

## Int'l Physics Olympiad in Isfahan

# 200 students compete in global science event

The 54th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) kicked off in Iran's historic city of Isfahan on Monday, bringing together nearly 200 high school students from 17 countries. The nine-day event, hosted by Isfahan University of Technology, marks the second time Isfahan has welcomed the IPhO, the first being in 2007, IRNA wrote. "Iran is a suitable choice to host the International Physics Olympiad," said Professor Rajdeep Singh Rawat, the president of the International Physics Olympiad. "Despite a decrease in the number of participating countries compared to the previous edition, Iran's readiness to host the event remains unchanged." A total of 198 students are par-

ticipating in the scientific competition, accompanied by 150 chaperones and team leaders. The competing teams represent Iran, Russia, China, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Romania, Turkey, Mexico, Georgia, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Croatia, Colombia, Belarus, Kuwait, and Vietnam. Oman and Morocco are also in attendance as observers, seeking to familiarize themselves with the international competition. The IPhO, first held in Poland in 1967, has grown in size and popularity over the years. The event hit a brief hiatus between 1967 and 1982 due to increasing participation numbers, but since then, it has been held annually without fail, except in

2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Iran joined the IPhO 36 years ago and has since seen its students claim numerous medals. This year, five Iranian students are among the competitors, aiming to continue their country's scientific legacy. The Olympiad provides a platform for young scientists to showcase their talents and connect with peers from diverse backgrounds. It also fosters collaboration among university faculty members and promotes the exchange of ideas and cultural understanding. The competition is expected to conclude with a closing ceremony on Sunday, where medals and awards will be presented to the top performers.



● ISNA



## Iranian veteran actor Saeed Raad dies at 79

### Arts & Culture Desk

Saeed Raad, a celebrated Iranian actor and icon, passed away on Monday at the age of 79 after a long illness. His impressive career spanned many memorable roles, solidifying his place as one of Iran's most beloved and accomplished actors. Mohammad Khazaei, President of Iran's Cinema Organization, paid tribute to Raad's impressive body of work, highlighting his versatile performances in films

such as 'Che,' 'The Eagles,' 'Duel,' and 'Journey of the Stone.' The head and deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) also offered their condolences. "I offer my condolences on the passing of the capable and beloved artist Saeed Raad," said Peyman Jebeli, IRIB's head. "Throughout his eventful artistic life, he created enduring roles in cinema and television, including his recent role as Colonel Bahadori in the TV se-

ries 'Motherland.' His fans will always remember his brilliant performances." Mohsen Bormahani, IRIB's deputy head, also expressed sadness at the news: "The passing of veteran artist Raad, who created enduring characters in historical TV series, has saddened me greatly. Raad was not just an actor, but a master and a morally committed artist. His personal life and professional conduct can serve as a classroom for aspiring artists. Iranian television and its

audience have greatly benefited from his talent. His performance in the TV series 'In the Eye of the Wind' was so powerful that it made his character believable to viewers. His brilliance in the series 'Motherland' and other television works attests to his ability to take on significant and serious roles." Raad's funeral is scheduled for Wednesday in Tehran, with Iran's cinema community mourning his loss and honoring his rich legacy.

## Can Harris take ...

- Energy prices in Europe rose due to obstacles in the supply of Russian gas and oil, increasing expenses for industries and households, and creating economic pressure.

### 2. Economic challenges:

- European governments faced a reduction in funds for public welfare and well-being.  
- France encountered law and order issues. Many public welfare projects in several EU countries had to be abandoned due to the pointless Ukraine war.

### Industrial and economic decline

#### 1. Industrial production:

- After World War II and the economic crisis of the 1990s, there was a significant decline in the EU's overall industrial production.  
- Industries dependent on Russia's raw materials reached the brink of collapse.

#### 2. GDP growth:

- Efforts to establish new supply chains through alternative routes were made but met with limited success.  
- The overall GDP of the EU has been recording a slowdown for the past two

consecutive years, with Germany and Italy being notable examples.

### Financial policies and unemployment

#### 1. Inflation and interest rates:

- The European Central Bank had to increase interest rates to control inflation, which led to a financial crisis for industries.  
- Industrialists laid off workers to reduce costs, resulting in record-high unemployment across Europe over the past two years.

#### 2. Product quality:

- The negative impact on product quality will be evident to consumers worldwide in the coming years.

### US perspective and policies

#### 1. Energy independence:

- The US did not face energy problems as it was not dependent on Russian sources.  
- Europe bore the brunt of the Ukraine war, while President Biden did not attempt to resolve the crisis through negotiations but instead fueled the war by providing weapons to the Ukrainian government and financial resources for military expenses, ultimately burdening American taxpayers.  
2. Gaza conflict:

- In October last year, during Biden's presidency, Israel launched an assault on Gaza. Following a retaliatory operation by Hamas inside Israel, Biden, relying on false Israeli information, issued provocative statements that encouraged Israel's aggressive actions.  
- Israel's forces carried out severe airstrikes on Gaza, targeting hospitals and killing newborn babies while Biden and his administration only watched.  
- Biden's presidency marked some of the darkest events, with no American president since 1948 having policies toward Palestinians based on justice and human values.

### Biden's black marks

#### 1. Impact on Pakistan:

- Biden's administration ousted Imran Khan's government in Pakistan due to stubbornness and arrogance, severely damaging Pakistan's economy, affecting approximately 200 million people.

#### 2. Kamala Devi Harris' nomination:

- Biden has nominated his Indian-origin Vice President Kamala Devi Harris for the next presidential elections. However, the Democrats have yet to decide on her candidacy. It is apparent that Donald Trump will easily face and defeat Kamala.

## Iran launches AI-powered course for Persian language

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Saadi Foundation launched a summer school program that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to teach the Persian language. Foundation president, Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, addressed the first class, expressing his gratitude to the colleagues at the Education and Research Deputy for organizing the course, ISNA wrote. He said, "The focus on AI and the commencement of this course signifies that a new horizon has opened at the Saadi Foundation, and that modern communication technologies for Persian language teaching have been embraced." Haddad Adel also expressed his delight at the enthusiastic response to the course, seeing it as a sign of trust in the Saadi

Foundation.

He further added that Iran is seriously considering AI, as evidenced by the recent approval of the establishment of the National AI Organization.

The educational course has attracted participants from various Iranian cities, all keen on learning about Persian language and literature, and AI.

The course covers a range of topics, including AI fundamentals, educational query engineering with AI, AI-powered production of audio-visual content, language teaching software utilizing AI, and the creation and editing of educational videos with AI. Additionally, it covers AI-based testing and assessment, learning activity design, and the production of multimedia content and presentation files.

