

## Scientists From Turkey, Iran, India Win \$500,000 Mustafa Prize



TEHRAN -- In a landmark event celebrating scientific excellence, the sixth edition of the Mustafa Scientific and Technological Prize unveiled its three distinguished laureates, representing Turkey, Iran, and India.

The prestigious award, which carries a cash prize of \$500,000 along with a gold medal and a certificate of recognition, honors pioneering Muslim scientists whose groundbreaking research spans fundamental sciences to advanced biomedical technologies, reflecting a dedication to global scientific progress.

The announcement was made during a press conference attended by Ali-Akbar Salehi, Chair of the Mustafa Prize Scientific Committee, and Mehdi Safarinia, CEO of the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation.

This year, nominees were evaluated in two principal domains: Basic and Engineering Sciences, and Life Sciences, Medicine, and Information Technology.

An extensive screening process saw 1,688 resident Muslim scientists and 2,458 non-resident Muslim scientists assessed in the former category, alongside 290 resident and 890 non-resident candidates in the latter.

Among the laureates, Professor Mohammad Tuner from Istanbul, Turkey, stands out for his pioneering work in nanotechnology and microfluidics applied to clinical settings. Born in 1958, his contributions include developing

advanced cell separation systems, innovations in cryobiology, and designing tumor cell separation chips alongside rapid diagnostic platforms for diseases. These breakthroughs have had a profound impact on improving human health diagnostics and treatment methods.

Dr. Vahab Mirrokni, born in 1977 and based in Iran, was recognized for his leadership in information and communication technologies. His research focuses on algorithms, market optimization, large-scale graph analysis, and scalable optimization techniques. Dr. Mirrokni's work plays a critical role in advancing computational methods essential for managing complex data environments and optimizing market systems.

From India, Professor Muhammad Khajeh Nasiruddin, born in 1957, received the award for his influential research in renewable energy technologies. His studies on perovskite solar cells, light-emitting diodes, and clean energy innovations have made significant strides toward sustainable energy solutions, contributing meaningfully to the global transition to greener technologies.

The Mustafa Prize continues to shine a spotlight on Muslim scientists whose innovative work drives scientific discovery and technological progress worldwide, inspiring collaboration and nurturing future generations of researchers committed to advancing knowledge for humanity's benefit.

## German Festival Spotlights Diverse Iranian Animated Shorts



TEHRAN -- A diverse slate of animated short films from Iranian filmmakers will be featured at the fifth edition of Germany's T-Short Festival, a boutique event dedicated to showcasing short-form animation from around the globe.

Running in two formats—an in-person edition from November 27 to 29, and an online version (Germany-only) from November 30 to December 13—the T-Short Festival screens animated films of up to 15 minutes, focusing on emerging voices and experimental storytelling.

This year's lineup includes a strong showing from Iranian cinema, with twelve short animations selected for screening. The films span a range of themes, techniques, and tones—from surreal and socially reflective to whimsical and deeply personal.

Among the Iranian selections is "The Shadow Shop" by Hooman Tehrani Sharif, which offers a poetic meditation on intangible fears, and "The Day the Snow Melts" from Hajar Mehrani, a quietly poignant reflection on memory and change.

Niloufar Naderi Tehrani contributes two titles: "Korbat", exploring emotional displacement through visual metaphor, and "Domestic Delirium,"

a hauntingly intimate look at isolation within the home. Also featured is "Glory" by Mehdi Barghzadegan, tackling the cost of ambition in a stylized aesthetic.

Hussein Moradizadeh brings two works—"Fereydoun's Sons" and "A Wakeful Dream"—both steeped in folklore-inspired imagery. Meanwhile, "An Ordinary Day" by Bagher Bahram Shotorban captures the surreal moments of everyday routine with deadpan humor.

Social commentary finds its way into "Insurance for Housewives" from Alireza Pourshakouri, which critiques gender roles through metaphor-laced animation. "Suddenly, a Bird" by Elaheh Farnia and "Paper Flowers" by Ramak Amin Kazemi delve into themes of loss, longing, and liberation. "At Night" by Pouya Afzali rounds out the lineup with a minimalist, atmospheric piece on solitude.

While the T-Short Festival remains niche in size, it has grown into a respected platform for global animation talent. The strong Iranian presence at this year's edition reflects the country's growing footprint in the international animation scene, particularly among independent and experimental creators.

# Museum Exhibits Biruni's Manuscripts From Islamic Golden Age

TEHRAN -- To mark the anniversary of the renowned polymath Abu Rayhan Biruni, the National Library and Museum of Malek in Tehran has showcased a collection of his rare and invaluable manuscripts.

Among the highlighted works are *Āthār al-Bāqiya* ("The Remaining Signs"), *At-Tafhīm* ("Instruction"), and *Al-Yawm wa al-Nahār* ("Day and Night"), manuscripts meticulously copied over centuries and now preserved digitally for researchers worldwide.

Biruni (973–1048 CE), one of the foremost scholars of the Islamic Golden Age, made pioneering contributions across astronomy, mathematics, anthropology, and natural sciences.

The Malek Library, recognized as one of Iran's six premier repositories of handwritten manuscripts, holds a rich trove of his works, primarily focused on Islamic astronomy, written in both Persian and Arabic between the 13th and 19th centuries AH (7th to 13th centuries CE). These manuscripts were generously endowed by Haj Hussein Agha Malek, the institution's founder and patron.

Among the treasures is *Tasfīh al-Akr* (or *Tashīl al-Tasfīh al-As-turlāb*), a treatise on the astrolabe—an ancient astronomical instrument—authored in Arabic and penned in 656 AH (1258 CE) by the calligrapher Muhammad ibn Abi Tayeb Khadim Goya (Jorabadi). This manuscript, crafted on high-quality Doulatnabadi paper and bound in black leather, exemplifies the scholarly precision and artistic finesse of its era.



Another notable manuscript, *Istī'āb al-Wujūh al-Mumkina fī Ṣan'at al-As-turlāb*, dating from the 10th century AH, is inscribed in clear naskh script on silk-textured paper and bound in striking red leather, underscoring the significance attributed to astronomical instrumentation in medieval Islamic science.

The *Āthār al-Bāqiya* 'an al-Qurūn al-Khāliya ("The Remaining Signs of Past Centuries"), a comprehensive compendium by Biruni, survives in an 11th-century AH naskh manuscript on silk-textured paper. An important Persian translation of this work, rendered by Ali Qoli Mirza Etamad al-Saltaneh in the 13th century AH, is also preserved, featuring distinctive blue leather binding and annotations marking the ownership history.

Other esteemed works include *Al-Yawm wa al-Nahār wa al-Layl* ("Day, Night, and the Night"), a treatise on timekeeping and jurisprudence, beautifully transcribed

in elegant chalipa-style nastaliq calligraphy in 1087 AH. The collection further holds two versions of *At-Tafhīm li-Awā'il Ṣinā'at at-Tanjīm* ("Instruction on the Principles of Astrology"), penned in Arabic and Persian with naskh and shikasta nastaliq scripts from the 11th and 13th centuries AH.

The Malek Museum has digitized these manuscripts, providing digital and physical access to scholars both in Iran and abroad. This effort aligns with the institution's ongoing commitment to advancing the study of Islamic sciences through scientific conferences and exhibitions centered on luminaries like Biruni.

Visitors to the museum's "Science in Islamic Iran" hall can explore Biruni's interdisciplinary legacy, gaining insights into his groundbreaking work in astronomy, mathematics, anthropology, and beyond.

Established in 1937 and endowed to the holy shrine of Imam Reza, the Malek Library and Museum is located in Tehran's historical core—at Imam Khomeini Street, near Si Tir and Yarjani Streets—and continues to be a vital hub for preserving and promoting Iran's rich cultural and scientific heritage.

## Questions Raised as Shajarian Announces Cancellation of Free Concert

TEHRAN -- When news broke that Homayoun Shajarian—a towering figure in Iranian music—would perform a free street concert at Tehran's Azadi Square, excitement rippled through the cultural scene.

It promised a rare moment of public musical joy, accessible to all, and a bold breath of life amid tense times. But just days later, the event was abruptly canceled, with Shajarian citing "inability to manage the expected millions of attendees."

What followed was a cascade of questions, finger-pointing, and a glimpse into the bureaucratic chaos behind the scenes.

The concert had been announced officially on a holiday, sparking a wave of reactions. Supporters hailed it as a needed injection of vitality and inclusivity—a chance for fans who might never afford a ticket to experience one of Iran's most beloved voices live.

Critics, meanwhile, raised logistical red flags. Could a massive crowd be safely controlled? Was the city infrastructure ready for such a spectacle? Shajarian's own statement suggested these concerns were not just idle worries but real obstacles—"these discussions should have happened two months ago," he lamented.

Yet the question of who dropped the ball remains murky. Tehran's Cultural and Social Deputy, Muhammad Amin Tavakolizadeh, blamed a lack of planning by the Ministry of Culture and the concert's main overseer.

He revealed that critical security and logistics decisions had barely been made even days before the event, with local authorities left in the dark. Meanwhile, social media buzzed with videos

hinting at sabotage—footage of welders blocking roads near Azadi Square implied a covert effort to hamper the concert's setup. Shajarian himself claimed that his team was denied access to the venue equipment, fueling suspicions of interference.

The city's mayor, meanwhile, publicly pledged support and floated moving the concert to Azadi Stadium, but this proposal came only after the cancellation, raising questions about why relocation wasn't considered sooner to avoid public disappointment. Moreover, the fact that a pro-municipal newspaper had earlier celebrated the concert's announcement adds to the confusion—is the city truly opposed, or was it a case of miscommuni-



cation?

Political pressures may also have played a silent role. Some speculate that both internal and external forces uneasy with Shajarian's prominence and independent voice contributed to the mounting obstacles. Despite

these tensions, fans who had hoped the concert would inject some joy and unity into a fractious moment are left disappointed, and the cultural community mourns a missed chance to gather, sing, and breathe life into public space.

## Picture of the Day



The 11th Mango and Jasmine Flower Thanksgiving Festival is held from September 1 to 3, in Minab County, Hormozgan Province.

Photo by IRNA