

This Day in History

(February 22)

Today is Wednesday; 4th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 24th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1438 lunar hijri; and February 22, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

610 solar years ago, on this day in 1407 AD, the Timurid ruler, Pir Mohammad was murdered by his ambitious vizier, Pir Ali Taz, near Balkh some six months after his second defeat by his cousin, Khalil Sultan (son of Miran Shah), the other claimant to the throne of Samarqand. He had declared himself king two years earlier on the death of his grandfather, the fearsome Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur.

505 solar years ago, on this day in 1512 AD, Italian astronomer, navigator and cartographer, Amerigo Vespucci, whose name the Europeans gave to the new landmass discovered for Spain by Christopher Columbus as "America", died.

503 solar years ago, on this day in 1514 AD, Shah Tahmasp I, was born in Isfahan to the Founder of the Safavid Empire of Iran, Shah Ismail I. He ascended the throne at the age of 10 on the death of his father. His reign of 52 years is the longest of any Muslim king of Iran, and was marked by foreign threats, primarily from the Ottomans in the west and the Uzbeks in the northeast. Upon adulthood, he was able to reassert his power and consolidate the dynasty against internal and external enemies. Although he lost Iraq and parts of Anatolia to the Ottoman invaders, his pious nature made him avoid unnecessary shedding of Muslim blood. As a result, after thwarting Ottoman designs in the Caucasus, Shah Tahmasp concluded the Treaty of Amasya, with Sultan Sulaiman, resulting in a peace that lasted 30 years and led to the development of Iran.

462 solar years ago, on this day in 1555 AD, the 2nd Mughal Emperor, Naseer-od-Din Humayun re-conquered with Iranian help eastern Afghanistan and the northern subcontinent, fifteen years after losing the throne of Delhi to the Pashtun adventurer, Sher Shah Suri. Born in 1508 in Kabul, where his father, the Timurid prince Zaheer-od-Din Babar had established himself with the assistance of Shah Ismail I the founder of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran, he succeeded to the throne of Delhi in 1530, while his step-brother Kamran Mirza obtained the sovereignty of Kabul and Lahore. His peaceful personality, in addition to his addiction to opium, cost him the kingdom ten years later, forcing him to seek refuge in Iran, where he was cordially received by Shah Tahmasp I, who provided financial aid and 14,000 troops to regain his Empire. Humayun, along with his trusted general, Bairam Khan, crossed the Indus River and in February of 1554, he occupied the Punjab, including Lahore, without any serious opposition. To check the Moghul-Persian advance, Sikandar Shah of Delhi sent a huge army of Afghans and Rajputs that was defeated. On restoration of Mughal, thousands of Iranians continued to migrate every year to Hindustan and were given high civil and military positions.

400 lunar years ago, on this day in 1038 AH, Shah Abbas I, regarded as the greatest emperor of the Safavid dynasty of Iran, passed away at the age of 59. The son of Shah Mohammad Khodabanda, he ascended the throne as a 16-year youth during troubled times, when the country was rife with discord between the different factions of the Qizilbash army, who killed his elder brother Hamza Mirza and mother Queen Khair-od-Nisa Begum Mahd-e Olya - descended from Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), the 4th Infallible Heir of the Prophet (SAWA). Meanwhile, Iran's enemies, the Ottomans and the Uzbeks, exploited the political chaos to seize territory in the west and northeast. Abbas soon reduced the influence of the Qizilbash in the administrative and military affairs, executed the killers of his mother and brother, and reformed the army, enabling him to fight the Ottomans and Uzbeks and retake Iran's lost provinces. He decisively defeated the Ottomans in several battles in the Caucasus, in Anatolia and in Iraq, where he rebuilt on a grand scale the shrines of the Infallible Imams in Najaf, Karbala, and Kazemain. He drove back the Uzbeks from the northern and western parts of Khorasan, and in fulfillment of a vow walked on foot from his new capital Isfahan to distant Mashhad, where he rebuilt the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He also liberated Iranian territories from the Portuguese invaders in the Persian Gulf and from the Mughals of India in what is now Afghanistan.

285 solar years ago, on this day in 1732 AD, George Washington, who led the New England rebels against the British and became the first president of the 13 rebellious colonies that had banded together as the United States of America (USA), was born in an English family in Virginia. In his youth he mastered geometry and trigonometry, and started career as a surveyor, proficient at drafting, mapmaking, and designing tables of data. He enlisted in the British colonial army and was involved in the wars against the Amerindian tribes, as well as against the French, before siding with the revolutionaries to defeat the British armies.

229 solar years ago, on this day in 1788 AD, German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer, was born. He arrived at many of the same conclusions of Eastern philosophy, and would say: "Hatred comes from the heart; contempt from the head; and neither feeling is quite within our control."

194 solar years ago, on this day in 1823 AD, the Greeks during their rebellion against the Ottoman Turks massacred 12,000 Muslims in the city of Tripolitsa, with the help of Britain, France, Russia, and Austria.

112 lunar years ago, on this day in 1326 AH, Iran's freedom-seeking author and preacher, Mirza Nasrullah Malek al-Motakallemin, was detained and martyred by agents of the Qajarid King, Mohammad Ali Shah at the age of 49.

63 lunar years ago, on this day in 1375 AH, the religious scholar Mirza Ali Aqa Shirazi, passed away. In the words of Martyrs Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, he was a great Gnostic noted for his piety and simple way of life, despite being an erudite scholar who could be called the embodiment of "Nahj al-Balagha", the famous collection of the sermons, letters, and maxims of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

59 solar years ago, on this day in 1958 AD, Indian scholar and statesman, Abul-Kalam Azad died at the age of 70. He was active in the struggle for independence of India from British rule. As a member of the ruling Congress Party, he was elected to the parliament after India gained independence in 1947, and was later made Minister of Education. As a scholar of Urdu, Arabic, Persian and English languages he wrote many valuable books, including an exegesis of the holy Qur'an, titled, "Tarjuman al-Qur'an". He was greatly influenced by the famous 19th century pan-Islamic Iranian thinker, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi, especially concerning the importance of Ijtihad in awakening the Muslim societies. Among his other works are: "War from the Islamic Point of View" and "Shahid-e Azam" (Great Martyr) which is a book on the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS).

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, following drafting of the Islamic Republic constitution and setting up of the Majlis (or parliament), as per the decree of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Husseini Beheshti was elected as the first Chief Justice of Islamic Iran. Ayatollah Beheshti was martyred in a terrorist bomb blast in Tehran by the notorious US-backed MKO terrorist outfit in July 1981 along with 72 senior Iranian officials, including cabinet ministers and parliament members.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, the famous Urdu poet of the Subcontinent, Shabbir Hassan Khan "Joosh" passed away in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan at the age of 88.

10 lunar years ago, on this day in 1428 AH, the prominent scholar Ayatollah Hassan Tabatabaei Qomi, passed away in his hometown, holy Mashhad, at the age of 99 years.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, terrorists backed by the US shocked the civilized world and hurt Islamic sentiments by blasphemously blowing the magnificent golden dome of the holy shrine in Samarra, which houses the venerated tombs of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) 10th and 11th Infallible Heirs - Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS) and Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS). The sacred shrine is being rebuilt, thanks to the devotional efforts of Iraqi and Iranian Muslims.

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

Iran Participates in Persian Manuscripts Conference in Balkans

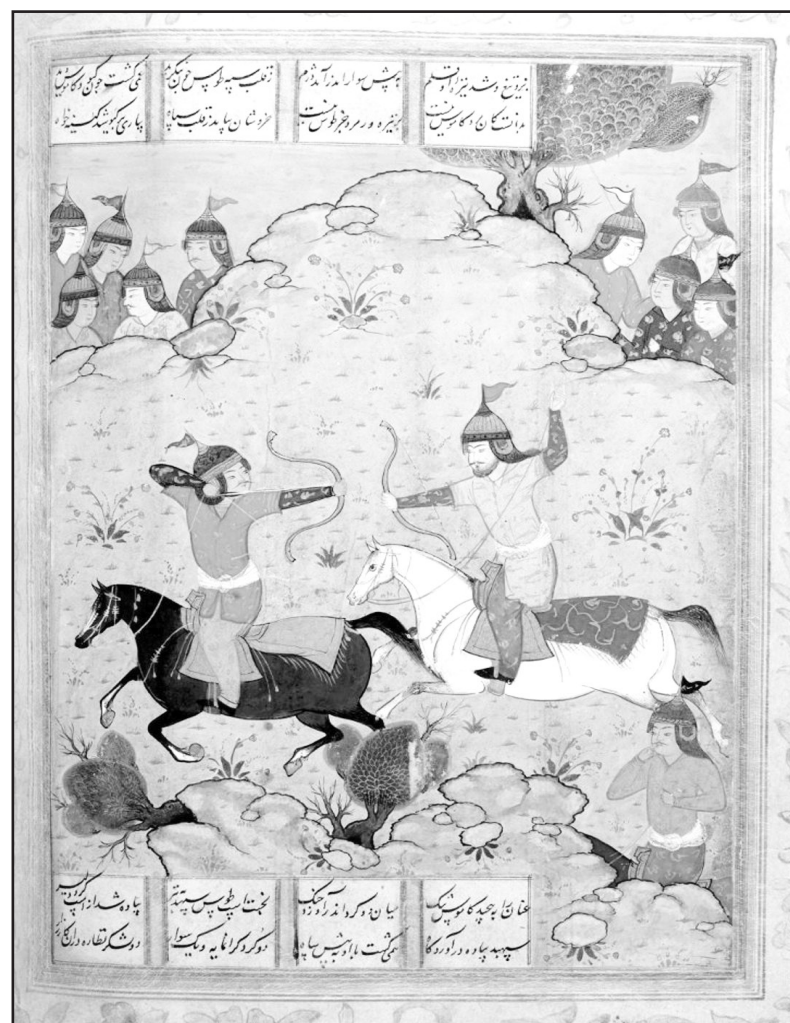
TEHRAN (IRNA) - A faculty member and Director of the Islamic Texts Department of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) Dariush Zolfaqari is to present a paper on the importance of rhetoric in the correction of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh in Conference in Balkans, RICHT reported.

According to RICHT Public Relations Office, the conference will be held on 23-24 February in the University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

Zolfaqari noted that since the time when Ferdowsi's Shahnameh became available as a result of the efforts of distinguished Shahnameh researcher Jalal Khaleqi Motlaq, widespread topics were raised about it, adding that one of the topics that can be discussed regarding this valuable work is the rhetoric comparison of the text with its copied versions.

He pointed out that since the most valuable Olya letter in rhetoric is 'and', in this paper the author has made his utmost efforts to observe every 'and' in the copied versions and raise this question that whether the rhetoric of the text can be a seal of confirmation on its originality?

Zolfaqari further remarked



that at the end the results showed that in many cases, the 'and' which exists in the text but does not exist in the copied versions is also

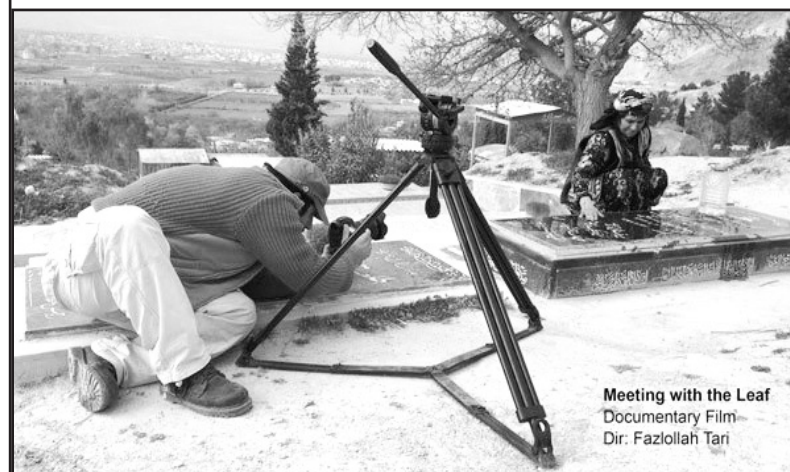
credible in terms of rhetoric. "Persian manuscripts, the manuscripts related to Iran in other languages, including religious and Islamic texts,

documents and Persian correspondences, documents and correspondences relating to Iran in other languages and survey in Oriental texts are among major topics of the conference," he said.

He also referred to presentation of article and familiarity with the Persian and Arabic manuscripts available at the national library of Bulgaria as being among the targets of the conference. He said interaction with the researchers in the Balkans region and Central Europe and preparing the ground for the formation of specialized working groups in the field of written heritage are among other targets of the two-day conference.

It should be noted that the conference will be held under the auspicious of Iran, Balkans and Central Europe Study Center with the cooperation of the National Library of Sofia, the University of Sofia, Allameh Tabatabaei University of Tehran, Association of Advocates of the Persian Language and Culture in Bulgaria, Written Heritage and Cultural Heritage Institute.

WFA to Host Iran's 'Meeting With the Leaf'



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's documentary 'Meeting with the Leaf', directed by Fazlollah Tari, will go on screen at Winter Film Awards (WFA) in New York.

Meeting with the Leaf will be showcased at the 6th Winter Film Awards (WFA) in New York, on February 23 to March 4, where it hosts many prominent filmmakers

from around the world. The festival includes the opening, specialized workshops and expert meetings on the films.

Meeting with the Leaf recounts the story of an elderly lady whose husband has passed away long time ago. She believes that his soul has been reincarnated in a mulberry tree that has grown up next to his grave. So she treats the tree just like her husband.

The film received the Audience Award of the 17th Moondance International Film Festival in the U.S. In addition, it has participated in several other international festivals.

Winter Film Awards (WFA) is a volunteer-run and operated celebration of the diversity of local and international film-making.

Japan Zoo Culls 57 Monkeys Carrying 'Invasive' Genes



Snow monkeys are known in Japan as Nihonzaru.

TOKYO (AFP) - A Japanese zoo has culled 57 native snow monkeys by lethal injection after finding that they carried genes of an "invasive alien species", officials said Tuesday.

The Takagoyama Nature Zoo in the city of Futtsu in Chiba prefecture east of Tokyo, housed 164 simians which it believed were all pure Japanese macaques.

But the operator and local officials discovered about one-third were crossbred with the rhesus macaque, which in Japan is designated an "invasive alien species".

A city official told AFP on Tuesday that Japanese law bans the possession and transport of invasive species, including the cross-breeds, and that culling of them is allowed under the law.

He said the monkeys were put to death by lethal injection over about one month ending early February.

Picture of the Day



A view of Tabriz carpet market in northwestern Iranian province of East Azarbaijan.

Courtesy of IRNA