

Winners of the  
**2021**

ISTANBUL  
PHOTO  
AWARDS  
by Anadolu Agency





Anadolu Agency Publications: 77

**On Behalf of Publisher Anadolu Agency and Head of the Organization Committee**

**Serdar Karagöz**

Chairman of the Board,  
Director General

**PREPARED BY**

**İhsan Gürsoy**

AA Publications Manager

**Elife Çekem**

Deputy Project Manager

**İrem Özal**

Project Management Specialist

**COPY EDITING**

**Marc Douglas Chenault**

Chief Correspondent

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Türk Mutfağı İletişim Hizmetleri

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**Mücahit Muhammed Soykan** (International Operations Director), **Firat Yurdakul** (Photography Editor), **Ege Gürün** (Photojournalist)

Cover Photography: **Mohammed Shajahan** / **Photo of the Year 2021**

All photography copyrights are held by the photographers.

Copyright © Anadolu Agency. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from Istanbul Photo Awards.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Yusuf Özhan**

Deputy Director General,  
Editor-in-Chief

**Oğuz Enis Peru**

Deputy Director General

**Hasan Öymez**

Editor-in-Chief of Visual News Department

**PRINTED BY**

Armoni Nüans Görsel Sanatlar ve  
İletişim Hiz. San. ve Tic. A.Ş.  
Yukarı Dudullu Mah. Tavukçuyolu Cd.  
Palas Sok. No. 3/1 Ümraniye / İstanbul  
T: 0216 540 36 11

Press Certificate Number: 44995

ISBN: 978-605-9075-73-2

Address: Anadolu Agency  
Eti Mahallesi GMK Bulvarı No:132  
Çankaya - Ankara / Turkey

Contact: istanbulphoto@aa.com.tr

All the photographs submitted were taken in 2020.

Ankara, October 2021

# Contents

Foreword	04	<b>Story News</b>	
		<b>1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE</b>	Fabio Bucciarelli 27
		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Ugur Yildirim / Sabah Newspaper 35
		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Chris McGrath / Getty Images 43
About the 2021 Contest	05	<b>Single Sports</b>	
		<b>1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE</b>	Roman Vondrouš / Czech News Agency 53
		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Scott Robin Barbour / Australian Associated Press 57
		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Adam Pretty / Getty Images 61
<b>Photo of the Year 2021 and Single News 1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b>	08	<b>Story Sports</b>	
Mohammed Shajahan		<b>1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE</b>	Alain Schroeder 67
		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Barbora Reichova 75
		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Anas Alkharboutli / DPA 83
2021 Jury Members	14	<b>Story Daily Life</b>	
Chair of the Istanbul Photo Awards 2021 Jury / Marion Mertens	15	<b>1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE</b>	Jeremy Lempin 91
		<b>Story Portrait</b>	
		<b>1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE</b>	Armin Karami 99
<b>Single News</b>		Jury of 2021	106
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Yuri Cortez / AFP 17		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE</b>	Petros Giannakouris / AP 21		

## Foreword

---



The power of visual content grows more important every day. As an eyewitness to iconic moments of history, photojournalists bear the responsibility for this power in every assignment.

Photographers voluntarily become the voice of the people facing the irreversible impact of war, disease, and social unrest. The Istanbul Photo Awards has honored professional photographers' efforts all around the world for seven years now.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life worldwide; almost 40 percent of the photo entries this year were about this issue. The variety of the submitted content shows that even amid the pandemic, the world bore witness to disparate developments as well.

The Istanbul Photo Awards jury honored Bangladeshi photojournalist Mohammed Shajahan's photo "Mom Love" as the Photo of the Year 2021. The photo unites us with the same feelings without the need for words, by capturing a heart-breaking moment of social isolation.

Yuri Cortez, AFP photojournalist from El Salvador, got the second prize in the Single News category with his photo, titled "Criminal gangs in custody". Petros Giannakouris, the Greek photojournalist for AP, was awarded third place for his photo of victims of a fire in a refugee camp.

The strength of this contest comes from the belief that supporting photojournalism will raise awareness. The jurors' contributions towards this aim are invaluable. I would like to congratulate the winners for their exceptional work that has left an indelible mark on us.

Serdar Karagöz

Chairman of the Board  
Director General

## About the 2021 Contest

---

The Istanbul Photo Awards is an international news photography contest organized by Anadolu Agency. The competition, which aims to support professional photojournalism, is being held for the seventh time this year. The awards recognize the efforts of brave and talented photojournalists around the world. Photographers from 96 different countries applied to the 2021 Istanbul Photo Awards with around 15,000 photographs in six categories: Single News, Story News, Single Sports, Story Sports, Story Daily Life, and Story Portrait. The 2021 Istanbul Photo Awards winners were selected on an online platform specifically designed for the awards due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The jury members gathered from places as far-flung from Sydney to New York to select the winners. We thank them for their invaluable contributions. Through their lenses, the photojournalists documented historical moments and events. The award-winning photos highlight the top headlines of 2020. These images will be a reminder of striking news and sports moments of the year.

**Photo of the Year**  
2021

# Photo of the Year 2021

## Single News 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner

The prevalence of corona in Bangladesh in May 2020 was slowly increasing. People were not going out due to fear. At the beginning of corona, many people left the bodies of their close relatives and fled. They even said, "I did this with the help of my conscience." According to the government, about 10 lakh (hundred thousand) people were infected with corona, and about 13,000 people died. The rate of COVID infection in the country is still above 10 percent. The government is still trying to reduce the death toll through various measures.

On June 26, 2020, in Haliashahar, the city of Chittagong, I went to work on the funeral of a man who died of corona. When we arrived, I stood a little distance away to talk with the volunteers. Suddenly I noticed a teenager standing by the door of the house, putting some flowers on the glass door with scotch tape. She drew the heart symbol for love and wrote MOM inside. Then a lady wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) came close to the door inside the house. I keep trying to understand what happened. Suddenly I thought, "Take out your camera and take some pictures." As soon as I took out my camera, the girl ran away crying and hide. A little later, the lady came to

the door with an oxygen mask on her face and desperately tried to smell the flowers left by the girl on the other side of the door! The impression of pain in her eyes shows that she still couldn't; she tried several times. There were tears in the corners of her eyes. The scene moved me terribly, and I took a few pictures at one point, and the lady went inside.

When I talked to her next-door neighbors, I found out that the lady was the teenager's mother. She was in home isolation due to corona and this day was her birthday. Earlier, the girl used to bring gifts for her mother on every birthday, but this time she could not. Yet the girl came with flowers to greet her mother. They lost two members of their family to corona, so now they are meticulously careful. That is why there is now a "wall" of a glass door between mother and daughter.

After that, I met the lady, Mahmuda Khanam, 44, and learned that she and her daughter are healthy and well. When I told her about the award, she became happy and gave me a gift.

## Mom Love

In home quarantine, Mahmuda Khana, 44, tries to smell birthday flowers left on the other side of the door by her daughter on June 26, 2020 in Haliashahar, the city of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Both mother and children are feeling well and went back to their normal lives.

**Photo of the Year**  
**Single News**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner**

Mohammed Shajahan – Bangladesh



## Photo of the Year 2021

The Photo of the Year is a special award given by the jury to the first-prize winner in the Single News category. The winning image, which covers an unforgettable moment from the last year, should have the power to move people and be technically excellent. The Photo of the Year 2021 was awarded to "Mom Love" taken by Mohammed Shajahan. The photo captures the moment when a mother, isolated at home due to the coronavirus, tries to smell birthday flowers taped to the glass door by her daughter.

## Photo of the Year 2021 Winner Mohammed Shajahan – Bangladesh

Mohammed Shajahan is an independent Bangladeshi documentary photographer born in 1988. He took the photography course at the Photo art institute in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He mainly works on social and cultural issues in documentary and portrait photography and assignments for various international media outlets like AP, ZUMA Press, SIPA Press, and Cobris Images. His works have appeared in The Telegraph, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, and other leading outlets.

He regularly teaches and mentors photography in workshops and seminars for aspiring young photographers. He has also been on the juries of numerous photo contests in Bangladesh.

Shajahan's work has been featured in exhibitions and screening worldwide, including The Mall Gallery and National Gallery in London, Gallery of the French Alliance Foundation in Paris, The Photoville festival in New York, and other remarkable art galleries. He also won several national and international awards.

**2021:** Istanbul Photo Awards Photo of the Year

**2020:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Architecture Category in Siena International Creative Photo Awards

**2020:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Water Integrity Photo and Design Competition

**2019:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize in UNESCO Colors of Bangladesh Photo Contest

**2018:** 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in Harvest category in Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year Contest

# 2021 Jury Members

---



**Deborah Copaken**  
Author and Photojournalist



**Yuri Kozyrev**  
Photojournalist  
NOOR Agency



**Goran Tomasevic**  
Photojournalist  
Reuters



**Michel Scotto**  
Former Director of Photo  
Business Development  
AFP



**Marion Mertens**  
Chair of the Jury  
Visual Storyteller



**Cameron Spencer**  
Chief Sports Photojournalist  
Getty Images



**Ahmet Sel**  
Photojournalist



**Hasan Öymez**  
Visual News Editor-in-Chief  
Anadolu Agency



**Firat Yurdakul**  
Photo Editor  
Anadolu Agency

## Chair of the Istanbul Photo Awards 2021 Jury / Marion Mertens

What a privilege it has been getting together each spring to select the winners of the Istanbul Photo Awards. Being part of this team has always felt like a special mission – an adventure, even – which it certainly was in early May, during the seventh year of the contest. Because of the pandemic, the jury once again could not meet up in person in the inspiring city of Istanbul. So, when we waved to one another through the screen, weary but wise to the new normal of the world in 2021, we were happy just to see one another and to be able to debate the relative merits of this photo or that while also welcoming renowned photojournalist Goran Tomasevic to the jury as our new member. Thanks to the effective and intuitive platform the team set up, we could efficiently focus on picking the best single images and stories from the 15,000 images received.

This year, 1,207 photojournalists hailing from 96 different nationalities competed. Since the creation of the awards, more than 12,000 photojournalists have been part of this amazing photographic journey.

For me, the Istanbul Photo Awards is very much a visual record of the state of the world each year. This was particularly true (and poignant) this year. 2020 will always be remembered as the year of the COVID pandemic. During the pre-selection of the finalists and the final vote, we were visually struck by just how indelibly this pernicious virus has been at the center of every aspect of life on planet earth during 2020: daily life, sports, news, and yes, even portraits.

We were also bowled over by the degree to which photographers around the world had managed to convey all aspects of this health, human, and social crisis, whether it was doctors fighting the disease in a little village in Italy; or citizens under lockdown facing loneliness inside their homes in Tehran; or football fans finding a way to support their team outside a football pitch in the Czech Republic. Choosing the best photos from a group of spectacular images – we all were amazed at the quality of this year's images – was a difficult process because there were literally too many good shots and stories deserving to win. Fortunately, this year two new categories (Daily Life Story and Portrait Story) were added to the contest. This expansion allowed us to highlight several important stories and themes and to reward more photographers.

We thank our contestants for their perseverance and talent, and we are proud to present the winners to you. All of the award-winning photos share the same humanity, the same pathos, the same tug at our heartstrings. And each winning image – as well as many of the wonderful images that didn't win – forced us to reckon with the similarity of our struggles, hopes, and joys, no matter where we were stuck in the world. Despite our different backgrounds, locations, or culture, despite being physically disconnected from one another and mediated through Zoom, our deep connections to one another became eminently clear and crisp through the lenses of our winners' cameras.

## Single News

2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE

WINNER

**Yuri Cortez**

**AFP – El Salvador**

### **Criminal Gangs in Custody**

Members of the MS-13 and 18 gangs in an overcrowded cell at the Quezaltepeque prison on Sept. 4, 2020 in Quezaltepeque, El Salvador, during a visit by penal authorities to check inmates' situation and do searches amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Single News**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner**

Yuri Cortez – AFP – El Salvador

## Single News

3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE

WINNER

**Petros Giannakouris**  
**AP – Greece**

**Fleeing a Burning  
Refugee Camp**

Refugees and migrants carrying their belongings flee a fire at the Moria camp on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece. Successive fires devastated the camp, Greece's largest refugee facility, and left many of its 12,000 inhabitants homeless, many of them children, during a COVID-19 lockdown.

**Single News**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner**

Petros Giannakouris – AP – Greece





# STORY NEWS PRIZE

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Fabio Bucciarelli – Italy

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Ugur Yildirim – Sabah Newspaper – Turkey

**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Chris McGrath – Getty Images – Australia

# Story News

## 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER

**Fabio Bucciarelli**  
Italy

**'We Take the Dead from Morning till Night'**

In early 2020, when COVID-19 reached Europe, Italy became the world epicenter of infections. It was a devastatingly intimate view of the way the coronavirus was tearing apart family after family in the close-knit region. Working cautiously in goggles, gloves, and respirators and clothed in a hazmat suit, the photographer traveled with workers in the ambulance and entered the bedrooms, living rooms, and kitchens of families ravaged by the virus. He said on April 8, 2020 in Tehran: "The simple surroundings I encountered belied the significance of what Bergamo had become: at that time, ground zero for the coronavirus in all the world."



Teresina Coria, 88, a suspected COVID-19 case, helped by Italian Red Cross volunteers in her house on March 15, 2020 in Pradalunga, Bergamo, Italy.



Emergency department at Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital with COVID-19 patients under observation on March 21 in Bergamo, Italy.



**Story News**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Fabio Bucciarelli – Italy

A COVID-19 patient with breathing complications wearing helmet-based ventilation rests on his bed at Papa Giovanni XXIII Hospital of Bergamo on March 21 in Italy.



**Story News**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Fabio Bucciarelli – Italy

Mrs. Maddalena Peracchi in her house before being taken to the hospital by the Red Cross on March 19 in Gazzaniga, Bergamo, Italy. Peracchi died of coronavirus on March 30.



The Italian Army and Carabinieri moving coffins out of the warehouse where they were stored because cremation services in the area were full on March 24 in Ponte San Pietro, Bergamo, Italy.



A stretcher under a fresco in the courtyard of the Pesanti Fenaroli Hospital of Alzano Lombardo on March 16 in Bergamo, Italy. The village was one of the worst hit by the first wave of COVID-19.



Antonio Amato, suspected of having contracted the virus, is brought to the hospital by the Italian Red Cross on March 16 in Dalmine, Bergamo, Italy.



The children of Antonio Amato, 41, greet their father before Italian Red Cross volunteers take him to the hospital on March 17 in Dalmine, Bergamo, Italy.



Italian Red Cross operators entering the house of a patient suspected of having contracted COVID-19 on March 19 in Nembro, Bergamo, Italy.



Cinzia Cagnoni greets her mother Maddalena Peracchi, 65, a COVID-19 patient, while being carried by the Red Cross to the hospital on March 19 in Gazzaniga, Bergamo, Italy.

## Story News

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE

**Ugur Yildirim**  
**Sabah Newspaper – Turkey**

#### **Nagorno-Karabakh War**

On Sept. 27, 2020, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, a conflict lasting some three decades between Azerbaijan and Armenia amid occasional flareups, turned into a deadly war. At the end of the 44-day war, the Azerbaijani Chief Prosecutor's Office announced that the Armenian Army carried out more than 2,000 attacks on civilian settlements in Azerbaijan during the war and that 100 Azerbaijani civilians lost their lives and 416 were injured in Armenian attacks.



**Story News**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
Ugur Yildirim – Sabah Newspaper – Turkey

13 Azerbaijani citizens lost their lives in an Armenian army missile attack on the city of Ganja. A family photo is on a table in the condolence house on Oct. 17, 2020 in Azerbaijan.



In the deadliest attack on civilians of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, 22 people died and 70 were injured. Civilians were attacked in the busiest area of the city on Oct. 28 in Barda, Azerbaijan.



Barda was hit by a large number of missiles on Oct. 28, killing 22 people and injuring 70.

**Story News 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

Ugur Yildirim – Sabah Newspaper – Turkey



Fuad Ismailov lost his life in front of his house to an attack carried out by Armenian army. Fuad's sister Lale Ismailova kissed her brother's feet as a sign of gratitude on Oct. 28 in Barda, Azerbaijan.



The Armenian Army carried out a missile attack on the village of Karayusflu in the city of Barda. The dead body of Ofelia Caferova, who died in the attack, remained at her home overnight on Oct. 27 in Azerbaijan.



The Armenian Army carried out a missile attack on the village of Karayusflu. At the home of 7-year-old Aysu Iskenderova, who died in the attack, her relatives could not hold back their tears on Oct. 27 in Barda, Azerbaijan.



In the attack, one of the 13 civilians who lost their lives was a 10-month-old baby named Narin Eskerova. Teymur Serkerov, her uncle, carries her dead body on Oct. 17 in Ganja, Azerbaijan.



Five civilians were killed and 13 wounded in an attack on the village of Karayusuflyu on Oct. 27 in Barda, Azerbaijan.



Mother and daughter Züleyha Shahmezerova and Medina Shahmezerova, who lost their lives in the attack on Ganja, being buried side by side on Oct. 17 in Azerbaijan.



**Story News**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
Ugur Yildirim – Sabah Newspaper – Turkey

10 Azerbaijani civilians lost their lives in the missile attack on the city of Ganja. Fize Sadikova, the sister of Nurçin Aliyev who lost her life in the attack, showed great sorrow on Oct. 11 in Azerbaijan.

## Story News

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE

**Chris McGrath**  
**Getty Images – Australia**

#### **Beirut Explosion**

Beirut picks up the pieces after deadly port blast on Aug. 4, 2020. The explosion of a warehouse with explosive in the Lebanese capital filled with nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate took at least 200 lives, also leaving around 6,000 injured and 300,000 people homeless in the massive blast zone.



A view of the destroyed Beirut port from an office inside the Lebanon Electricity Company building on Aug. 17, 2020 in Beirut, Lebanon.



Family members mourn firefighters Charbel Hetti, Najeeb Hetti, and Charbel Karem, who were killed in the Beirut explosion and are carried to a church funeral in their hometown on Aug. 17 in Lebanon.



**Story News**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Chris McGrath – Getty Images – Australia

A volunteer from a local church group helps to clear debris from the damaged home of a 70-year-old resident on Aug. 19 in Beirut.



Friends and relatives wait with flowers and gifts for the arrival of the coffin of firefighter Ralph Malahi, who was killed in the Beirut explosion during his funeral on Aug. 15 in Beirut.



A man walks past a destroyed car on Aug. 16 in Beirut. The explosion at Beirut's port killed over 200 people and injured thousands.



Glass and debris from the Beirut port and surrounding neighborhoods at a dump site in the Karantina neighborhood on Aug. 18 Beirut.



The sister of 23-year-old firefighter Ralph Malahi, who was killed in the Beirut explosion, reacts while his coffin is carried by friends during his funeral on Aug. 15 in Beirut.



**Story News**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Chris McGrath – Getty Images – Australia

Hospital employees clean and remove debris from the Saint George Hospital on Aug. 13 in Beirut.



On Aug. 14 in Beirut, Lebanese musician Raymond Essayan plays a piano he formed from the rubble in a destroyed building while shooting a music video for the piece he wrote and dedicated to Beirut after the explosion.



Family members mourn for Platoon 5 firefighters Charbel Hetti, Najeeb Hetti, and Charbel Karem, who were killed in the Beirut explosion, during their funeral on Aug. 17 in Beirut.



# SINGLE SPORTS PRIZE

## **1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Roman Vondrouš – Czech News Agency – Czechia

## **2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Scott Robin Barbour – Australian Associated Press – New Zealand

## **3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Adam Pretty – Getty Images – Australia

## Single Sports

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE

WINNER

**Roman Vondrouš**  
**Czech News Agency – Czechia**

### **Loyal Fans in COVID Era**

Football players of the Bohemians 1905 Prague thanking their fans after a match against FK Příbram on Dec. 15, 2020 in Dolicek Stadium, Prague, Czechia. Loyal fans refused the ban on fans in the stadium due to COVID-19 and watched the matches by standing on ladders or stepladders.

**Single Sports**  
**1st Prize Winner**

Roman Vondrouš  
Czech News Agency – Czechia



**Single Sports**  
2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE  
WINNER

**Scott Robin Barbour**  
**Australian Associated Press –**  
**New Zealand**

**Superbikes Crash**

Garrett Gerloff of the US riding the #31 GRT Yamaha WorldSBK Junior Team Yamaha and Sandro Cortese of Germany riding the #11 OUTDO Kawasaki TPR crash in the World Superbike warm up during the 2020 Superbike World Championship on Sunday March 1, 2020 on Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.



**Single Sports  
2nd Prize Winner**

Scott Robin Barbour  
Australian Associated Press – New Zealand

**Single Sports**  
3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE  
WINNER

**Adam Pretty**  
**Getty Images – Australia**

**Log Pile Bouldering**

Georg Filser-Mayerhofer of Germany climbs a log pile while doing bouldering training on Sept. 15, 2020 in Kochel Am See, Germany. Rock-climbing gyms and sports facilities in Munich were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so athletes had to become creative to keep training during this unprecedented time.

**Single Sports**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner**

Adam Pretty  
Getty Images – Australia





# STORY SPORTS PRIZE

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Alain Schroeder – Belgium

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Barbora Reichova – Czechia

**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE WINNER**

Anas Alkharboutli – DPA – Syria

# Story Sports

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE  
WINNER

**Alain Schroeder**  
**Belgium**

**Dead Goat Polo**

Kok Boru is the national Sports of Kyrgyzstan. Dead goat polo, as some refer to it, looks like cavalier rugby with a headless goat as a ball. Two teams of five fearless men on horseback try to score a point by heaving a 20-kilo body into the tai kasan (goal) at either end. Only stallions are used in this game, as they are naturally antisocial and eager to fight off rivals. The players train their horses to muscle out other horses in the pack while they themselves wrestle each other to snatch the goat and gallop toward the goal, slamming into the rubber tires of a meter-high mound.



**Story Sports**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Alain Schroeder – Belgium

Ten riders gather for the traditional prayer before the start of a game. The goat is decapitated and its hooves removed in preparation for play on June 8, 2020 in the village of Kyzyl-Oy, Kyrgyzstan.



On a plateau framed by mountains, riders thunder across the playing field kicking up clouds of dust as they battle for an opportunity to score a goal on March 22 in the village of Ken Aral village, west of Talas, Kyrgyzstan.



A rider races toward the goal then stops abruptly within a few meters and hurls the 20-kg carcass into the air. The sheer power and momentum generated propel the goat into the goal on June 6 in Taldy-Bulak, Kyrgyzstan.

**Story Sports 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner**  
Alain Schroeder – Belgium



Perched on their horses, exhausted and covered in mud after five hours of play, two riders whose shirts display the symbol of Kok Boru wait to receive their trophies on Dec. 2 in Sovietskoe, Kyrgyzstan.



A rider throws the goat into the tai kazan (goal) on June 6 in Taldy-Bulak, Kyrgyzstan. The men share great respect for the sacrificed animal despite the roughness of the action.



Drone view of a Kok Boru playing field in Kyzart and the circular goal or tai kazan. Clouds of dust and the white carcass indicate that a player has just scored by landing the goat in the goal on June 12 in Kyrgyzstan.



Children start learning the game but instead of horses, they ride donkeys and play with an imitation goat, a goatskin pillow stuffed with hay that weighs about 2 kg on March 16 in Kok Kashat, east of Talas, Kyrgyzstan.



A rider has snatched the heavy carcass off the ground and races across the snow-covered field towards the goal chased by an opposing player who loses his balance trying to grab the goat on Dec. 1 in Sovietkoe, Kyrgyzstan.



Both men and horses wrestle at the edge of the goal, pulling the carcass in all directions. The goal is 1.2 meters high and surrounded by tires to cushion the impact of the horses on Dec. 7, 2020 in Tash Kya, Kyrgyzstan.



**Story Sports**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner**  
Alain Schroeder – Belgium

More than 100 men on horseback fight for possession of a young 60-kg bull on Dec. 13, 2020 in Uzgen, Kyrgyzstan. Offered by a rich local man, the grand prize of the final game is a Lada brand car.

## Story Sports

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE

**Barbora Reichova**  
Czechia

#### **Unbreakable Olympians**

A series Unbreakable Olympians captures the training and preparation of the best Czech athletes during a state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, during which all sports grounds were closed to all athletes.



**Story Sports**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
Barbora Reichova – Czechia

Fencer Alexander Choupenitch in the garage of his house in Brno during a state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on April 16, 2020 in Czechia.



Tennis player Barbora Strycova during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic in the living room of her apartment on May 4 in Prague.



Rower Jakub Podrazil on a training machine on the roof of his house during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic on April 23 in Czechia.



Swimmer Jan Micka getting ready during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic in a Prague shop with hot tubs and home swimming pools on April 8.



Hammer thrower Katerina Safrankova in a field near Kolin during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic on April 9 in Czechia.



Canoeist Jiri Prskavec in front of his house near the forest during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic on April 11 in Czechia.



Golf player Klara Spilkova trains in a special golf room in the middle of a production and storage hall during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic on April 14 in Czechia.



Judoka Lukas Krpalek training in the yard of his house during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic on April 25 in Czechia.



Track cyclist Tomas Babek on the terrace of the training center in Brno on April 16 during a state of emergency caused by the pandemic in Czechia.



**Story Sports**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
Barbora Reichova – Czechia

Athlete Zuzana Hejnova during a state of emergency on April 10 caused by the pandemic on the terrace of her apartment where she built a small gym in Czechia.

## Story Sports

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE

**Anas Alkharboutli**  
DPA – Syria

**Syria: Sports and Fun instead of War and Fear**

In the Syrian village of Aljiina near the city of Aleppo, Wasim Satot opened a karate school for children. What makes it special is that girls and boys, age 6 to 15 years old, with and without disabilities are taught together. With his school, Satot wants to create a sense of community and overcome any war experiences – Aleppo was fiercely contested – in the minds of the children.



**Story Sports**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Anas Alkharboutli – DPA – Syria

Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Sept. 16, 2020 in Aleppo, Syria.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Oct. 10 in Aleppo.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Oct. 10 in Aleppo.



Wasim Satot gives instructions during a lesson at his inclusive karate school on Oct. 10 in Aleppo.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Sept. 16 in Aleppo.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Sept. 16 in Aleppo.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Sept. 16 in Aleppo.



Children practice during a lesson in the inclusive Karate school of Wasim Satot on Oct. 10 in Aleppo.



Wasim Satot jokes with a student during a lesson in his inclusive karate school on Sept. 16 in Aleppo.



**Story Sports**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
Anas Alkharboutli – DPA – Syria

Boys share a joke after a lesson in the inclusive karate school of Wasim Satot on Oct. 10 in Aleppo.

## Story Daily Life

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER

**Jeremy Lempin**  
**France**

**Doctor Peyo and Mister Hassen**

Hassen came to lead his horse Peyo to cheer people's hearts in the palliative care department of France's Calais hospital. "Doctor Peyo," as he's fondly called by the hospital staff, has a mind of his own. Born autistic with a superior intelligence never before observed in horses, Peyo is also instrumental in helping palliative care patients reduce their consumption of hard drugs. In short, Peyo is an autistic, end-of-life artist, just like his rider. Hassen is a generous and deeply human being who makes extraordinary sacrifices to assist his life partner.



**Story Daily Life**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Jeremy Lempin – France

After seeing pediatric patients on the first floor, Hassen and Peyo arrive in the palliative care center for adults on Nov. 26, 2020 at Calais hospital, France.



Cancer patient Manon, 24, hugs her 7-year-old son in the presence of Peyo, who agrees to be touched and caressed by her alone on Nov. 30 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



Peyo indicates to Hassen the room he wants to enter on Nov. 17 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



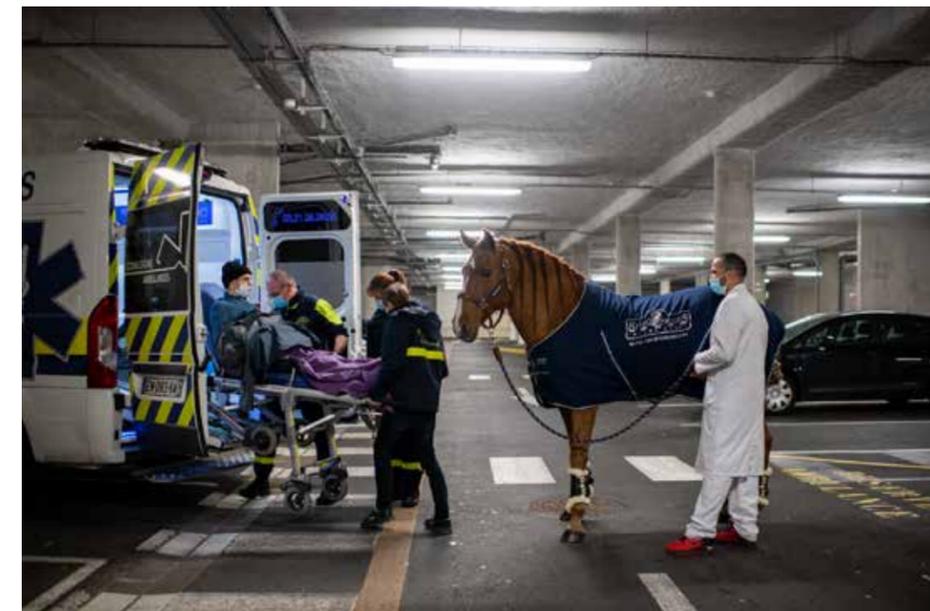
Manon pets Peyo on Nov. 19 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital while the medical team tries to calm her pain. Manon, 24, suffers terribly from metastatic cancer.



On Dec. 1 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital, Peyo is happy to see his old friend Daniel, 67, a former equestrian, who has terminal cancer.



Isaac, 9, is proud to show off his new friend Peyo to his mom, who is just coming out of surgery on Nov. 18 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



Peyo and Hassen accompany Roger, 64 years old, to an ambulance which will take him back home on Dec. 1 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



The legs of Peyo, Hassen, and Robert, who has terminal cancer, on Dec. 1 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



Peyo licks the hands of Roger, 64, who has just returned for the day to the palliative care unit for a blood transfusion on Dec. 1 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.



**Story Daily Life**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Jeremy Lempin – France

End of the day for Hassen and Peyo. "Since 2016, we have supported around 1,000 people until their last breath in the various services where we operate," Hassen says on Nov. 18 in the palliative care center at the Calais hospital.

# Story Portrait

## 1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE WINNER

**Armin Karami**  
**Iran**

### **Foreign Mirror**

Since the first COVID-19 case was officially announced, right before the new year, people have stayed in quarantine. I visited 15 people who had stayed at home for more than a month. I interviewed these people about their feelings and occupations at the time of outbreak of the virus. I visited them in their apartments and captured their portraits, reflected in the windows from which they gaze out every day. They described the personal experiences of the pandemic.



Yasi, 24, social media manager, said on March 30, 2020 in Tehran, Iran: "I started working from home during the coronavirus epidemic, but it isn't going well. I have a sleeping disorder, so it's taken extra effort to remain organized."



Playwright Arzhang, 26, said on March 29 in Tehran: "For me, corona was something that happened extremely suddenly, and I was reminded that we can't be sure about our future dreams and decisions,".



**Story Portrait**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Armin Karami – Iran

Bitra, 38, sales manager, said on April 8 in Tehran: "Life after corona is like life after the death of the father in a family. In my opinion, many things will definitely change. Maybe we won't shake hands anymore, and hugging a family member will be something very special."

Arash, 40, business consultant, said on April 21 in Tehran: "Social distancing made many people feel imprisoned; emptiness and loneliness became a big part of our lives. These feelings became routine, and we became homesick in our own country."

**Story Portrait 1st Prize Winner**

Armin Karami – Iran



Zohreh, 36, tattoo artist, said on April 8 in Tehran: "During the coronavirus outbreak my boyfriend was lonely and under a lot of stress, he decided to introduce me to his family. Honestly, I think it has been a good way to pursue our engagement, without so many of the unnecessary parts. I think that after corona, people will realize that life can be short."



Mahsa, 30, said on March 31 in Tehran: "I think the world will be affected by COVID-19 for a while, but after some months, acceptance of this illness will grow."



Mitra, 43, architect, said on April 8 in Tehran: "COVID-19 has had a significant impact on various careers. Some of the world's most famous brands filed for bankruptcy."



Marzieh, 44, actress said on April 8 in Tehran: "Whether the virus is man-made or transmitted from an animal, it is a serious warning to all of us to take better care of our environment and planet. For me, coronavirus has almost been like a long meditation. COVID-19's silver lining is that it has increased love among people. Something that was either forgotten or insisted on being forgotten."



Bahar, 26, environment engineering student, said on April 8 in Tehran: "In my opinion, the situation in Iran is improving, and despite all the deaths and sorrow during this time, many good things have also happened, such as familiarizing ourselves more with online commerce."



Sara, 26, researcher at a chemical firm, said on April 8 in Tehran: "I find corona frightening. I don't know what to expect. I became unemployed during the outbreak because my company shifted to making hand sanitizer, and my job was cut."



**Story Portrait**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
Armin Karami – Iran

Safoura, 27, researcher/ translator, said on April 8 in Tehran: "In the beginning, I was quite terrified, and I even had nightmares. Although my job involves working from home, it was difficult to stay inside so much because it wasn't my choice."

## Jury of 2021

The Photo of the Year is a very striking picture because it's news and it's human and it's personal at the same time. I think we all agreed in the jury that in this picture we really had something we had in common for that year. It really strikes the history of 2020.

What is interesting about the contest is that we get more photos from more places. There are different contests all around the world and we are always different. Not being from the same country, or the same department, or the same area of expertise makes the jury really strong.

[Marion Mertens / Chair of the Istanbul Photo Awards 2021 Jury](#)

[Visual Storyteller](#)

I am honored to be a part of this top-quality competition. There were lots of really, really good works. It was really hard for us to decide. I would encourage everyone to attend the Istanbul Photo Awards in all categories. If you want to

have a picture remembered, then [you need] to be focused on work, and you have to work hard.

[Goran Tomasevic / Istanbul Photo Awards 2021 Jury Member](#)

[Photojournalist / Reuters](#)

The Istanbul Photo Awards reflects real photojournalism, it has become a well-respected and internationally known contest, represented in single entries and stories that are creative, original and are photographically strong that illustrate the major disasters, humanitarian issues, conflict zones as well as moving daily life stories that are beautiful in their own way, telling stories we as the viewers may have not been exposed to.

[Cameron Spencer / Istanbul Photo Awards 2021 Jury Member](#)

[Chief Sports Photojournalist / Getty Images](#)



Ahmet Sel

Cameron Spencer

Deborah Copaken



Marion Mertens

Michel Scotto

Goran Tomasevic



Hasan Öymez

Fırat Yurdakul

Yuri Kozyrev

supported by



# ANADOLUIMAGES.COM

Anadolu Images is the most important photo portal in Europe and the Middle East. The portal allows access to the most recent images of Anadolu Agency and international photojournalists from around the world as well as the extensive editorial photo archive of Anadolu Agency.



Access to Photos





#### **DIRECTORATE GENERAL ANKARA**

Eti Mah. GMK Bul. No:132  
Maltepe - Çankaya / ANKARA - TURKEY

T: +90 312 999 20 00 (pbx)  
F: +90 312 231 21 74

E-mail: kurumsaliletisim@aa.com.tr

#### **İSTANBUL OFFICE**

Merkez Efendi Mah. Mevlana Cad.  
No: 140/A Toya Plaza K:2  
Cevizlibağ - Zeytinburnu / İSTANBUL - TURKEY

T: +90 212 513 10 90  
F: +90 212 511 60 39

E-mail: istanbul@aa.com.tr

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) /anadoluagency

What a privilege it has been getting together each spring to select the winners of the Istanbul Photo Awards. Being part of this team has always felt like a special mission – an adventure, even – which it certainly was in early May, during the seventh year of the contest.

2020 will always be remembered as the year of the COVID pandemic. During the pre-selection of the finalists and the final vote, we were visually struck by just how indelibly this pernicious virus has been at the center of every aspect of life on planet earth during 2020: daily life, sports, news, and yes, even portraits.

Choosing the best photos from a group of spectacular images –we all were amazed at the quality of this year's images – was a difficult process because there were literally too many good shots and stories deserving to win.

We thank our contestants for their perseverance and talent, and we are proud to present the winners to you. All of the award-winning photos share the same humanity, the same pathos, the same tug at our heartstrings. And each winning image – as well as many of the wonderful images that didn't win – forced us to reckon with the similarity of our struggles, hopes, and joys, no matter where we were stuck in the world.

**Marion Mertens**  
**Chair of the Jury**

