



# Pezeshkian urges urgent action amid worsening water crisis

## Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday said the country's water crisis, especially in Tehran, is "more serious than widely discussed," calling for swift and coordinated action to avert long-term damage. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting addressing provincial governors, a day after cabinet meeting in Tehran, at a national conference focused on decentralization and local governance. Together, the back-to-back meetings laid out the government's push for stronger public engagement, administrative reform, and coordinated crisis response, president.ir reported. "Without immediate planning, we'll soon face a situation that cannot be reversed," Pezeshkian said, citing a report by the Energy Ministry on falling reserves and severe supply imbalance in

the capital. "This issue is not about nature. It stems from past decisions. And now we must correct our course with precision and accountability." The president stressed that water consumption must be curbed alongside long-term supply planning. He warned that simply diverting water from other regions to Tehran would not solve the core challenge. He also urged a freeze on expansion plans for water-intensive industries in the capital. "If we don't act quickly, the entire region will be hit by a deeper crisis," he said. Pezeshkian addressed governors from across Iran in a nationwide summit at the Interior Ministry, where he reiterated his government's commitment to devolving power and responsibilities to local officials. "Delegation of authority is the right move—and we will not back away from it," he said. "Yes, we may hit some

bumps along the way, but we'll fix them through cooperation and coordination." Highlighting lessons from the recent 12-day war with Israel, the president praised what he called "exceptional leadership" by Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and spontaneous public mobilization. He pointed to how communities, especially in healthcare, volunteered during the crisis, offering "rare displays of sacrifice and unity." Pezeshkian called on governors to serve as "presidents of their provinces," urging them to move fast, understand local needs, and harness grassroots capacities. He said the key to development is justice in appointments, respect for roles, and inclusion of all groups, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or belief. Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, who opened the Monday session, said the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) speaks at a meeting with provincial governors in Tehran, July 21, 2025.  
● president.ir

administration's neighborhood-focused approach had proven effective during the conflict and should serve as a roadmap for crisis management moving forward. "The power of local institutions—mosques, civil organizations, and volunteers—

showed us how to push through in the toughest of moments," he said. The water situation remains critical across the country. According to Isa Bozorgzadeh, spokesperson for Iran's water industry, 50 cities in 24 provinces are now expe-

riencing water stress. Only 21% of Tehran's dam capacity is currently full, and half of that is lost to sediment. He urged residents to cut consumption by at least 25% to avoid supply disruptions. Bozorgzadeh added that 1,200 critical connections—

such as hospitals—have already been fitted with emergency storage systems, and upgrades to water control infrastructure are underway. He warned that without proper consumption management, the situation would directly affect water availability and public welfare in Tehran and Alborz provinces, urging citizens to consider the conditions and help the country get through the crisis. "We ask citizens to immediately report any pressure drops or outages through the 122 hotline so we can address them quickly," he said. The president emphasized the need for clear public communication, future-oriented policymaking, and cross-sector collaboration to overcome the growing water challenge. "This is a national task," he said. "Both the government and the people must stand together."

## National broadcaster commemorates media staff fallen in Israeli aggression

The Sobh Media Center held a commemorative ceremony on Sunday honoring journalists martyred in recent Israeli aggression against Iran. The event was attended by the families of the martyred journalists, along with 15 foreign journalists currently visiting Iran at the invitation of the Sobh Media Center. The ceremony was also attended by IRIB President Peyman Jabelli as the chief guest and IRIB World Service Director Ahmad Noroozi delivered the keynote address. Both Jabelli and Noroozi expressed their deep admiration for the bravery and dedication of the fallen journalists in Tehran and Gaza, Press TV reported. Noroozi stated that the shaken Israeli regime has shown it will do whatever is in its power—even commit all kinds of war crimes—just to survive. Jabelli also said the voice of truth cannot be silenced by the Zionist entity, praising all those who stood on the right side of history, alongside truth and righteousness. Veteran filmmaker Ahmad Reza Darvish presented IRIB anchor Sahar Emami with his Crystal Simorgh Award for her extraordinary bravery during the Israeli aggression on IRIB on June 16. At the time of the strike, Emami was delivering a live broadcast covering Israel's military aggression against Iran. Despite the tremors from the first blast, she continued the broadcast uninterrupted. During the ceremony, the Sahar Emami Special Award of the Sobh Media Festival was unveiled and presented to Hooman Khalili, newsroom manager at IRIB. Speaking to Press TV, Emami pointed out that the Israeli regime is angry with all journalists and media outlets that report the truth about its aggressions, aiming to silence them through targeted attacks. American journalist Calla Walsh also highlighted that the US has directly facilitated the aggression against Iran, adding that Iran is being targeted because of its unwavering support for Palestine and resistance to Zionism.



Sahar Emami, IRIB anchor, receives an award during a commemorative ceremony honoring IRIB staff martyred in Israeli aggression hosted by Sobh Media Center, July 20, 2025.  
● PRESS TV

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders and nuclear scientists. The Israeli attacks also targeted military and nuclear sites as well as vital non-military infrastructure, including a building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Evin Prison, healthcare centers, outreach facilities, and both residential neighborhoods and rural communities, inflicting widespread civilian harm. These attacks also caused over 1,000 civilian fatalities. In response, the Iranian armed forces, led by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), launched a powerful and unprecedented retaliatory campaign, Operation True Promise III, against the Israeli regime, using many of its domestically developed new-generation missiles for the first time. Hundreds of Iranian ballistic missiles and drones overwhelmed Israeli air defenses and struck key military, intelligence, industrial, energy, and R&D facilities across the occupied Palestinian territories. On June 24, the Israeli regime, isolated and abandoned, declared a unilateral halt to its aggression, announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump.

## 'The Forgotten' shortlisted for Kolkata film award

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian documentary 'The Forgotten' has been shortlisted for the top documentary prize at the 4th World Film Festival Kolkata, organizers confirmed on Monday. The festival, held from August 15-21, will screen 37 films tackling "social and environmental concerns" from countries including Germany, Japan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Russia, and the United States, ILNA reported. Seven documentaries are in the running for the main non-fiction trophy, with 'The Forgotten' competing under the

direction of Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi. Produced by Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting's Media Trade, the dramatic documentary tells the story of Abdolkazem Saki, a decorated Paralympian and world champion. Living beside the Hoor al-Azim Wetland in Khuzestan, Saki maintains his daily physical training despite the wetlands' decline. Organisers said his "professional destiny mirrors the fate" of the marsh itself. IRIB Media Trade is handling the international distribution of the film. Three awards will be handed out by the festival's distin-



guished jury: best feature (60 minutes and above), best short (under 60 minutes), and best documentary (under 90 minutes). The screenings take place at Nandan, India's leading film center in Kolkata.

## Iran's 'Black Scarf' on French festival silver screens as global acclaim builds

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Black Scarf,' directed by Ali-reza Shahhosseini, was featured in the main competition of France's 14th Cinema Toward Freedom festival, which ran July 19-21 in the southern city of Toulon. The screening marks another international appearance for Shahhosseini's work, which has drawn increasing attention across Europe for its psychological depth and sharp narrative, according to ILNA. The film had earlier received the Special Jury Prize at Spain's DiversidArte Social Inclusion Festival, where judges called it "deeply moving" and "remarkably striking." Produced by Shahhosseini Film, an international production company, Black Scarf delivers a tense, metaphor-laden story centered around a chilling line: "Do you know anything about spiders? They eat their mates." The phrase, drawn from the official synopsis, underscores the film's



dark, emotional tone. The cast includes Pasha Rostami, Tara Majidzadeh, Lotfollah Seifi, Mahna Seyyedi, the late Hatem Mashmouli, Javad Falahatkar, Hasti Gharib, Iraj Abedi, Naser Marefat, Ebrahim Naji, and Arshia Cheraghi. In Spain, Shahhosseini donated his €500 prize to families affected by this year's 12-day war between Iran and Israel. The gesture, described by the filmmaker as a tribute to "martyrs and war veterans," has further elevated the film's profile and message.