

# Iran's 'The Old Bachelor' heads to Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland



## Arts & Culture Desk

'The Old Bachelor,' an Iranian feature film directed by Oktay Baraheni and produced by Babak Hamidian and Hanif Sarvari, continues its international journey with its third stop at the 36th Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland. The film will compete in

the festival's main competition, which is also an Academy Awards-qualifying event. The Galway Film Fleadh, one of Ireland's leading film festivals, will take place in the city of Galway from July 9 to July 14. 'The Old Bachelor,' Baraheni's second feature, stars well-known Iranian ac-

tors Hamed Behdad, Leila Hatami, and Mohammad Valizadegan, with veteran actor Hasan Pourshirazi in a supporting role. The movie has already garnered acclaim on the international festival circuit. It won the Grand Prix at the 53rd International Film Festival Rotterdam and was praised for its perfor-

mances at the 23rd Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania. Pourshirazi also took home the award for Best Actor at the Romanian festival for his role in the film. 'The Old Bachelor' is being internationally distributed by Haft Cheshmeh Distribution Company, managed by Milad Khosravi.



## Iran launches National AI Organization

Iran unveiled a new national initiative to develop and promote artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, with a focus on infrastructure, private sector collaboration, and data readiness. The National AI Organization was inaugurated on Tuesday by caretaker President Mohammad Mokhber. The organization is tasked with implementing a national AI strategy, which was first proposed by the late president Ebrahim Raisi in December 2023, IRNA reported. Mokhber emphasized

the importance of establishing the organization, highlighting the potential benefits of AI for Iran's economic and technological advancement. "We aim to provide sufficient resources, with support from the National Development Fund, to create the necessary infrastructure," said Mokhber, adding that they will also support private companies in developing advanced AI models and algorithms. The initiative also emphasizes coordination between the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and

the National AI Organization to ensure data readiness. The National AI Organization is expected to operate under the presidency, with a budget of around \$5 billion, and will work closely with the private sector to drive innovation and development in the field of AI. This development follows president Raisi's earlier efforts to establish a National AI Steering Council and a National AI Center, demonstrating Iran's commitment to embracing AI technology and its potential applications.

## 'Water in Iran' photography contest announced winners

### Arts & Culture Desk

The winners of the photography competition 'Water in Iran' (L'eau en Iran) were announced, showcasing the beauty and significance of water in the country. The contest, organized by the Iran-France Center, the Ithaque Photography Institute and Gallery, and Moj-e-no Institute, with the support of the National Iranian Photographers' Society, attracted 205 talented

Iranian photographers, ISNA wrote. Romin Mohtasham emerged as the winner, chosen by a majority vote of the jury, which included both Iranian and French judges. In addition to the winner, 40 images from 23 photographers will be exhibited in Paris across two exhibitions. The selected artists whose works will be on display include Bahador Bahadoran, Dorsa Basij, Mohammad Ahangar and Majid Hojjati.



The exhibitions will be held at the Ithaque Gallery from September 12 to October 3, 2024, followed by another showcase at the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences from October 7 to 18, 2024. The public is invited to attend the opening ceremony at Ithaque on September 12, 2024. Ithaque, founded in October 2020 and currently directed by Alexandre Armengaud, has a strong connection to Iran. Armengaud has visited the country three times between 2017 and 2022, and his artistic credentials include being a finalist for the Prix du Tirage in 2021 and the youngest nominee for the Prix Niépce in 2018. His

works are also part of the collection of the French National Library, and his Iranian portraits were recently exhibited at the French National Assembly. The photography competition focused on various aspects of water, including freshwater and saltwater, terrestrial and oceanic environments, human activities related to water, and technological advancements in different regions of Iran. This competition highlights the importance of water-related issues and showcases the artistic talent of Iranian photographers, providing a unique perspective on the interplay between humans and one of nature's most vital elements.

## Tehran's Children's Medical Center to receive UNICEF backing

### Social Desk

Robin Nandy, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Iran, recently toured the stem cell transplant ward of Tehran's Children's Medical Center (CMC). Nandy praised the dedication and expertise of the medical staff and highlighted the advanced services provided to children with cancer and other serious illnesses.

During the visit, Nandy expressed UNICEF's readiness to support the CMC in several key areas. These include staff empowerment to enhance service quality, technical and equipment support, and providing essential items that have become inaccessible due to sanctions, IRNA wrote. He also suggested exchanging experiences and conducting joint research with other countries. Amir-Ali Hamidieh, head of the

stem cell transplant ward, emphasized the impact of sanctions on Iran's health sector, particularly on children's access to healthcare. He welcomed UNICEF's support, stating that the visit was planned to address the challenges faced by children seeking treatment at the CMC. He underscored the need to keep pace with global advancements in cell and gene therapy technologies and equipment.

## Isfahan to host International Physics Olympiad

The International Physics Olympiad will kick off in Isfahan on July 21, with the participation of 190 students from 45 countries, announced the head of the Young Researchers Club (YRC), Seyyed Reza Hosseini. During a press conference on Wednesday, Hosseini stated that the organization operates with an independent structure and budget allocation. Currently, the national teams are being dispatched

to their respective international Olympiads. The biology team is in Kazakhstan, and the mathematics team will depart for the UK tomorrow, he added. When asked about the organization's budget, Hosseini explained that while they had received an independent budget allocation for the first time this year, they had not yet been able to access any funds, IRNA wrote. Hosseini also stated that out of the

allocated \$1.724 million budget last year, only \$603,000 were realized. Currently, they need at least 50% of the Young Researchers and Elite Club Organization's budget to be released, as promised, by the end of the current month. He acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Education and the Organization for Development, Renovation and Equipping of Schools (DRES) in establishing the Young Researchers Club.