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Vol. 7783 ● Sunday, March. 2, 2025 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Pezeshkian calls for media integrity to combat misinformation, foster public trust

Regional cooperation key to counter US sanctions

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underscored the urgent responsibility of media outlets to combat misinformation to restore public trust, during his visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on its 90th anniversary on Saturday. He stressed the media's role in disseminating accurate information is crucial for restoring public trust in a chaotic environment, IRNA reported. He was accompanied by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi, Director of Government Information Council Elias Hazrati, Hazrati's deputy, Mehdi Tabatabai, Political Deputy of the Presidential Office Mehdi Sanayi, and presidential aide Yousef Pezeshkian. Speaking to senior managers and editors at IRNA, Pezeshkian said, "Today, your duty is to combat falsehoods, accusations, and calumnies, while providing transparent and honest information." He said that such efforts are essential for ensuring the public understands that the information they receive is credible and not mere rumors. The president pointed out that the media, especially in the digital age, is plagued by the spread of misinformation. He urged media outlets to adhere to ethical

standards in their reporting. He lamented that some actions in the information sphere have contributed to public distrust and called for a commitment to honesty as the first step in rebuilding confidence. He criticized the tendency for slanderous accusations in social media, warning that such actions can irreparably damage reputations. During his address, he also discussed the importance of media in shaping public perception, noting that small incidents can escalate into larger crises if not managed properly. In addition to media responsibilities, Pezeshkian outlined the government's strategy for overcoming economic challenges exacerbated by international sanctions. He called for enhanced cooperation with neighboring countries and the effective use of regional organizations like Eurasia, BRICS, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization to mitigate the impact of US sanctions. He stressed the necessity of internal unity and collaboration to address societal issues, stating that unresolved conflicts could lead to self-destruction. "If we cannot overcome our differences, we will be our own worst enemy," Pezeshkian warned. Concluding his visit, the president unveiled

a commemorative stamp and a book celebrating IRNA's 90th anniversary, reaffirming the media's significance in Iranian society. Also, Abbas Salehi talked about the agency's unique role in shaping and narrating the history of Iran. He stated that IRNA has played an irreplaceable role in various aspects of Iranian history and continues to uphold a professional standard in its operations. "State media must ensure that the voices of the voiceless are heard," Salehi added. Reflecting on the significance of IRNA's longstanding presence, Salehi noted that the agency, originally known as Pars News Agency and now the Islamic Republic News Agency, has chronicled a century of Iranian history. He pointed out to the heightened importance of media in today's world, emphasizing that IRNA has been and remains a valuable asset for the country due to both its historical legacy and its critical roles during pivotal moments in Iran's past. Salehi acknowledged the new approaches introduced by IRNA's CEO, Hossein Jaber Ansari, stating that these innovations maintain continuity with previous strategies. He stressed the need for a media outlet that fosters social cohesion within society, one that not only promotes



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and CEO of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Hossein Jaber Ansari hold a memorable photo of the president on his visit to the organization on the 90th anniversary of IRNA on March 1, 2025.

● president.ir

unity among state components but also strengthens mutual trust between the government and the public. "National trust and intra-government confidence are crucial, especially in the current political climate and international context," he added. The culture minister pointed out that the government's social capital has been weakened and requires restoration. He emphasized that this restoration can occur through a media platform that amplifies the voices of the people, including those of

experts, various social groups, and even the marginalized. Salehi acknowledged that while some entities may have concerns regarding security, it is vital for state media to create an environment where the unheard voices are acknowledged, ensuring that no one is overlooked or disregarded. Salehi expressed hope that the approach and path taken by Pezeshkian would assist the media in fostering social cohesion and building public trust.

Iran seeks to enhance tourism cooperation with Kyrgyzstan

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran is looking to strengthen tourism ties with Kyrgyzstan, as cited by Ali Najafi, the deputy first vice-president for international affairs and regional cooperation, during a visit to Bishkek on Saturday. Najafi met with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubaev and Economy Minister Bakyt Sydykov

to discuss a range of bilateral cooperation opportunities, particularly in the tourism sector, Mehr News Agency reported. He said that Iran's recent attainment of observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) represents a significant opportunity for enhancing economic collaboration with EAEU member states, including Kyrgyz-

stan. Both Iranian and Kyrgyz officials underscored the importance of ongoing negotiations and high-level visits to foster stronger relations between the two countries. The meetings also addressed the upcoming joint economic commission meeting, Kyrgyzstan's participation in Iran Expo, and the potential for expanding tour-

ism initiatives. Najafi's itinerary included a meeting with Sariev Temir Argembaevich, head of the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as discussions at Slavik University, where he engaged with students and local business leaders to further promote economic and cultural exchanges between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

Special award for documentarians at Int'l Resistance Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The 18th International Resistance Film Festival is set to launch a new accolade, the "Morteza Badge," aimed at honoring documentarians whose films reflect the ideals of Martyr Morteza Avini, revered as the Martyr of the Pen. Jalal Ghafari, the festival's secretary and head of the Martyr Avini School of Art and Media, announced that this year has seen a notable surge in documentary submissions. Ghafari highlighted the influx of high-quality films from both Iran and international filmmakers, marking a significant improvement in the caliber and

volume of entries compared to previous years. "The response has been overwhelming," Ghafari stated. "We have received exceptional works from institutions such as Owj Arts and Media Organization, and the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC)." This year's festival features contributions from a range of revolutionary documentarians and national congresses dedicated to honoring martyrs. The introduction of the "Morteza Badge" signifies the festival's commitment to celebrating the art of documentary filmmaking that resonates with Avini's themes of sacrifice, resilience, and social justice.

Iran's 'Art+Art' exhibition bonds 22 artists worldwide

Arts & Culture Desk

The 'Art+Art' exhibition opened at the Zhinous Art Gallery in Tehran on February 28, featuring a diverse collection of works from 22 Iranian and international artists. The event, which includes both in-person and online components, aims to celebrate artistic expression and cross-cultural collaboration, ISNA reported. The exhibition's opening night drew artists and art enthusiasts alike, showcasing 21 physical pieces created by artists including Mohammad Ebrahim Norouzi, Mahvash Doulatbadi, and Shirin Madani from Hungary, among others. The online part features works by international artists such as Vera Jochum (Germany), Alex Rennie (England), Bryan Mark Taylor (the US), and Angelika Maria Gomolinska (Poland)



In a statement, artistic director Moloud Azimpour described the exhibition as a collection of pieces that reflect poetic sensitivities and meticulous execution. "The moments spent viewing 'Art+Art' reveal impactful artworks that transform forms and shapes into visually stunning elements," Azimpour noted. Visitors have until March 6, 2025, to view the exhibition, which is open daily at the Zhinous Art Gallery in Tehran.

Invitation to Tender

First Announcement



شرکت ملی مس‌نیک ایران

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to hold a tender for "Procurement of Rotary Blasthole Drill Rigs with ability to perform drilling diameter of 9-11 inches". For more information, please refer to the official website of company as below:

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