

Justice in education begins with equal opportunity, Pezeshkian says

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of equal educational opportunities in a speech on Sunday, declaring that justice in education begins with providing every child, regardless of their background, the chance to succeed. Speaking at a ceremony honoring top educators in Tehran, Pezeshkian called for a national effort to ensure that all children, especially those from disadvantaged communities, receive meaningful and goal-oriented education, president.ir reported. Pezeshkian urged schools to become platforms for “goal-oriented” and effective learning, stressing that “the real asset” of the country lies not in its industries but in its children. “What teachers plant today is the future of the country,” the president said, calling on educators to instill the belief that “children can shine in healthy competition” and develop essential skills in a nurturing space. While announcing plans to expand school construction nationwide, Pezeshkian made clear that infrastructure alone isn’t the goal. “Building schools is not the endpoint,” he said. “We must create an environment where quality education thrives.”



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony to honor top educators in Tehran on May 4, 2025
● president.ir

Pezeshkian warned that neglecting disadvantaged communities would stall national progress. “If we want to build the country,” he said, “we have to see all children—not just those with money.” He pointed to historical examples of great change-makers emerging from humble backgrounds. The president also pressed for a shift in educational values, urging decision-makers to prioritize capability and integrity over rank or wealth. “Choosing the wrong people because of status leads us astray,” he said, invoking both human experience and religious teachings. “Justice in leadership,” he added, “is rooted in our faith.” Iran has struggled with education disparities across provinces. According to the Ministry of Education, rural and underfunded regions see higher dropout rates and limited access to qualified teachers. He also emphasized that children must be raised to be “creative, capable, and honest,” and not simply conform to appearances. “They should strive to display their skills, not just themselves.”



The ceremony comes amid Iran’s renewed push to overhaul its public education system, which critics say remains outdated and overly central-

ized. The government’s school-building drive, launched in early 2024, aims to add thousands of classrooms, but Pezeshkian stressed that curriculum

and character-building must come first. “If we get this right,” he said in closing, “Iran will not fall behind any nation.”

Iran plans tourism event in September to attract global operators



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The Iranian Association of Travel Agencies (IATA) has confirmed plans to host a larger tourism event this September, following requests from major international tour operators after last week’s gathering of 145 operators from 33 countries.

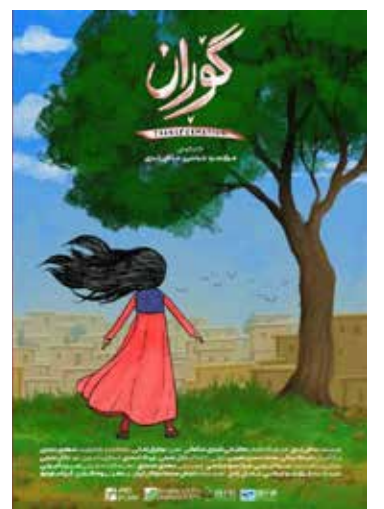
The event, set to take place in early September, will be a major expansion of the recent B2B meetings, said Hormatollah Rafiei, the association’s president, IRNA reported. Speaking at a press conference on May 4, Rafiei explained that the demand from global tour operators for access to Iran had increased significantly following the success of last week’s event. The event, held in conjunction with the 7th Iran Expo exhibition, was the first time tourism had been included in the Expo and proved to be a key platform for fostering international collaboration. Rafiei revealed that the B2B

sessions in Tehran and Kish had yielded promising results, with 120 Iranian tour operators meeting their counterparts from around the world. However, due to space limitations, some foreign operators were unable to participate, prompting the association to organize a larger event in September. “Due to the high demand from foreign agencies, we have decided to host an even larger event, without relying on government support,” Rafiei said. He added that the focus would be on neighboring countries such as India, Pakistan, Russia, and Iraq, which together account for over 80% of inbound tourism

to Iran. Although the Iranian government had previously announced plans to bring international tour operators to the country, the association took the lead in organizing the event after delays from the private sector. Rafiei emphasized that the primary goal of the association is to ensure the arrival of “real” tourists, stating that “we need to focus on bringing genuine tourists, not just boosting numbers.” He further expressed concern over the challenges faced by Iran’s tourism sector, pointing to the lack of investment from both private and government sectors. “Iran is still struggling to realise

the true potential of its tourism industry,” Rafiei said, referencing the ongoing financial and logistical obstacles the sector faces. In addition to the upcoming September event, Rafiei underscored the importance of focusing on neighboring countries for tourism growth, citing the examples of France and Turkey, whose tourism industries are heavily reliant on nearby regions. Despite these efforts, Rafiei noted that the Iranian tourism sector is still grappling with significant issues such as high costs, excessive taxation, and bureaucratic hurdles, which continue to impede the industry’s development.

Iran’s animation ‘Goran’ wins Special Jury Award at Düsseldorf festival



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The animated film ‘Goran,’ directed by Adnan Zandi and Faraz Seyed Abbasi, won the Special Jury Award at the Düsseldorf Kurdish Film Festival (DKFF), Germany, continuing its successful international journey. The festival, held from April 23 to April 27, showcased a range of films while also offering cultural programs aimed at promoting Kurdish heritage, tolerance, and solidarity. Through discussions and events, the festival seeks to foster understanding of Kurdish culture and history, ILNA reported. ‘Goran’ tells the story of a young girl battling cancer, with nature coming to her aid. The animation is a production of the Kurdish Youth Cinema Association, with international distribution handled by Befir Production, led by Sina Ayoubi.

Master painter Farshchian urges youth to embrace perseverance, Persian literature



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Celebrated Iranian painter Mahmoud Farshchian called on the younger generation to “embrace hard work” and cherish Persian literature during a tribute event for the late master artist Isa Bahadori. The comments came on Sunday, at a screening of ‘Mystery of Isa,’ a documentary directed by Abtin Shomeily, held

at Documentary, Experimental & Animation Film Center (DEFC) of Iran, IRNA reported. “I advise young people not to tire of persistence and exploration,” said Farshchian in a live phone call played during the gathering. He encouraged students to stay connected with Iran’s literary heritage, adding, “Art has wide horizons; our ambition must match that breadth.” Farshchian, best known for the painting ‘Ashura Evening,’ paid homage to Isa Bahadori, his mentor and the founder of the School of Fine Arts in Isfahan. “No one in the history of Iranian art resembled Bahadori,” he said. “His vision was singular. His innovations in carpet design opened a new chapter.” The event, held a day after Iran’s Teacher’s Day (May 2), drew a strong turnout from art students and faculty.

Organized in partnership with the Farshchian University of Islamic-Iranian Arts, it featured speeches by top cultural figures including Sajjad Mohammadyarzadeh, president of the university, and Abdolhossein Khosropanah, secretary of Iran’s Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution. Khosropanah praised Bahadori’s legacy, noting that even Islamic-Christian dialogue found artistic form in his tile work. “We philosophers may talk for hours about religious unity, but Bahadori showed it through art,” he said. ‘Mystery of Isa,’ produced by Mohsen Tabatabaee-Pour, goes beyond biography. It reflects on the wider tradition of Persian visual arts and its spiritual lineage. Director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam said the film is part of a larger effort to “reclaim and honor national cultural icons.”

“Documentary cinema has the power to rediscover what society has overlooked,” said Hamidi-Moqaddam. He described Farshchian as the “spiritual father” of the film and emphasized the importance of connecting with younger audiences through heritage storytelling. Bahadori, who passed away in 1992, was a master of carpet design, metalwork, and miniature painting. His teaching lineage includes many who helped preserve Iran’s traditional crafts in the 20th century. Farshchian’s remarks underscored the spiritual depth of Iranian art. Reflecting on ‘Ashura Evening,’ he said it was born in solitude, inspired by his mother’s suggestion to attend mourning ceremonies. “That painting is a bridge between heaven and earth,” said Khosropanah, calling it a “new creation” rich with wisdom and insight.