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Pezeshkian urges assured, equitable healthcare for all

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian urged the country's health system to ensure that all citizens, particularly those facing financial hardship, feel "assured" their health concerns will be addressed, emphasizing the need for improved and equitable access to medical care. Speaking at a meeting with the heads of medical science universities on Friday, Pezeshkian said the public must sense that healthcare authorities are "concerned about addressing their needs." He warned that neglecting the health of the most vulnerable could "lead to problems," adding that both the government

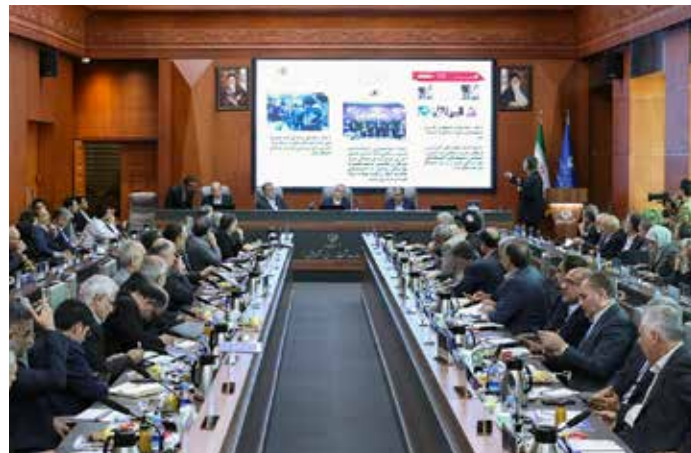
and society "expect better health services" from hospitals and clinics. Pezeshkian outlined plans to expand public participation and foster "intersectoral cooperation" to guarantee fair distribution of healthcare. "If we encourage public participation and cooperation, all problems can be solved," he said, highlighting the administration's intention to involve citizens in shaping health policy. The president noted the growing role of health centers across the country, stressing that these facilities must serve as "main hubs for healthcare services." He also called for the creation of hospital referral centers and the adoption of modern approach-

es, including virtual care, to enhance both the quality and reach of medical services. Pezeshkian stressed that improving the "quantity and quality" of health professionals is essential to meet rising demands. He further linked advances in healthcare to broader government initiatives, stating, "If we gain public support and participation, we can advance our programs in housing, employment, healthcare, livelihood, and education." Addressing the broader determinants of health, Pezeshkian said, "Health is not limited to medicine and treatment alone," pointing to the impact of social factors, economic challenges, and mental health on overall



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the audience in a meeting with the heads of medical science universities on April 18, 2025.
● president.ir

well-being. "We are responsible for the health of the people, and that means every factor disrupting people's lives must be managed and rebuilt by us," he said. Calling for unity and collective effort, Pezeshkian urged officials and society to "seize this opportunity to serve the people." He added, "All disputes stem from our own egos. We must set aside these egos and join hands for the comfort of the people and to solve the country's problems."



The president concluded by emphasizing that if the objective is clear, "nothing can stop you." He called on all stakeholders

to "strive wholeheartedly" to achieve the shared goal of preserving both the health and dignity of the nation.



Portrait of injured Gazan boy named World Press Photo of the Year

A haunting image of a young Gazan boy recovering from war injuries has been named World Press Photo of the Year for 2025. The portrait, taken by Palestinian photographer Samar Abu Elouf for the New York Times, shows nine-year-old Mahmoud Ajjour, who lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City in March 2024, BBC reported. Abu Elouf, who was evacuated from Gaza

in late 2023, lives in the same apartment complex as Mahmoud in Doha, Qatar. She has documented the lives of several wounded Gazans who made it out for treatment. "This is a quiet photo that speaks loudly," said World Press Photo executive director Joumana El Zein Khoury. "It tells the story of one boy, but also of a wider war that will have an impact for generations."

Abu Elouf had already won the prestigious Polk Award in 2023 for - among others in a collection - what has become one of the most recognisable and defining images of Israel's war on Gaza, in which children sheltering at a school in Gaza look up in fear at the sky, hearing the bombs fall around them. In 2024, Abu Elouf was the recipient of the Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award from the International

Women's Media Foundation for a series of 12 images commissioned by her primary employer, The New York Times, documenting the impact of war on Gaza's women and children. This year's winners represent the best of the 59,320 photographs by 3,778 photographers from 141 countries. The three categories were singles (solo photographs), stories (series of 4-10 photos) and long-term projects (24-30 photos on a single theme).

Iran's 'Black Scarf' wins top prize in Spain

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian short film 'Black Scarf' has been awarded the Grand Prix for Best Short Film at the 22nd San Sebastián Human Rights Film Festival, organizers announced. Written and directed by Alireza Shahhosseini, the 15-minute drama stood out among international entries for its poignant exploration of human rights themes, ILNA reported. Produced by the Shah Hossein Film Company, 'Black Scarf' competed in the festival's main competition, which is recognized for spotlighting films addressing urgent social issues such as freedom of speech, women's rights, and the plight of marginalized groups. The festival, held annually in San Sebastián, Spain, is renowned for its commitment to "attract international attention to the infringement of human rights around the world through artistic means," with juries including representatives



from Amnesty International. The film's synopsis offers a glimpse into its somber narrative: "Do you know anything about spiders? ... They eat their own mates." This chilling metaphor underscores the film's exploration of sacrifice and survival within oppressive circumstances. According to IMDb, 'Black Scarf' unfolds on the last working day of a teacher in a remote village, where a simple request from his students alters the course of events.

Sa'adi's 'Bustan' named Best Translated Work at Sarajevo Int'l Book Fair

Arts & Culture Desk

Persian poet Sa'adi's 'Bustan' has been awarded Best Translated Work in World Literature into Bosnian at the 36th Sarajevo International Book Fair, which concluded this week in the Bosnian capital. The announcement coincided with events marking Sa'adi's literary legacy on the fair's closing day. The Sarajevo International Book Fair, one of the region's largest cultural gatherings, annually attracts more than 50,000 visitors and features over 200 exhibitors from Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond, Mehr News Agency re-

ported. The fair's awards recognize outstanding achievements in various literary categories, including translations between Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, and other languages. This year, the Bosnian edition of 'Bustan'—translated by Muammar Kudrich—received the top honor for translated works. The translation was produced through a collaboration between Iran's Cultural Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina and local publisher Dubrovkinja, with support from the Center for Organizing the Translation and Publication of Islamic Knowledge and Humanities, part of Iran's Cul-

tural and Relations Organization. The project is part of the "Translation of Persia (TOP)" initiative, which aims to promote Persian literature in new languages. Kudrich's translation is the first complete Bosnian rendition of 'Bustan', based on the critical edition by Mohammad Ali Foroughi. The translator sought to preserve the poem's original structure and style as faithfully as possible. In his introduction, Kudrich highlights Sa'adi's enduring influence across the Islamic world, noting that 'Bustan' and 'Golestan' are among the most celebrated and widely published works of classical Persian literature.

Strategic importance of...

In a world where fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal are running out, energy has increasingly become the driving force behind global power shifts. According to experts, any nation that continues to lean on fossil fuel consumption and sales over the next forty years is bound to hit the skids economically. That's why getting a handle on nuclear know-how and industry has become an inevitable necessity for fuel-dependent nations. Iran's investment in nuclear technology is not just about power—it carries weight across scientific, economic, political, and security spheres, underscoring its strategic value.

Nuclear science sits at the cutting edge of modern technology. By diving into this field, Iran has staked out its position as a scientifically independent nation. Despite being slapped with unilateral and unlawful sanctions, the country has pressed ahead with its nuclear development—a badge of honor that reflects its technological resilience. Beyond energy, nuclear tech spills over into critical sectors like healthcare, farming, and industry. Even with its vast oil and gas reserves, Iran has been doubling down on clean, renewable energy to shore up its energy portfolio. As population growth and electricity demand pick up speed, nuclear power steps in as a vital and sustain-

able energy source for the long haul. With fossil fuels tapering off, nuclear energy is coming into its own as a safe and solid fallback. Uranium resources worldwide could supply energy for up to five million years, cutting back on Iran's dependence on fossil fuels and setting aside national reserves for future generations. Moreover, the domestication of nuclear technology also acts as a deterrent against potential threats, reinforcing its geopolitical standing in global affairs. This technological allows the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish itself as a scientific and technological power with considerable influence in regional and international dynamics.

Given its wide-ranging peaceful applications, nuclear energy has long been high on the agenda for advanced nations. Iran, too, has stayed the course with a focus on peaceful nuclear research and development, particularly in medicine, agriculture, and industry. Each year in April, the country shows off its progress on National Nuclear Technology Day. Mastery in this field not only paves the way for sustainable growth, but also helps raise the bar for living standards. It is worth noting that a single 12-millimeter uranium fuel pellet—when slotted into a reactor—packs the punch of three barrels of oil or 486 cubic meters of natural gas. For a nation like Iran, where fossil fuel consumption and

exports still hold sway, a shift toward nuclear power can ease the burden of costly imports and open new doors for economic expansion via nuclear-related exports, pushing forward technological and economic growth. Iran's peaceful nuclear program holds strategic significance across scientific, economic, political, security, and geopolitical dimensions. Attaining nuclear technology not only strengthens Iran's scientific and technological independence, but also ensures energy sustainability, elevates its international standing, fortifies national security, and fosters sustainable development—ultimately enhancing the welfare and quality of life for its people.