



Pezeshkian urges universities to help tackle key national woes

Social Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday called on Iranian universities to take a direct role in tackling the country's most pressing challenges, telling management professors in Tehran that the government aims to place scientific expertise at the heart of policymaking and public administration. Speaking at his second specialized meeting with university faculty members, Pezeshkian said the administration's university-centered strategy is a cornerstone of improving governance and raising the efficiency of state institutions, president.ir reported. "Universities should directly assume responsibility for solving the country's real-world problems," he said. The president outlined a broad role for academic institutions in helping improve productivity, modernize management systems, streamline financial administration, boost human capital, reform

regulations, and strengthen strategic planning across government agencies and organizations. He said the results should be measured through clear performance indicators and the value they create. Pezeshkian also stressed that universities should become training grounds for future decision-makers by integrating education with practical experience. "Students should learn while working in the field," he said, adding that such an approach would produce capable managers with firsthand experience in addressing national issues. Merit-based appointments, rather than political considerations or personal connections, should guide public-sector recruitment and promotions, the president said, describing meritocracy as an essential principle of modern management and effective governance. He identified energy consumption management as another priority where universities could make a tangible con-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd L) speaks at a meeting with university faculty members in Tehran on July 13, 2026.
● president.ir

tribution. Decisions on energy development and consumption, he said, must be grounded in scientific research while taking economic, social, human, and environmental considerations into account. "If a manager cannot properly control resource and energy consumption within the organization they oversee, their effectiveness should be questioned," Pezeshkian said, adding that public managers should be evaluated on productivity, efficient resource management, service quality, and public satisfaction. The president also called for performance-based pay reforms and greater investment in professional skills development, saying universities could play a pivotal role in redesigning compensation systems and strengthening workforce



capabilities. He added that expanding teamwork and applying modern management practic-

es would help accelerate administrative reform and support the country's long-term development.

Alamut awaits global recognition after 25 years of conservation

Arts & Culture Desk

A quarter-century of archaeological excavation, conservation and restoration has brought Iran's Alamut fortress complex to the brink of UNESCO World Heritage inscription, the site's heritage chief said. The World Heritage Committee is scheduled to review the nomination during its 48th session in Busan, South Korea, from July 19 to 29, ISNA wrote. If approved, "Alamut Castle and its Defensive Fortifications" would become Iran's 30th UNESCO World Heritage property. Archaeologist and Alamut Cultural Heritage Base director Hamideh Choubak said the nomination reflects 25 years of continuous archaeological research, preservation, restoration and interdisciplinary studies carried out across the historic Alamut region.

"After a quarter-century of sustained national heritage projects, the Alamut fortress and its defensive network have reached the stage of UNESCO consideration," Choubak said. She credited the achievement to years of cooperation among government agencies, technical teams and heritage specialists. International evaluators visited the site last year and completed detailed technical assessments that will form part of the committee's deliberations. Choubak said the outcome cannot be predicted, as committee members will base their decision on ICOMOS evaluations and other expert reports. She said authorities have already implemented key measures required under the site's management plan, including documentation, conservation work, road improvements, upgrades in the village of Gazor Khan, and visitor facilities such as water supply,

parking and public services. A two-year action plan and longer-term programs extending over the next decade will guide future conservation, infrastructure and tourism management. Archaeological excavations at Alamut are expected to resume in late September after the peak tourist season. Choubak said excavation must always be matched by conservation efforts. "Excavation alone is not enough," she said. "Every archaeological project must proceed alongside preservation and restoration." The serial nomination comprises seven medieval fortresses, including Alamut Castle, the former center of the Nizari Ismaili state, and Lambarsar Castle, the largest fortress in the network, together with five other strongholds that formed the integrated defensive landscape of the Alamut region.

Iran proposes OIC women's relief network, shared trade label at Islamabad summit



Social Desk

Iran proposed a pan-Islamic women's emergency relief network and a shared certification label for products made by Muslim women at the Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Islamabad on Monday, with Iran presenting initiatives to strengthen humanitarian cooperation and women's economic participation across member states. Addressing ministers from OIC countries, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar said the proposals were designed to bridge two common challenges facing the Islamic world: Improving support for women and children during humanitarian crises and widening market access for women-led businesses, IRNA reported. "Our first proposal is the establishment of a Network of Women Relief Workers of the Islamic World," she said. The initiative would connect female doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, relief personnel and volunteers across OIC member states, organize joint training, develop common emergency

response protocols for women and children, and prepare rapid-deployment teams for humanitarian crises. Behrouz-Azar also proposed introducing a common label for products made by Muslim women, saying it would help women entrepreneurs reach regional and international markets while assuring consumers of defined standards for quality, authenticity and social responsibility. "The empowerment chain remains incomplete when women cannot access broader markets," she said. The certification could cover women's cooperatives, family businesses, local producers and small and medium-sized enterprises managed by women, alongside a shared digital marketplace, trade exhibitions, Islamic financial services and export-oriented branding and packaging programs. Noting Iran's experience in expanding women's participation, Behrouz-Azar said women account for more than 56% of university admissions, nearly 46% of doctoral graduates, 68% of specialists in the basic sciences, about one-quarter of senior executives at knowledge-based companies, and 35% of university faculty members. She said the initiatives build on shared Islamic values of "human dignity, justice, compassion, family, knowledge, cooperation and social responsibility." "The future of the Islamic world will pass through the bridges we build together today," Behrouz-Azar told delegates, urging member states to strengthen practical cooperation rather than wait for ideal conditions.

Hormozgan heritage NGO wins UNESCO advisory status

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Hormozgan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department announced on Monday that the Hormozgan Cultural Heritage Custodians Association won UNESCO consultative status for 2026, becoming only the fourth Iranian non-governmental organization to join the global advisory network after organizations from Tehran, Yazd and Isfahan. The recognition marks a rare international milestone for the southern province and gives the association a formal role in international discussions on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage while expanding opportunities to showcase Hormozgan's traditions, rituals and handicrafts on the global stage. "The achievement is a strategic step in Hormozgan's cultural diplomacy," Director General Adel Shahrzad said, adding that the new standing would "introduce the province's civilizational heritage, living traditions and hand-

icrafts to a broader international audience." According to UNESCO figures cited by the official, only 317 non-governmental organizations worldwide currently hold consultative status. Shahrzad described the selection process as "highly rigorous," saying experts spent months preparing documentation that met international standards before UNESCO members voted on June 17 and 18. The organization published the final results this week. The new status recognizes the association's institutional qualifications to contribute to policymaking on protecting intangible cultural heritage and enables it to participate in international heritage consultations. Located along the Persian Gulf, Hormozgan is home to more than 300 historical and cultural sites, strengthening its profile as one of Iran's leading heritage destinations while providing a broad platform for promoting the province's cultural legacy through UNESCO's international network.

Second Announcement



ESCO
Esfahan Steel Company

Brief Notice of International

Tender No. 732404-6

It is hereby notified that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to purchase **Centrifugal Compressor (Nitrogen)** as per the required conditions and technical specifications through two-stage international public tender. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) no later than **25.07.2026**. The opening date of the submitted offers shall be **26.07.2026**.

It is evident that this is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully,
M.Shateri,
Goods & Equipment Purchasing Management,
Esfahan Steel Company