

This Day in History

(March 14)

Today is Wednesday; 23rd of the Iranian month of Esfand 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 25th of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1439 lunar hijri; and March 14, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

730 solar years ago, on this day in 709 AH, Ahmad ibn Mohammad Ibn Ataollah al-Iskandari, the third sheikh of the Shadhili Sufi Order, passed away in Cairo. He systematized the Order’s doctrines and authored a treatise on “*dhikr*”, titled “*Miftah al-Falah*” (Key to Salvation), which is a Sufi manual of invocation.

237 solar years ago, on this day in 1781 AD, after two years as Iran’s ruler, Sadeq Khan Zand was killed by Ali Murad Khan Zand – to be killed himself four years later by his victim’s son, Ja’far Khan. The fratricide led to collapse of the 44-year dynasty founded by Karim Khan. In 1794, Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar established the Qajarid dynasty by eliminating the Zands.

228 solar years ago, on this day in 1790 AD, Ludwig Emil Grimm, German painter and engraver – youngest of the three talented Grimm Brothers – was born. His first work was a sketchbook of engravings based on his Italian journey. In 1819 AD, he brought about the second edition of “*Kinder- und Hausmärchen*”, popularly known as “*Grimm’s Fairy Tales*”.

139 solar years ago, on this day in 1879 AD, German physicist-mathematician, Albert Einstein, was born. In 1905 as Swiss citizen, he published three articles, which laid the foundation of three new branches in physics. In 1917, he published the general relativity theory, which led to new viewpoints in sciences. In 1933, he migrated to the US. His theories became highly influential in development of nuclear studies, including manufacture of atomic bombs. He was shocked at his unintentional role in development of weapons of mass destruction by the US. He died in 1955. In his closing years his viewpoints had moved closer to the concept of God and spiritual values in Islam, especially in accordance with the school of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt.

135 solar years ago, on this day in 1883 AD, German philosopher and founder of Marxism, Karl Marx, died. In cooperation with his compatriot, Friedrich Engels, he published his beliefs in the book “*The Communist Manifesto*”. Two years later, Marx was banished from Germany due to political activities and took up residence in England for the rest of his life. His other important book is “*Das Capital*”. Marx’s thoughts were presented in different frameworks for more than a century across the world. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the baselessness of his thoughts became evident, as world developments proved falsity of his views of history and community.

130 lunar years ago, on this day in 1309 AH, the tobacco concession to the British by Nasser od-Din Shah Qajar was cancelled, following the Iranian nation’s support for the fatwa issued from holy Samarra in Iraq, after due warnings, by Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi against tobacco consumption, since it was ruining Iran’s economy. His verdict read: Tobacco consumption is tantamount to war against the Imam of the Age (God hasten his reappearance).

61 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 US-backed Pahlavi potentate, Mohammad Reza, set up the dreaded SAVAK. 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 regime. It tortured and murdered thousands of the Islamic activists, including Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Sa’idi. 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-drowning; 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 upon, and forced to stand naked.

64 solar years ago, on this day in 1954 AD, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu started between Viet Minh forces, fighting for Vietnam’s independence and French colonial troops in Dien Bien Phu Castle. On May 7, following submission of French commander, Col. Christian de Castries, and the triumph of Viet Minh forces, the battle ended and with it French colonial rule over Vietnam.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1962 AD, religious leader and political figure, Ayatollah Seyyed Abu’l-Qasem Kashani, passed away. A product of the Najaf Seminary, from where he was expelled by the British colonialists for his views on Iraq’s independence, on arriving in Iran, he launched his struggle against British infiltration, which led to his imprisonment. Following his release, the people of Tehran elected him to the parliament. His support for the masses led to nationalization of Iran’s oil industry and nomination of Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq as Prime Minister. When the Shah appointed British stooge, Qawwam os-Saltanah, as Premier; Ayatollah Kashani issued a statement calling on the people to enter the scene. As a result, the July 21, 1952 uprising took place. The terrified Shah removed Qawwam and Dr. Mosaddeq was reinstated. After the US-staged coup of 1953 and the fugitive Shah’s return to Iran, Ayatollah Kashani was placed under surveillance until his death.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1978 AD, the Zionist army invaded and occupied southern Lebanon up to River Litani, on the pretext of stopping attacks by Palestinian combatants, by massacring a large number of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians. When UN Security Council Resolution 425 stationed 4,000 peace-keepers and forced the Zionists to withdraw, Israel formed a Christian militia under its local Lebanese agent, S’ad Haddad, to continue presence by proxy. In 1982, the Zionists once again attacked and occupied southern Lebanon, resulting in the massacre of over 5,000 Palestinian men, women, and children in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla. Soon, with the emergence of the legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, and its heroic resistance, Israel was forced to pull back from the outskirts of Beirut, and in 2000, it finally retreated from Lebanese soil, although some farmlands are still under its occupation.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, Sheikh Abdul Ali Mazari, Secretary-General of Afghanistan’s Hizb-e Wahdat, was tortured and martyred by Taliban terrorists in midair during a helicopter flight and his body thrown out. An ethnic Hazara and a Shi’a Muslim from Mazar-e Sharif, he fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and his initiative led to the creation of the Jonbesh-e Shomal or Northern Movement. As a result, the country’s leading militia’s joined ranks, leading to the downfall of Kabul’s communist regime. He believed the solution to the internal divisions in his homeland was in a federal system of governance, with each ethnic group having specific constitutional rights. The Saudi supported militias caused sedition in open street battles. On March 12, 1995, the Taliban terrorists invited him for dialogue and imprisoned him and his five companions. He was martyred while on a flight to Qandahar. His body was found mutilated. It was carried on foot by his supporters from Ghazni to Mazar-e-Sharif, for burial, attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Iraqi police over the past 24 hours found the bodies of at least 87 people martyred by execution-style shootings of the Saudi-funded Takfiri terrorists. Of these, 29, dressed only in underwear, were dug out of a single grave in Baghdad.

12 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. Ever since, Washington was thrown out following 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.

8 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 admitted their treason.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime of the Persian Gulf island state of Bahrain imposed martial law in a bid to quell the people’s popular uprising. The regime invited Saudi troops to invade Bahrain and crush the Islamic movement.

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

‘Pet Man’ to Vie at Two Int’l Film Festivals



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short ‘Pet Man’ by Marzieh Abrar-Paydar will go on screen at Arizona International Film Festival and Cinema Planeta, International Environmental Film Festival of Mexico.

‘Pet Man’ tells the story of an animal dealer who falls asleep in his shop and has a nightmare where he is trapped inside an animal cage. In his attempt to escape from the animals, he encounters various obstacles.

‘Pet Man’ has previously won many a number of international awards, including best film award and best characterization award in Kent’s Canterbury Festival,

best short animation award from the 2nd Sao Paulo Times Film Festival.

The Arizona International Film Festival is the oldest and longest running independent film festival in Arizona. Taking place yearly film programs include a mix of shorts, children’s films, feature length films, documentaries and animation films.

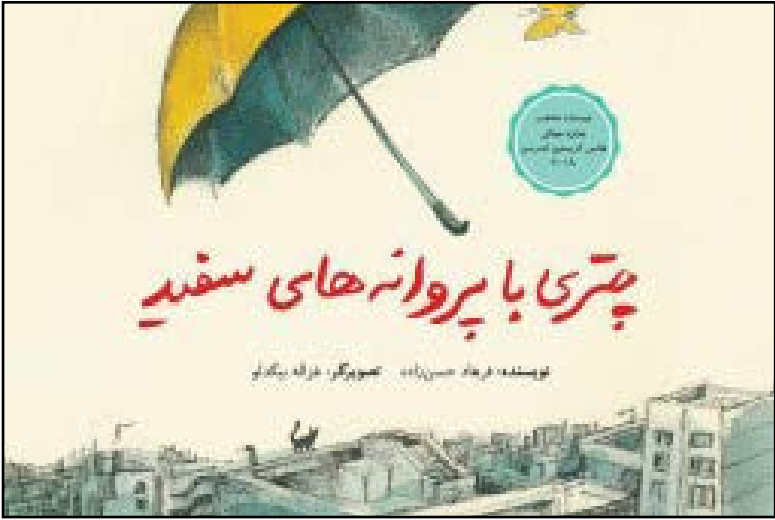
With the goal of raising awareness about environmental issues to a large audience, Cinema Planeta is part of a cultural circuit that includes schools, festivals, cultural organizations, institutions, and ONGs throughout the Mexican Republic and other countries.

Acclaimed Iranian Writer of Children’s Books Publishes New Work

TEHRAN (IBNA)- On the occasion of the new Iranian year, ‘An Umbrella with White Butterflies’ a new collection of short stories by Farhad Hassanzadeh the acclaimed Iranian writer of books for children and young adults is published.

According to IBNA correspondent, the book is illustrated by Ghazaleh Bigdelou and released by Fatemi Publishing. ‘An Umbrella with White Butterflies’ Features three separate stories which are finally connected to one another and the characters try to resolve the problems of their counterparts in other stories.

‘An Umbrella with White Butterflies’ is published in 32



pages with a print run of 2000 copies by Fatemi Publishing in Tehran.

A prolific writer, Hassanzadeh

was nominated by The Children’s Book Council of Iran for Hans Christian Andersen Award. He will compete with writers from

France, Japan, Switzerland and New Zealand and the winner will be named in Bologna International Book Festival 2018.

He was nominated by the Council for “his life achievement in the field of writing for children and young adults. Hans Christian Andersen Award is granted every other year by International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

Among his works are: ‘Love and Mirror’, ‘The Moonlight Guest’, ‘An Umbrella with White Butterflies’, ‘This Weblog Will Be Transferred’, ‘The Backyard’, and ‘Kooti Kooti Watch out You Don’t Catch a Cold – The Koo Kooti Tales’.

Worldwide Study Triples Genetic Risk Factors for Stroke

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The largest genetic study of stroke to date triples the number of known genetic risk factors for the disease and also should enable researchers to find novel treatments for dementia.

A landmark international study of DNA samples from 520,000 individuals worldwide -- including 67,000 affected individuals -- identified 22 new genetic risk factors for stroke.

Previously, only 10 genetic risk factors had been identified for stroke.

Sudha Seshadri, M.D., of University of Texas, said the identification of genetic regions that are strongly correlated to stroke will increase potential targets for stroke drug development.

A chief aim of the research is to identify novel risk factors and groundbreaking treatments for dementia, and the study provides excellent fodder for investigations along that line, Dr. Seshadri said.

“Understanding these newly identified risk factors for stroke should also enable us to find novel treatments for dementia,” Dr. Seshadri said. “Vascular disease in the brain -- a series of strokes -- can lead to dementia.”

The study identified novel genetic risk factors for all major subtypes of ischemic stroke. An

ischemic stroke occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain is blocked. About 80 percent of strokes are ischemic.

The study found the largest correlation between genetic risk factors and blood pressure.

Hypertension is a major risk factor for stroke.

Vascular health is important for brain function. The brain does not store energy and requires a constant supply of blood and oxygen, as well as blood glucose.

“Any disruption can lead to cognitive problems,” Dr. Seshadri said. “The most obvious example of that is stroke. There is a deficit in the blood supply and that is associated with very obvious changes in cognitive function.”

Picture of the Day



Atigh Jame’ Mosque is a 9th-century mosque in Shiraz. It is also one of the most ancient religious sites of Shiraz, which is also known as Jomeh Mosque (Friday Mosque).

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency