

# Iranian film 'Cold Sigh' wins at Italian festival

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian shutterbug Masoud Amini Tirani won the Best Cinematography Award at the 22nd Ischia Global Film Festival in Italy for his work on the film 'Cold Sigh.' The jury praised Tirani's "powerful debut," stating that the film's strength lies in its stark cinematography, brilliantly highlighting the protagonist's emotions and complex relationship with his father, ILNA wrote. Founded in 1992, the Ischia festival showcases independent films

and is known for its focus on promoting emerging talents in the industry. This year's jury included renowned film professionals such as Tiina Lokk, founder and director of the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Italian director and actor Maurizio Nichetti, and Jugoslav Pantelić, artistic director of the Belgrade International Film Festival. 'Cold Sigh,' directed by Nahid Sedigh, stars Iman Sedigh and Ali Bagheri in lead roles. The film is internationally distributed by Madakto Pictures, ensuring its reach to a global

audience. Baha, a young man from a border town, learns that Bahram has been released from prison after 20 years. Bahram killed his wife having accused her of cheating on him. Baha decides to take to the road to bring him back from prison himself, reads the synopsis of the film. Masoud Amini Tirani's win at the Ischia festival showcases the exceptional talent of Iranian filmmakers and their ability to fascinate audiences worldwide through powerful visual storytelling.



# Iran tops Islamic countries in Leiden university rankings: *ISC*



Iran topped the list of Islamic countries in the latest global university rankings, according to a report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). The Leiden Ranking for 2024 includes 46 Iranian universities, placing the country at the forefront of higher education in the Islamic world, IRNA wrote. Ahmad Fazel-Zadeh, head of the ISC, announced that a total of 1,506 universities worldwide were included in the latest Leiden Ranking, with Iranian institutions maintaining their numbers from the previous year. The top 10 Iranian universities in this global ranking are:

University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Iran University of Science and Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, University of Tabriz, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Shiraz University.

Iranian universities have outperformed those in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, which received the next highest rankings in the Islamic world. The Leiden Ranking is a significant and complex evaluation system that assesses universities based on various scientific indicators. It considers a wide range of factors, including scientific impact, scientific diplomacy, open access publications, and gender diversity. The ranking uses scientific publications from the WoS database and takes into account articles and review papers published between 2019 and 2022, with citations counted until the end of 2023. Unlike other global ranking systems, Leiden does not assign a single overall rank to universities. Instead, it provides separate scores and ranks for each of its indicators, offering a comprehensive evaluation of institutions across multiple dimensions.

# Iran to host int'l exhibition on educational opportunities

Iran is preparing to host an international exhibition showcasing the country's educational attractions and capabilities. The event, scheduled for late September or October, aims to promote Iranian universities to foreign students. According to exhibition organizer Mohammad-Javad Salmanpour, the event will feature 12 cultural and ed-

ucational programs. Iranian universities will present their programs on teaching the Persian language to non-Iranians, and international students currently studying in Iran will showcase the country's scientific, economic, and cultural achievements, IRNA wrote. "The exhibition will be an opportunity for all stakeholders in the field of international-

ization to interact and engage with each other," added Salmanpour. The exhibition will include a variety of events such as the festival of cultures, a food festival, an art festival, and a gathering of Persian language professors, providing a platform for international students to share their own cultures, traditions, and national

identities, as well as the scientific, economic, and cultural advancements of their home countries. Salmanpour believes that the exhibition will be appealing to a diverse range of audiences, particularly those interested in the expansion of the Persian language and the internationalization of Iranian higher education.



# Iran joins FAO's Global Soil Doctors Programme

Iran has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable farming practices by joining the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Global Soil Doctors Programme. Saffar Niazi, a senior official from the country's Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, announced on Monday that Iran is now a part of this global initiative, IRNA wrote. According to Niazi, Iran's participation in the programme aligns with its plans to cooperate with the Global Soil Partnership. He explained that the Global Soil Doctors Programme is an awareness-raising ini-

tiative that falls under the umbrella of the Global Soil Partnership, which Iran has been actively engaging with since 2020. "The Global Soil Doctors Programme is a farmer-to-farmer training initiative that aims to build the capacity of farmers on sustainable soil management," Niazi emphasized. He added that the programme currently has the participation of 21 countries worldwide. The programme is designed



to organize and disseminate technical knowledge and skills that farmers need through a scientific platform and the use of standard educational tools and methods. By engaging a network of soil specialists, national and regional facilitators, and a community of leading farmers, the initiative aims to promote the principles of sustainable soil management in a simple and accessible manner to farmers in the participating regions. Iran's initial participation in

the programme will be through collaboration between the Deputy of Water and Soil, the Soil and Water Research Institute, and the GSP in select provinces. The country has already been an active contributor to other specialized sub-sections of the GSP, including the World Soil Day (WSD), the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), and the International Network for Salt-affected Soils (INSAS). Iran also plans to pursue membership in other technical sub-sections, such as soil biodiversity, fertility and fertilizer analysis, organic matter, and soil pollution, among others.