

This Day in History

(March 13)

Today is Monday; 23rd of the Iranian month of Esfand 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 14th of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1438 lunar hijri; and March 13, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1393 solar years ago, on this day in 624 AD, the pagan Arabs of Mecca lost the Battle of Badr, which they had imposed as the first armed encounter upon Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). With God's help the poorly armed Muslim defenders, numbering only 313, emerged victorious against the more than a thousand fully armed Arab aggressors. The hero of the battle was the Prophet's dearest first cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), who subsequently became his son-in-law, and was later proclaimed by him as vicegerent on the express commandment of God Almighty at the historic gathering of Ghadeer-Khom.

933 lunar years ago, on this day in 1500 AH, the prominent Iranian Sunni Muslim scholar, Abu Hamed Mohammad Ghazali Tusi, passed away.

570 solar years ago, on this day in 1447 AD, Shah Rukh Mirza, the ruler of Iran, Central Asia and what is now Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan and northwestern India, died during a journey to Rayan (near modern Tehran) at the age of 70 after a reign of 42 years. He was the son and successor of the fearsome Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur, and in contrast to his father, was a peace-loving ruler. His mother was a Tajik lady. Although he lost Iraq to the Qara Quyunlu Turks, he hotly contested for control of Anatolia (modern Turkey) with the Ottomans, who were decisively crushed by his father. His capital was Herat in Khorasan – currently in Afghanistan. He was a great patron of the arts sciences, especially Persian architecture and literature, as well as works in Chaghatay and Arabic languages. Shah Rukh commissioned a number of historical and geographic works by the Iranian scholar Hafez-e Abru. Among them is "Tarih-e Shah Rukh" – a history of his reign that was later incorporated by its author into the larger "universal history" compilations "Majmu'a-e Hafez-e Abru" (a universal history work) and "Majma' at-Tawarikh as-Soltani" (section "Zobdat at-Tawarikh-e Baysongori"). His wife, the highly refined Iranian lady, Gowhar Shad, funded the construction of two outstanding mosques and theological colleges in Mashhad and Herat. The Grand Gowhar-Shad-Mosque adjacent to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) – the 8th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – was finished in 1418.

426 solar years ago, on this day in 1591 AD, Moroccan forces of the Sa'di Dynasty led by their general of Spanish origin, Judar Pasha, won Battle of Tondibi in Mali against the numerically superior forces of the Songhai Empire. In the subsequent battles the Moroccans conquered almost all major cities including Timbuktu. Founded in southern Morocco in 1509, the Sa'di Dynasty, which claimed descent from Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) through his elder grandson, Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), controlled all of Morocco by 1554 until its collapse in 1659. The most famous sultan was Ahmad al-Mansur (1578–1603), the builder of the famous al-Badi Palace in Marakesh. One of the most important achievements of the Sa'di Dynasty was the decisive defeat it inflicted on the Portuguese at the Battle of Qasr al-Kabir on 4 August 1578.

286 lunar years ago, on this day in 1152 AH, the trilateral Treaty of Belgrade was signed, according to which the Austrians returned Belgrade (in present day Serbia) to the Ottoman Turks after 22 years of occupation. Russia for its part pledged to demolish the Fortress of Azak overlooking the Sea of Azov at the northeastern tip of the Black Sea, and leave the surrounding lands to the Ottomans, with a promise that no Russian ship will sail in the Black Sea.

284 solar years ago, on this day in 1733 AD, the English chemist and physicist, Joseph Priestley, was born in the city of Fieldhead. He is supposed to be the discoverer of oxygen and nitrogen gases, and died in 1804. He is considered the first European to discover sulfur dioxide, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and silicon fluoride, which had been determined centuries earlier by Muslim scientists. His political opinions and support of the French Revolution were unpopular. After his home and laboratory were set fire in 1791 in England, he sailed for the US where he spent the rest of his life.

253 lunar years ago, on this day in 1185 AH, the prominent Iranian religious scholar and poet, Allamah Ahmad Naraq, was born in Naraq to the equally famous religious scholar Mullah Mohammad Mahdi Naraq.

175 solar years ago, on this day in 1842 AD, Henry Shrapnel, English soldier and inventor of the Shrapnel shell, a spherical case designed to explode in midair, spreading its content of small lead musket balls to injure and kill people over a wide area, died at the age of 81 in Southampton, Britain. On joining the army, he spent his life in service during which time he devised and refined his shell, invented a percussion lock for small arms (patented 1834) and other improvements in fuses, ammunition and small arms. He also prepared important artillery range tables and originated the brass tangent slide to improve the sighting of guns.

126 lunar years ago, on this day in 1312 AH, Grand Ayatollah Mirza Habibollah Rashti, passed away. He was a product of the famous Islamic seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq and studied under prominent scholars such as Ayatollah Sheikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli. Among his works, mention could be made of the book: "Badi al-Afkaar".

69 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, armed Zionists of the terrorist outfit, Haganah, attacked the Palestinian village of "Husseiniyeh", razing Muslim homes to the ground and massacring sixty Palestinian villagers. In a separate terrorist attack the same day, Zionists also blew up the homes of Palestinians in a district of Bayt al-Moqaddas, martyring and wounding several people. The carnage of Palestinian Muslims was a prelude to the illegitimate birth of Israel, following the withdrawal of British forces from Palestine, which took place two months after the massacre at Husseiniyeh Village.

60 solar years ago, on this day in 1957 AD, with the help of the notorious US spy ring CIA and the illegal Zionist entity, the British-installed and American-backed Pahlavi potentate, Mohammad Reza, set up the dreaded SAVAK, which is abbreviation of the Persian term Sazeman-e Ettela'at va Amniyat-e Keshvar, meaning Organization of Intelligence and National Security. It was dissolved on the eve of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. SAVAK has been described as Iran's "most hated and feared institution", because of its practice of torturing and executing opponents of the Pahlavi regime. At its peak, SAVAK had as many as 60,000 agents, who tortured and murdered thousands of the Islamic activists, including Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Sa'idi. It had virtually unlimited powers. It operated its own detention centers, like Evin Prison. In addition to domestic security, SAVAK's surveillance extended to Iranians abroad. Brute force was used on victims, and other methods of torture such as the bastinado; sleep deprivation; extensive solitary confinement; glaring searchlights; standing in one place for hours on end; nail extractions; snakes (favoured for use with women); electrical shocks with cattle prods, often into the rectum; cigarette burns; sitting on hot grills; acid dripped into nostrils; near-drownings; mock executions; and an electric chair with a large metal mask to muffle screams while amplifying them for the victim. Prisoners were also humiliated by being raped, urinated on, and forced to stand naked.

55 solar years ago, on this day in 1962 AD, the courageous religious leader and well-known political figure of Iran's contemporary history, Ayatollah Seyyed Abu'l-Qasem Kashani, passed away.

42 lunar years ago, on this day in 1395 AH, the scholar, Ayatollah Mirza Ahmad Ashtiyani, passed away at the age of 95.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Iranian lawmakers approved \$15 million to investigate and counter US attempts to infiltrate the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ever since, Washington was thrown out following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, it has tried in vain to re-impose its influence on Iran and has resorted to various plots – all of which have been defeated thanks to the people vigilance.

6 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, Iran busted a US-funded cyber network group linked to MKO hypocrites to collect data on Iranian nuclear scientists. Some 30 culprits with links to the MKO terrorists were arrested and disclosed their treason against the country.

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio – <http://parstoday.com/en>)

Ali Atshani Wins Best Director Award at WIND Film Festival



Iranian director, Ali Atshani

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian film 'Wishbone' by Ali Atshani won the Best Director award at the WIND International Film Festival in the United States.

Acclaimed film 'Wishbone' had also been nominated for the Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Editing, Best Supporting Actor Male and Best Cinematography awards at the festival.

The cinematic work compares and contrasts the ups and downs experienced by a fired coach who met a girl with whom he had a relationship several years prior.

The critically acclaimed Iranian flick has already taken home numerous awards including the Best Cinematic Film at the 3rd edition of the London Independent Filmmakers Association Festival and has attended the 35th edition of the Fajr Film Festival Perspective section in Iran.

The cast includes famous Iranian actor, Hossein Yari, and actress, Mitra Hajjar.

The WIND International Festival was held on February 21-23 in Hollywood, California.

'Blind Spot' Wins Best Director Award in Las Cruces Film Festival

TEHRAN (ISNA) – The Iranian film "Blind Spot" directed by Mehdi Golestaneh won the best director award in New Mexico Las Cruces International Film Festival.

Mehdi Golestaneh director and producer of "Blind Spot" awarded as the best director in competition with 12 other films.

"This movie is about human relationships. In Blind Spot, I tried my best to narrate an international issue that may occur anywhere in

the world. I'm so glad this festival paid attention to this point," Golestaneh said in a statement to the festival.

It is the third movie of Golestaneh. The cast includes Mohammad-Reza Foroutan, Hanieh Tavassoli, Shaghayegh Farahani, Mohsen Kiayee, Maryam Boubani, Khatereh Asadi and Niki Mozafari among other.

The festival was held March 8-12 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



Adobe Architectural Structure Discovered in Center of Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The second season of archeological studies in the Jam region of Mahallat, Markazi province resulted in the discovery of an adobe architectural structure from the historical era, the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) reported.

The structure consists of different pieces of simple and illustrated clay works, various stone tools, etc.

RICHT Public Relations Office quoted head of the team of the second season of archeological studies in the Jam region in Mahallat, Leila Bani Jamal as saying the project was implemented with an aim of completing information in the field of real limits, survey of the extent of the turbulence in the region and identifying the periods of settlement.

The archaeologist said, "In this season of studies in the Jam region with the setting up of a workshop in the northeastern side of the region a part of an adobe architectural structure was emerged."

According to her, the remains included two perpendicular adobe walls with the width of 100 and 150 cm that probably belonged to a greater architectural environment dating back to the historic era.

The head of the archeological

team further remarked that among the items obtained in the two seasons of excavations of the region different samples and illustrated clay works, various

stone tools and stones devices can be mentioned.

Bani Jamal, stressing that Jam region is one of the most important and largest regions in the southeast

of Markazi Province, noted that settlement evidence exists in this region indicating the settlement from the stone copper, bronze, Parthian and the Sassanid eras.

Picture of the Day



Ahead of Nowruz Shirazi people attend a ceremony to cook Samanu, which is a sweet paste made entirely from germinated wheat. The tradition has been traced back to the pre-Islamic Persia.

Credit: Mehr News Agency