work to improve the challenges and problems that exist. He emphasized the importance of "teamwork" in achieving such objectives. Jaber Ansari outlined his domestic objectives, prioritizing the strengthening of national unity and cohesion, as well as the promotion of the country's image and values.

Iran's 'September 21' wins Grand Prix in Japan

Iranian filmmaker Rahman Baraheni won the Grand Prix at the 2024 Japan United for Peace Film Festival for his short film 'September 21'. The festival was held from September 16 to 21 at the Human Trust Cinema in Shibuya, Tokyo. Mehdi Mansour, a media consultant for the film, said in an interview with IRNA on Sunday that the film had been well-received by the festival's audience and had stood out among the 200 films showcased at the event. 'September 21' explores the im-

pact of war on the minds, bodies, and futures of children affected by conflict, and was praised by the festival's judges for its deep and emotional portrayal of the lives of these children, according to Mansour. This year marked the 14th edition of the festival, which was organized in collaboration with NPO PEACE DAY as part of the "Peace Day Week" initiative. The Japanese festival aims to promote peace and global solidarity by showcasing films from around the world, and awards its winners with prestigious prizes.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



A podium to ...

Mediation efforts and diplomatic attempts to broker a [Page 1 >](#) cease-fire have so far been in vain. Widespread public protests in Western countries, particularly in the United States, against Israeli genocide have had little impact on Western politicians, who have either remained silent or supported Israel politically and militarily. On the other hand, Muslim countries have lacked the will or ability to take independent initiatives to support the Palestinians

and prevent Israel's daily aggression. The result of such global paralysis, Western support for Israel, and the inaction of the Islamic world has been the emboldening of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his hardline cabinet to continue their crimes and slaughter of the Palestinian people. Despite this, the General Assembly can still provide a new opportunity for political and diplomatic negotiations, as well as cooperation among Islamic countries and the artic-

ulation of protest stances against Israel and its supporters. Delegations from countries supporting Palestine and opposing Israel can brainstorm ideas and proposals that amplify the voice of Palestinian suffering and simultaneously challenge Israel's criminal nature. One expected and predictable proposal is to walk out of the assembly hall during the Israeli prime minister's speech. Engaging in challenging interviews with mainstream media outlets and highlighting the impact of Western governments'

political and military support for Israel are other notable ideas. At the forefront of these diverse ideas is the speech of Islamic country leaders from the UN podium, explaining the plight of the Palestinian people and the regional and global consequences of this devastating war. Islamic countries and leaders supporting Palestine must not let this valuable opportunity slip away and allow Netanyahu and his supporters to dominate the UN by their silence and inaction.