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Pezeshkian urges young Olympiad medalists to lead future Iran

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on young Iranian medalists from international science Olympiads to fully commit their skills and knowledge to solving the country's challenges, emphasizing the importance of their role in national development. At a ceremony held on Saturday in Tehran to honor these achievers, Pezeshkian expressed appreciation for the medalists, their families, and the officials who supported them, president.ir reported. He stated, "You must make every effort to elevate your capabilities to address the issues facing our country." He reflected on his own expe-

riences as a student during the early years of the Islamic Revolution, noting that he prioritized acquiring knowledge over accepting political roles. "I always rejected offers for executive positions because I believed that entering politics without sufficient knowledge would hinder my growth," he explained. "I wanted to achieve a level of expertise before entering the political arena." Pezeshkian reiterated the urgency of addressing healthcare disparities in Iran, recalling a time when patients would wait one to two years for appointments. He stressed the need for equitable access to quality health services, stating, "It is our duty to provide all people in Iran with adequate health services."

He urged the young scholars to internalize the responsibility of addressing public concerns and to contribute actively to the nation's progress. "This country is ours to build, and it must be much better than it is today," he declared. He firmly rejected the idea of leaving Iran for opportunities elsewhere, asserting, "We need individuals who care about our problems and are willing to dedicate their lives to resolving them." In discussing the changing global educational landscape, Pezeshkian highlighted the necessity of teamwork among young scholars. "In today's world, collaborative efforts yield success; individual endeavors in producing knowledge are no longer sufficient," he noted. He also mentioned the govern-

ment's readiness to appoint young talents as assistants to officials but expressed concern that such roles could distract them from their academic pursuits. "While we want you to be involved, I fear that participation in executive meetings may waste your valuable time," he cautioned. Iran's Education Minister, Alireza Kazemi, also addressed the attendees, stating that the government is committed to resolving issues faced by talented students and enhancing Iran's presence in international competitions. He emphasized, "One of our major policies is to ensure educational equity, allowing no student's talent to remain untapped due to a lack of resources." Pezeshkian implored the young



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony honoring young Iranian medalists from international science Olympiads in Tehran on December 21, 2024. president.ir

medalists to utilize their knowledge to address national issues, assuring them that their efforts could lead to lasting recognition.

"Iran is counting on your endeavors; with determination and effort, we can solve the problems facing our country," he affirmed.

Iran seeks to halt NY auction of stolen ancient coins, repatriate artifacts

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is actively working to prevent a New York auction featuring ancient coins that were stolen from archaeological sites in Beyza, Fars Province. Last year, unauthorized diggers excavated 600 ancient coins from various historical periods, and part of these artifacts surfaced in a private auction by Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) in the US. The auction is scheduled for January 14, 2025, and includes two Sasanian coins from the Beyza archaeological site. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts confirmed the authenticity of these coins and is taking steps to stop the auction in order to ensure their return to Iran, ILNA reported. Mohammad Reza Zahedi, director of the Department of the Cultural Prop-

erty of Museums Headquarters, stated, "We are actively pursuing this issue, and the documents for the swift restitution of these Sasanian and Achaemenid coins are ready." The excavated coins include 380 Seleucid coins, 97 coins from the time of Alexander the Great, and others from various Persian dynasties, all of which were removed during illegal excavations. The CNG auction house has listed one of the coins, known as "Azarmidokht," which weighs 3.75 grams and features an image of Khosrow Parviz, Azarmidokht's father. This coin has a starting price of \$6,000, with projected sales reaching \$10,000. The second coin, attributed to the Persepolis mint and dating back to around 300 BC, is priced starting at \$45,000, with an estimated final sale price of approximately \$5.7 million. It depicts a Persian king and a battle scene, showcasing a Persian warrior



overpowering a Greek soldier. Despite the clear evidence of the coins' origins, CNG has misidentified the Azarmidokht coin as being from Central Asia and has not disclosed its illicit background. Zahedi noted that the ministry has been alerted to the situation and is determined to secure the return of these historical artifacts. The illegal excavation in Beyza, which involved two 17-year-old diggers, led to a burgeoning underground market for these valuable historical items.

Iranian film 'In the Arms of the Tree' triumphs at Chennai festival



The Iranian drama film 'In the Arms of the Tree,' directed by Babak Khajepasha, was awarded the title of Best Feature Film at the World Cinema Competition of the 22nd Chennai International Film Festival. The festival, which ran from December 12 to 19, provided a platform for over 123 films from 50 countries to vie for recognition and accolades, ILNA reported. 'In the Arms of the Tree' is a 2023 Iranian drama that made its premiere at the 41st Fajr International Film

Festival in February. The film, which is both written and directed by Khajepasha, was produced by Mohammad Reza Mesbah and Sajjad Nasrollahi Nasab. Its win at the Chennai festival marks a significant milestone in its international journey, following its recent receipt of the Special Jury Prize at the Asian World Film Festival. Khajepasha's film has not only garnered critical acclaim but has also been selected as Iran's representative for the 2025 Academy Awards.

Iran's '21 Weeks Later' awarded at Spain's La Mirada Tabú Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian short film '21 Weeks Later,' directed by Nasrin Mohammadpour, was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 11th edition of the La Mirada Tabú Film Festival in Spain. The festival, held from December 5 to 14 in Zaragoza, aims to highlight artists' perspectives on the concept of "taboo." '21 Weeks Later' competed against 55 other short films and emerged as a standout, winning the Special Jury Prize. The award was presented to Mohammadpour by a panel of three judges, who praised the film for its nuanced storytelling and powerful performances. Nasrin Mohammadpour, known for her insightful and thought-provoking work, has previously won the Best Asian Short Film award at the 28th South International Film Festival in Busan Korea. Her film has also been screened at the 32nd Raindance International Film Festival in the UK and recently won the Special Jury Prize at the 31st International Ad-



ana Golden Boll Film Festival. The film stars Benafsheh Rezaei, Leila Hosseinzadeh, Soudabeh Behraminejad, and Parisa Asgari, whose performances have been widely acclaimed. '21 Weeks Later' explores complex themes and offers a deep dive into the human condition, resonating with audiences and critics alike. The international distribution of '21 Weeks Later' is managed by Cinarama, led by Neshat Bagheri. The film's continued success on the international stage highlights its universal appeal and the growing recognition of Iranian cinema on the global platform.



Second Announcement

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0140010

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
3	HYDRAULIC VALVE 4-3/4 IN. OD., 2-1/4 IN. ID., 3-1/2 IN., 29 FOOT-10 IN. OVERALL LENGTH	30NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 10,559/61 EURO or 5,604,309,103 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir/material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

NOTE: Based on enactment issued by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforementioned (paragraph 1)Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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