

International Workers' Day

President: Iran's progress depends on laborers' dignity, job security

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday that Iran's national development hinges on improving workers' living conditions, job security and dignity, placing labor welfare at the center of state policy in a message marking International Workers' Day, according to an official presidential statement. Pezeshkian framed the labor force as a decisive driver of economic stability and social cohesion, stressing that progress would not be possible without ensuring "dignity, peace and hope" for workers, president.ir reported. He said the administration considers protecting workers' rights and livelihoods a core responsibility,

alongside efforts to boost productivity and workplace equity. "Being a worker is not merely a job," he said, describing it as a form of "dignified living" tied to responsibility and nation-building. The president pointed to workers' role in sustaining production under pressure, from the years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War to more recent economic challenges. He said the labor force has consistently underpinned the country's resilience and capacity to navigate external shocks. Pezeshkian, recalling his own early experience with manual labor, said that background informed his understanding of workers' daily re-

alities and reinforced the need for policies that secure stable incomes and safe working conditions. He added that workers remain at the forefront of efforts to strengthen self-sufficiency and maintain industrial output, describing them as a key support base for the government's reconstruction and development agenda. The President also paid tribute to members of the labor community who lost their lives over the years, and extended congratulations to workers nationwide. International Workers' Day, observed on May 1, is marked in Iran with official messages and policy emphasis on labor rights, social protection and economic participation.



Motorcycle rally sets off to denounce attacks on Iran's cultural heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Touring and Automobile Club launched a two-day motorcycle rally on April 30 from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in Tehran toward Lorestan Province, organizers said, to condemn recent attacks on the country's historical sites and rally support for their protection. Branded the "Falak-ol-Aflak" tour, the event brought together 40 motorcycles organized by the club's National Motorcycle Tourism division. Riders set off from the capital, heading southwest through Qom and Markazi provinces en route to the ancient Falak-ol-Aflak fortress in Khorramabad, a site that sustained damage during



the recent 40-day conflict, IRNA reported. Participants are due to gather at the fortress on May 1, the rally's second day, to amplify the slogan "Cultural heritage is the red line of history and human identity," framing the convoy as both a symbolic protest and a mobile campaign for preservation. Organizers described the initiative as part of a broader series of cultural responses to what they called "aggression" tar-

getting Iran's historical assets, which they said form an integral part of the shared heritage of humanity. "This is about safeguarding memory," one organizer said, calling protection of cultural patrimony a "global duty." According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, around 149 historical sites across the country were damaged or destroyed during the recent hostilities, with estimated losses reaching roughly 7.5 trillion tomans. The rally follows a similar event held in Tehran on April 24, when dozens of classic cars toured the capital under the same slogan, turning city streets into a rolling display of cultural advocacy and underscoring calls for heightened international awareness of heritage preservation.

'Silent Scream' poster unveiled to commemorate Minab school victims

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian illustrator Mohammadreza Doostmohammadi unveiled his latest poster 'Silent Scream' on state television, commemorating victims of the Shajarah Tayebah school tragedy in Minab, which occurred on February 28 during US-Israeli strikes. The work centers on what Doostmohammadi described as one of the "most bitter" incidents of the early days of the imposed war against Iran, when three missiles struck the school, killing 168 students, staff and a driver. "The scale defies" ordinary description, he said, adding the piece seeks to keep the memory alive and translate public grief into a visual narrative, ISNA reported. Doostmohammadi said the



poster channels a "silent cry," portraying suffocation and suppressed anguish. The composition features a symbolic human figure wrapped in fabric, unable to break free, as bulldozers carve into the face, evoking both

grave-digging and emotional trauma. A widely circulated documentary image of burial sites anchors the lower section, reinforcing the historical reference. He cited the absence of closure in some cases, including a child whose remains were never found, calling it a "profound tragedy." The artist said such works help prevent the event from fading "under the dust of history" and underscore the responsibility of media and cultural figures to preserve collective memory. Two brief lines in the poster address international human rights bodies, questioning what the artist characterized as "inaction." He said the title 'Silent Scream' captures a grief that remains lodged in the throat, unspoken yet enduring.

Blast damages western Iran's Darreh-Shahr museum as artifacts remain protected

Arts & Culture Desk

The Darreh-Shahr Archaeological Museum in Iran's western Ilam Province sustained an estimated 100 billion rials (\$5,650) in structural damage during the recent US-Israeli strikes on Iran, provincial heritage officials said on Thursday, while confirming that all historical artifacts were moved to secure locations before the escalation and remained unharmed. Raed Naserifar, deputy head of Cultural Heritage in Ilam, told ISNA that the museum was affected by blast shockwaves, resulting in damage to windows, display cases, and

parts of the false ceiling. "We implemented pre-emptive measures," he said, adding that the collections were "fully transferred" before the onset of hostilities. "Not a single historical object was exposed to direct risk," Naserifar said, underscoring that protective protocols were activated in advance in coordination with national security and heritage authorities. Across the country, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has reported that 149 historical sites in 20 provinces sustained varying degrees of damage during the conflict period,

with total losses estimated at around \$48 million, highlighting the nationwide impact on cultural infrastructure. Despite the structural setback, officials stressed that the museum's core integrity remains intact. Restoration assessments have been completed and emergency funding procedures are underway to accelerate repairs. Naserifar said the damage is "mostly superficial," noting that priority is now being given to rapid restoration so the museum can resume full operations and continue its role as a key repository of regional archaeological heritage.

Iran nears malaria elimination as cross-border controls bolster regional health

Social Desk

Iran has edged to the brink of eliminating local malaria transmission despite climatic and border challenges, a senior health official said on Friday, marking the country's expanding role in safeguarding regional public health. Ghobad Moradi, head of the Center for Communicable Diseases Control, told a World Malaria Day ceremony that sustained interventions have driven domestic transmission to minimal levels, even as imported cases persist along eastern frontiers. "Maintaining" these gains, he said, is harder than achieving them. Malaria once ranked among Iran's leading causes of illness and death, particularly from the 1930s through subsequent decades, prompting the creation of a national eradication body. Today, Moradi said, a significant share of infections is "imported," accounting for roughly 20-25% of total cases



in recent years, largely linked to cross-border movement. He stressed that Iran's high vaccination coverage and disease-control infrastructure not only protect its population but also act as a buffer against wider spread of communicable diseases. With neighbors still grappling with infections such as polio, Iran's containment efforts help curb regional spillover and reinforce global health security. Recent epidemiological trends point to a narrowing window for elimination. After three consecutive years with no local transmission, case numbers briefly surged above 10,000 amid regional shifts and climate variability. The trajectory

has since reversed, with local transmission falling to about 500 cases last year. Moradi described the moment as a "unique opportunity" to stamp out remaining transmission through intensified surveillance and targeted interventions in affected areas including Rask, Saravan, Dashtiari, Mehrstan, Sarbaz, Chabahar, Suran, Iran-shahr, Zahedan, Bandar Abbas, and Bushehr. "Iran can and must act now," he said, echoing this year's World Malaria Day theme, and adding that the country's experience in navigating major health challenges positions it to achieve full elimination. In a separate message marking the national day against diseases, Moradi commended frontline health workers for "outstanding" efforts, citing advances in vaccination coverage and the control or elimination of key illnesses such as measles, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and hepatitis as achievements with international resonance.