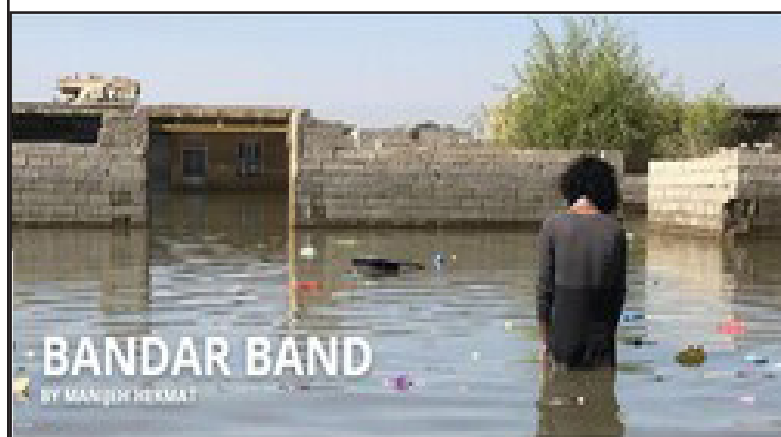


## Much Applauded Drama Wins Big in India



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 4th edition of the Rain International Nature Film Festival (RINFF) in India has bestowed the best film award upon 'Bandar Band' from Iran.

'Bandar Band', a feature film by Iranian female filmmaker Manijeh Hekmat, has succeeded to grab the Golden Elephant Award from the 2022 edition of the Indian screening event.

'Bandar Band' is about pregnant Mahla along with the other members of a music band named Bandar Band, her husband and one of their closest friends. They start their journey to Tehran from a southern province just when they have lost all they had in a flood.

They still keep their hopes alive, however, every road they take leads to a dead-end in a flood-stricken land. They intend to go to Tehran, but they wonder if it is just another turn around a vicious circle.

Some of the global appearances of 'Bandar Band' include the 30th Films from the South Festival in Norway, the 3rd Hainan Island Int'l Film Festival (HIIF) in China, the 19th Dhaka Int'l Film Festival (DIFF) in Bangladesh, the 2nd Catalyst Int'l Film Festival in Ireland, the 10th Iranian Film Festival Australia (IFFA) and the 19th

Women's Film Festival Dortmund - Cologne in Germany.

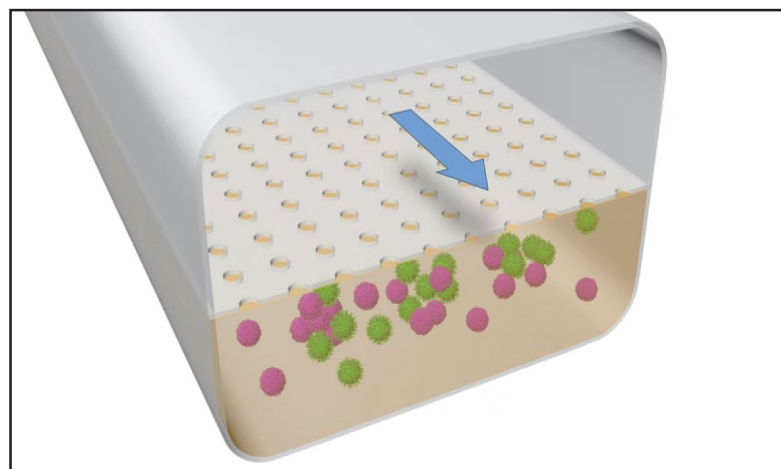
It also went on screen at the 43rd Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) in the U.S., the 8th Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey, the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival, the Beirut International Women Film Festival in Lebanon and the 2020 Toronto Int'l Film Festival (TIFF) in Canada.

'Bandar Band' is the recipient of the Best Film award at the International Competition: Innovation in Moving Images section of the 26th Kolkata Int'l Film Festival in India as well as the NETPAC award of the 6th Ulju Mountain Film Festival (UMFF) in South Korea.

The honorable mention of the 2021 Batumi Int'l Art-House Film Festival (BIAFF) in Georgia has also been bestowed upon Hekmat's 2020 film production.

The Rain International Nature Film Festival aims "to bring together ecologically aware filmmakers from around the world in order to showcase their works, facilitating an authentic platform for raising environmental awareness," writes the online submission platform of the event. The 4th edition of the festival took place in Kerala on February 26-27.

## Scientists Put Immune System on Chip



NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Researchers at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University have developed a new tool to help them tease out the immune system's mysteries.

These scientists cultured human B and T cells inside a microfluidic Organ Chip device and coaxed them to spontaneously form functional lymphoid follicles -- structures that reside in lymph nodes and other parts of the human body which mediate immune responses. They consist of different chambers that harbor "naïve" B cells and T cells, which together initiate the cascade of events that leads to a full immune response when they are exposed to a specific antigen.

These lymphoid follicle (LF) Chips can also be used to pre-

dict immune responses to various vaccines and help select the best performers, offering significant improvement over existing pre-clinical models like cells in a dish and non-human primates.

The team also found that B cells within the LFs that self-assembled on-chip also expressed an enzyme called activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID), which is critical for activating B cells against specific antigens and is not present in B cells that are circulating in the blood.

The LF Chip replicated human immune responses to both pathogens and a commercial influenza vaccine in vitro, offering significant improvement over existing preclinical models like cells in a dish and non-human primates.

# Book of Year Award Winners Honored

TEHRAN (IP) - With President Raisi taking part, the winners of the Book of the Year Award of the Islamic Republic and the World Book of the Year Award were praised.

The awards ceremony of the 26 winners of the 39th Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic and the four winners of the 29th World Book Awards of the Islamic Republic was held with President Ebrahim Raisi taking part.

The Book of the Year Award of the Islamic Republic was held in philosophy and psychology, religion, jurisprudence and principles, pure sciences, applied sciences, literature, classical poetry, ancient texts, history, and geography, documentary, and children and adolescents.



The awards ceremony of the 26 winners of the 39th Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic and the 4 winners of the 29th World Book Awards of the Islamic Republic was held with President Raisi taking part. Photo by Honaronline

## World's Biggest Roofed Bazaar Embraces Nowruz

TEHRAN (IP) - The biggest roofed bazaar in the world becomes the hub of Nowruz shopping, especially for the people of Tabriz and East Azarbaijan province, northwestern Iran.

The Bazaar of Tabriz is a historical market situated in the city center of Tabriz, Iran.

With the arrival of spring and Nowruz's ancient occasion, People in Tabriz go to the Grand Bazaar to purchase what they need to celebrate



Nowruz, including clothing and trail mix.

In the days ending to spring's Nowruz, Tabriz

Grand Bazaar goes welcoming the occasion, with its space being decorated with the relevant symbols including Haft Sin.

Tabriz is of the important tourist destinations in Iran, particularly for its Grand Bazaar.

It is one of the oldest bazaars in the Middle East and the largest roofed bazaar in the world.

It is one of Iran's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

## Brazil's RNAB Hosts Lineup of Iranian Films

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian short film 'Eight O'clock' (AKA '08:00 PM') has entered the official selection of the 13th RNAB Festival (Revealing New Brazilian Actors) in Brazil.

Mostafa Gholami's 'Eight O'clock' will mark its 4th international premiere at the competition section of the upcoming edition of the Brazilian fest.

'Eight O'clock' narrates the love story of a young man named Hamed. His love for Niloufar goes through challenges over time.

"I am not sure why Niloufar is late. She has always been punctual," reads as a tagline to the short.

Written by Alireza Taji, the 10-minute flick has also revealed its first official poster.

Rahmatollah Shekarkhandeh, Pouya Safdarpour, Amin Heydari and Diba Fallah make the cast team of the flick.

Iran-based Daria Film Company is in charge of the international distribution of the flick.

'Eight o'clock' was previously screened at the 5th ES-MoA Video Art and Film Festival in the U.S. and the 16th Up and Coming International Film Festival Hanover in Germany.

Gholami is a popular name in short film arena owing to his globetrotting 'Return' which made many appearanc-

es worldwide.

'Old Man's Heavy Sleep', written and directed by Mostafa Rostampour, 'Killing' by Hossein Roudbari and Alireza Biglari's 'Angels Do Not Die' are other Iranian contenders at the RNAP festival.

The RNAB Festival (Revealing New Brazilian Actors) is a platform for the "promotion of the audiovisual industry, a space and time for the diffusion and promotion of audiovisual content, transforming into a meeting point for filmmakers, favoring the



Iranian short film 'Eight O'clock' (AKA '08:00 PM') has entered the official selection of the 13th RNAB Festival in Brazil.

exchange of initiatives and promoting an open market for

new projects," as put by the official website of the event.

## Picture of the Day



The Iranian capital Tehran has held a ceremony featuring traditional music and arts to celebrate Nowruz, a festival that marks the Persian New Year. The ceremony, which was held on Monday, was organized in collaboration with Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. Iranians and millions of people around the world celebrate Nowruz which marks the beginning of spring. Traditionally in Iran, people decorate a Nowruz table, visit friends and relatives, and give presents during the first days of the New Year.

Courtesy of IFP/IRNA