

This Day in History

(February 25)

Today is Saturday; 7th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 27th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1438 lunar hijri; and February 25, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1483 lunar years ago, on this day in 45 years before Hijra, Abdul-Muttaleb, the paternal grandfather of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny), passed away in Mecca and was laid to rest in the Jannat al-Mu’allah Cemetery, which was unfortunately desecrated and destroyed by Wahhabi heretics 92 years ago in 1925 when the Godless Aal-Saud clan occupied Islam’s holiest city. His father was the monotheist Hashem, a direct descendant of the Prophet Abraham’s firstborn son, Prophet Ishmael, while his mother was Salmah bint Amr of the Khazraj clan of Yathreb – which was to become known as Medinat an-Nabi or simply Medina, following the migration to that city of his grandson the Prophet. Named Shaibah by his mother, he was brought to Medina by his uncle Muttaleb, following the death of his father Hashem. When the people of Mecca saw Shaibah with his uncle, they thought he was his slave, and called him Abdul Muttaleb, which means slave of Muttaleb. Although Muttalib tried to explain that the boy was his nephew, the name stuck. Muttaleb continued to manage his brother Hashem’s duties until Abdul Muttaleb was old enough to take over. Abdul Muttaleb took over the duties of Saqaya and Rifada when his uncle Muttaleb died. He had many good qualities and made many changes to the lives and habits of the Quraish.

1389 solar years ago, on this day in 628 AD, the 22nd and last great emperor of the Sassanid Empire of Iran, Khosrau II, after a reign of 38 years was dethroned and imprisoned by his own son Qobad II (Kavadh), who three days later tortured him to death.

1389 solar years ago, on this day in 628 AD, Qobad II, on ascending the Sassanid throne after deposing his father, Khosrau II Pervex, with the help of refractory nobles, immediately ordered the execution of all his brothers and half-brothers, including heir-apparent, Mardanshah, son of the Armenian princess, Shirin. Named Shirviah at birth, the new emperor, whose mother was Maria, (daughter of Roman Emperor Maurice), entered into truce with Emperor Heraclius on humiliating terms by handing over all the territorial gains of his father, in addition to paying unwarranted war indemnity. This incompetent ruler died after only six months in power under mysterious circumstances, and was succeeded by his 8-year old son, Ardashir III, who was deposed and killed 8 months later by the usurper General Shahrbaraz – only to be killed himself 40 days later. The rot that started with Khosrau’s ouster in 628 thus saw 7 more emperors rising to and falling from the throne of Ctesiphon in the space of only 4 years. The last of them, Yazdegerd III, who assumed power in 632 was destined to face the Muslim Arab invasion in 636 that within a decade brought down the curtain on the 425-year rule of the Sassanid Dynasty and saw the almost mass acceptance of Islam by the Iranians, thereby resulting in the birth of Islamic Iran that has since played a vital role in the flowering of the great Islamic civilization.

988 lunar years ago, on this day in 450 AH, Abu'l-Abbas Ahmad ibn Ali an-Najashi, passed away in Matirabad near the city of Samarra in Iraq at the age of 78. He is considered the earliest and among the most authentic Shi’ite Muslim scholars of “Ilm ar-Rijal”, which literally means “Knowledge of Men”, and refers to a discipline of Islamic religious science in which the narrators of hadith are evaluated. His book “Rijaal an-Najashi” has been the most reliable source of information about early ulama and scholars of the School of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and paved the way for later generations to further explore this vital field. Najashi was a student of the celebrated Shaikh Mufid and other prominent scholars, while his father, Ali ibn Ahmad, had studied under the famous Iranian scholar, Shaikh Sadouq, when the latter visited Baghdad. Born with an inquisitive mind that enabled him to embark on a scrutiny of sources and narrators, Najashi belonged to a family of eminent scholars. His seventh ancestor, Abdullah an-Najashi, who was the governor of Ahvaz and Fars during the reign of Mansour Dawaniqui, the 2nd self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, was a student of Imam Ja’far Sadeq (AS), the 6th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He compiled the Imam’s answers to his queries under the title “Risalat-Abdullah an-Najashi”.

368 solar years ago, on this day in 1649 AD, Iran’s Safavid Empire retook the strategic border city of Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan from the Mughal Empire of the Subcontinent. Qandahar was the bone of contention between the two otherwise friendly empires, and was mostly under Iranian rule. Upon hearing of the Mughal debacle in Balkh, Shah Abbas II resolved to liberate Qandahar. He set up camp in Herat and in December 1648, marched towards Qandahar and besieged it. In two months the fort and its surroundings capitulated and were handed over to Iran’s suzerainty by its governor Daulat Khan after 11 years of Mughal occupation. Shahjahan immediately ordered a counterattack under his son Prince Aurangzeb, who was defeated by the Iranians and withdrew. In 1952 the Iranians beat back another invasion by Aurangzeb. The next year Shahjahan sent his elder son Prince Darashikoh with a huge force that also failed to break the defences of the Iranians and retreated after a 7-month siege. The last futile attempt by the Mughals against Qandahar was in 1555. Qandahar was lost by Iran to the Hotaki Pashtuns in 1721, liberated by Nader Shah in 1738 and seized in 1747 by Ahmad Shah Abdali Durrani, the founder of Afghanistan.

260 lunar years ago, on this day in 1178 AH, the Hadith scholar, Abdul-Karim Ibn Ahmad al-Halabi, passed away. He was from Aleppo as his surname suggests, and though he went blind, he wasn’t demoralized and remained a prominent scholar. He has left behind numerous compilations, including “Ad’iyat as-Safar” or supplications to God for safety while on journey.

97 solar years ago, on this day in 1920 AD, French archaeologist, Marcel-Auguste Dieulafoy, died at the age of 75. In 1884-86 he undertook major excavations at the historical site of Susa (modern Shush, Iran) uncovering the palaces of the ancient Persian emperors, Darius I the Great and Artaxerxes II. He was helped by a French physician at the Qajarid court in Tehran to reopen the 1852 excavations done by W.K. Loftus. Dieulafoy’s exploration resulted in revealing part of the palace and other structures, and in settling the topographical details of the city. He also recovered unique and beautiful features of art and architecture, including the pillars with capitals of bulls’ heads, three great porticoes and the hall of columns, the frieze of lions, and that of archers now in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

63 solar years ago, on this day in 1954 AD, Syrian freedom seekers launched their campaign to rid the country of the inefficient and foreign backed rule of President Adib Shishekli. All strata of the society participated in this campaign to bring about the downfall of the Shishekli regime and formation of a united national government under President Hashem al-Atasi.

61 solar years ago, the famous Iranian lexicographer of the Persian language, Allamah Ali Akbar Dehkhoda, passed away. He compiled the voluminous lexicon known as Lughatnameh Dehkhoda.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, the 21-year dictatorial rule of Filipino President, Ferdinand Marcos, ended with his fleeing the country along with his family. Elected president in 1965, he started his repressive rule with US support and usage of military forces. In 1973, he proclaimed himself permanent president much to the resentment of the people, who felt no choice but to start their political and armed struggle that climaxed in the popular uprising of the 1980s and the overthrow of Marcos’ dictatorship. Muslims account for nearly 20 percent of the Filipino population and are mostly concentrated in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago that used to be independent sultanates before the arrival of the Portuguese and forced conversion of the Philippines to the Roman Catholic sect of Christianity.

26 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, Warsaw Pact member states met in Budapest, the Hungarian capital, to formally announce dissolution of the ailing pact, founded by the Eastern Bloc countries in May 14, 1955, under the leadership of the Soviet Union in order to collectively thwart any attack by the West. Made up of the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Albania, it was a counterbalance to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The goodwill dissolution gesture after the end of the Cold War was not reciprocated by the West, whose military arm, NATO, not only continues its unwarranted existence but has pursued a policy of eastward expansion in the absence of Warsaw Pact.

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, the prominent jurisprudent, Ayatollah Mirza Hashem Amoli, passed away in Iran. He was from the city of Amol in Mazandaran Province, and after completing his religious studies in holy Qom he left for Iraq for higher religious studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf. He reached the degree of Ijtihad and his classes were attended by a large number of scholars and students. He was known for his piety and among his works is the book “Kashf al-Haqa’eq”. Ayatollah Mirza Hashem Amoli was the father of Iran’s present judiciary chief, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, and Iran’s current Speaker of the Legislature, Dr. Ali Larijani.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1994 AD, American-Zionist soldier of German Jewish parentage, Baruch Goldstein, opened fire on rows of Palestinian Muslims praying in congregation at the shrine of Prophet Abraham (AS) in the city of al-Khalil in the West Bank of River Jordan. As a result of this cowardly act of terrorism 29 people were martyred and scores of others wounded. This incident (of February 25) occurred in the blessed month of Ramadhan and led to the anger of the civilized world. As a result, the Arab compromisers had no other choice but to postpone their dubious negotiations with the illegal Zionist entity.

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

Poetry Can Be Used to Fight Oppressors: Leader



Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with a number of religious poets on Thursday on the eve of the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Fatimah Zahra (SA), the beloved daughter of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – On the eve of the martyrdom anniversary of Hadhrat Fatemeh Zahra (SA), the beloved daughter of Prophet

Mohammad (PBUH), a number of religious poets met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

In this meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed the role and impact of using language and poetry as means of promoting ideologies in

the fight against oppressors.

“Fighting against hegemony and world dissension and hypocrisy is easy and possible in the Islamic Republic, while under the dominance of certain regional governments, even the slightest renunciation of the U.S. will bring about their fury and severe backlash,” the leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei further touched upon the issue of lifestyle and the duty of religious poets toward it, adding “Today in Europe and America, there are various centers and organizations with the specific goal of changing the lifestyle in non-Western countries, particularly the Islamic Iran.”

He noted that the reason for the attack on the Islamic lifestyle is to create a movement in line with the demands and objectives of western governments, adding “To ward off this type of attack, it is not enough to merely defend by building a wall around oneself, but one can actually do one’s duty by defining the Islamic lifestyle and expressing the moral, political and cultural concepts and principles in the form of poetry.”

Iranian Movies to Go On Screen Abroad

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – ‘Good, Bad, Jaunty’ will go on display in Canada in March concurrent with Nowruz celebration.

Directed by Payman Ghasemkhani, Good, Bad, Jaunty is a comedy telling the story of a cinema director and his problems while directing a movie.

The movie was first screened in 35th Fajr Film Festival early February. Currently screening in Iranian cinemas, the movie is acclaimed by audience and has

hit the records in just one week of screening.

Canada screening of the comedy will start in Vancouver on 26 March and will continue in other cities.

The cast includes Hamid Farrokhejad, Peiman Jamshidi, Sam Derakhshani, Vishka Asayesh and Nasim Adabi.

London Independent Film Awards to Host ‘Cold Breath’
Meanwhile, Iranian film ‘Cold

Breath’ directed and produced by Abbas Raziji will go on screen at the competition section of the London Independent Film Awards.

Cold Breath recounts the story of Maryam who has passed thirty. The woman was born as a girl, passed her puberty like a boy and in the way of love and subsistence she tried hard her every day just like a male.

The cast of the film includes Bita Badran as Maryam, Nader Naderpoor as Ghasem, Parichehr

Riali as Nasrin, Majid Mozaffari as Dr. Mansour, Yasin Rasouli as Reza, Kimia Mollaei as Raha, and Ezzatollah Ramezanifar as baba Rahim.

London Independent Film Awards is a monthly competition with quarterly screenings, recognizing and awarding the work of independent filmmakers worldwide. Our aim is to give the directors, writers, animators, and actors involved a helpful step forward in their future careers.

Int’l Environment Exhibition Kick Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) – The 16th Iran International Environment Exhibition (24-27 February) kicked off here on Friday with attendance of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

A number of high ranking official including VICE-PRESIDENT and head of the department of environment, Masoumeh Ebtekar as well as vice president for Legal affairs, Majid Ansari attended the event.

UN Environment Program Executive Director Erik Solheim, Italian Minister of the Environment Gian Luca Galletti, German State Secretary at the German Environment Ministry (BMUB) Jochen Flasbarth, Secretary-General of the European Environmental Bureau Jeremy Wates as well as a number of foreign diplomats and envoys, environment activists and NGO members attended the exhibition.

“Green Economy, Resistance Economy” is the motto of this year’s exhibition.

Over 300 domestic and 20 foreign companies from Germany, South Korea, UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, China, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand, France, Japan, Russia, Norway and Austria have attended the four-day event.

According to the official website of the exhibition, it is being held in Tehran international permanent fairground, coinciding with the 9th edition of Iran International

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Exhibition.

Considering the drastic changes in Iran’s life environment, effective steps are now being taken by relevant authorities to diminish the extent of the harms being imposed

on the environment.

The concern over the environment and the funds and efforts allocated to it by the authorities has attracted many local and international companies and organizations to this field of activity.

Considering priorities given to the preservation of life environment, the 16th edition of this exhibition is a unique opportunity for all activists in this field to explore the chances for investment in this flourishing market.

Picture of the Day



Thousands of people across the U.S. rally to protest against Donald Trump’s immigration executive order.

Courtesy Fars News Agency