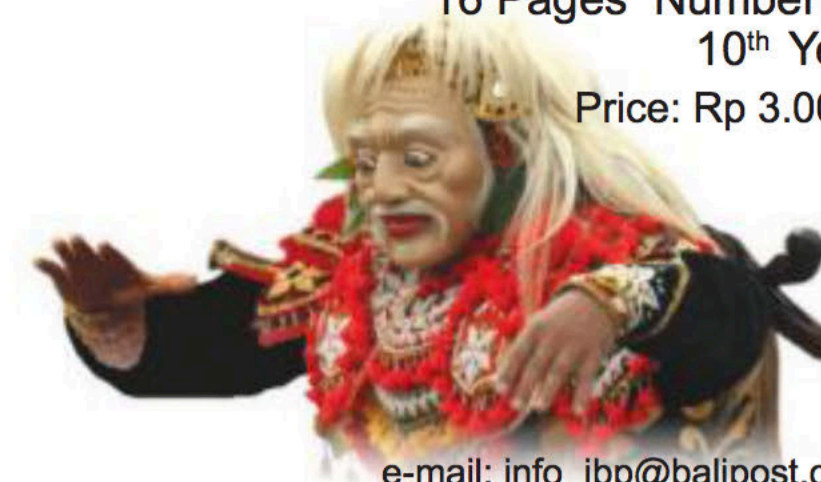


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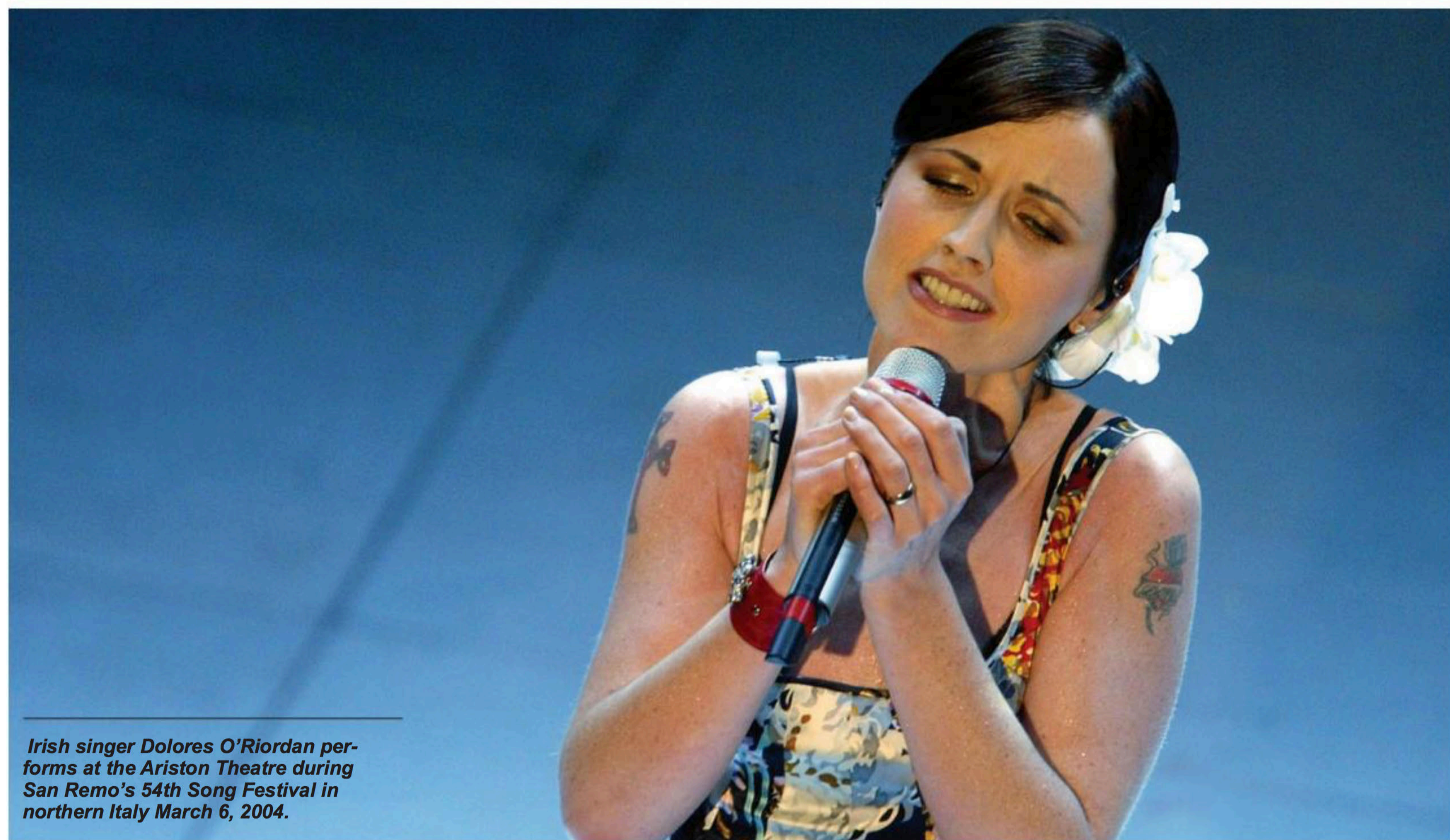
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Wednesday, January 17, 2018



REUTERS/Alessia Pierdomenico/File Photo

*Irish singer Dolores O'Riordan performs at the Ariston Theatre during San Remo's 54th Song Festival in northern Italy March 6, 2004.*

## Cranberries singer Dolores O'Riordan dies suddenly at 46

**DUBLIN - Dolores O'Riordan, the lead singer of Irish rock group The Cranberries, died suddenly on Monday at the age of 46 during a recording trip to London, her publicist said. The cause of death was unclear. O'Riordan's distinctive Irish lilt and yodel helped fuel the Cranberries' rapid rise in the early 1990s with global hits "Linger", "Dreams" and "Zombie." The band went on to sell over 40 million records to become Ireland's second-best-selling rock band after U2.**

Her three bandmates said in a tweet that they were devastated at the passing of an "extraordinary talent". Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in a statement described her as the "voice of her generation". But a naturally reserved singer, O'Riordan often struggled with fame, leaving her native Ireland for several years to avoid the spotlight. During her separation from her husband in 2014, she was arrested for attacking a police officer.

The singer's publicist said she

died during a short recording trip to London, but declined to comment on the cause of death.

"Family members are devastated to hear the breaking news and have requested privacy at this very difficult time," the publicist, Lindsey Holmes, said in a statement. O'Riordan is survived by two daughters and a son. Police in London said a woman in her 40s was pronounced dead early on Monday at a hotel on Park Lane in central London.

A spokesman said police were

continuing inquiries into the death, which was being treated as "unexplained". The woman had yet to be formally identified, he said.

### METEORIC RISE

The Cranberries shot to fame with their 1993 debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" after the hit song "Linger" was picked up by MTV. The band's first three albums sold a combined 28 million copies. But the strain on O'Riordan, who was so shy that she performed with her

back to the audience during some early concerts, was also becoming clear, with the band cutting short a tour in 1996 citing exhaustion and disillusionment.

O'Riordan left the Cranberries in 2003 and recorded two solo albums, before the band reformed in 2009. O'Riordan pleaded guilty to headbutting and spitting at an Irish police officer in 2014 following an alleged air rage incident. She later told an interviewer that she had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was struggling with the breakdown of her marriage.

Last year the Cranberries cancelled a number of concerts in North America and Europe, saying O'Riordan was suffering from back problems. British pop band

Duran Duran, whose tour manager, Don Burton, was O'Riordan's husband from 1994 until they separated in 2014 and was father to her children, said in a Twitter posting that they were "crushed" by the news. U2 said they were "floored" by the news in a statement posted on Twitter. "Out of the West came this storm of a voice -- she had such strength of conviction yet she could speak to the fragility in all of us," the band said. (rtr)



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