

# This Day in History

(March 19)

Today is Monday; 28<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 1<sup>st</sup> of the Islamic month of Rajab 1439 lunar hijri; and March 19, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Today starts sacred Rajab, the month that opens the gates of Divine Mercy for the seekers of good and virtue, and the month in which fasting, along with certain other wonderful acts of worship, has been recommended. Rajab, in addition to the next two months of Sha'ban and Ramadhan, is a period of self-reform, self-consciousness, and self-development for progress on the path towards perfection for attaining the proximity of the Almighty Creator. It is the month of special acceptance of repentance in the Divine Court. In Rajab certain very significant events took place in the history of mankind, such as the day of the formal entrustment by God of the universal mission of Islam to Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and the auspicious birth in the holy Ka'ba of the Prophet's First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

**1783 solar years ago**, on this day in 235 AD, Roman Emperor Alexander Severus, who suffered a series of disastrous defeats in the Levant and Armenia at the hands of the rising power of the Sassanid Dynasty of Iran, was assassinated, by legionaries near modern Mainz in Europe.

**1382 lunar years ago**, on this day in 57 AH, was born in holy Medina, Imam Mohammad Baqer (AS), the 5<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He is known as "**Baqer al-Uloom**" (*Splitter and Spreader of Sciences*), and during his fruitful life of 57 years, of which 19 years were as the divinely-decreed leader of mankind, he spared no efforts to enlighten minds and souls in those days of Omayyad tyranny, before bequeathing the legacy of his ancestor, the Prophet, to his son and successor, Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS).

**1076 lunar years ago**, on this day in 363 AH, Qazi Nu'man ibn Mohammad at-Tamimi, the Ismaili jurist and historian of the Fatemid Shi'a Muslim dynasty of Egypt-North Africa-Syria, passed away in Cairo. Born in what is now Tunisia, in his fifty years of service as judge, he wrote a vast number of books on history, biography, jurisprudence and exegesis of the holy Qur'an. His most prominent work "**Da'em al-Islam**" (Pillars of Islam), was the official code of the Fatemid state, and serves to this day as the primary source of shar'ia law for some Musta'ali Ismaili communities, especially the Tayyibis, in Yemen and India. Another of his famous books is "**Sharh al-Akhbar**" in which he has reproduced in details statements and sermons of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the Ahl al-Bayt till Imam Reza (AS), the 8<sup>th</sup> Infallible Leader - though the Fatemids had parted ways with mainstream Shi'a Muslims after Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS).

**1065 solar years ago**, on this day in 953 AD, Ismail al-Mansur Billah, the third Caliph of the Fatemid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim dynasty of Ifriqiya, or what is known today as Tunisia, and parts of Algeria and Morocco, died. On accession he crushed the revolt of Kharejites or renegades from Islam - predecessors of modern day Takfiri terrorists. He then resumed struggle with the Omayyads of Cordoba in Morocco, and reconquered the island of Sicily, from where he made incursions into Italy to spread Islam.

**976 lunar years ago**, on this day in 463 AH, the Spanish Muslim poet Abul-Waleed Ahmad bin Abdullah, Ibn Zaidun, died. He brought into Spanish Arabic poetry the rhetorical command, the passionate power, and grandeur of style that marked contemporary poetry in the Islamic east. He was also involved in politics and was opposed to the ruling Omayyad regime.

**800 lunar years ago**, on this day in 639 AH, the Muslim botanist and physician, Rashid od-Din Sour, died. Considered founder of modern botany, his most important compilation is an illustrated encyclopedic book on herbs and plants.

**739 solar years ago**, on this day in 1279 AD, a Mongolian victory at the Battle of Yamen ended the Song Dynasty in China, and established the Yuan Dynasty that lasted till 1368.

**612 solar years ago**, on this day in 1406 AD, Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, passed away in Cairo. He is regarded as forerunner of modern historiography, sociology, and economics. He travelled widely around Egypt, North Africa and Spain, where the Muslim ruler of the emirate of Granada sent him on a mission to the Christian King of Castile, Pedro the Cruel. He returned to Egypt, whose Mamluk sultan sent him to negotiate with the fearsome Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur, during the siege of Damascus. In his autobiography, Ibn Khaldun has mentioned his discussions with Timur, who asked him in detail about North Africa and Spain. Among his works is a voluminous universal history, but his fame rests on the detailed "**Muqaddimah**" or Introduction, which is considered a unique work.

**590 lunar years ago**, on this day in 849 AH, Egyptian hadith scholar, lexicographer, and exegete of the holy Qur'an, Abdur-Rahman Jalal od-Din Suyuti, was born in Asyut in a family of Persian origin that had migrated from Iran. A follower of the Shafe'i School, he was an expert in hadith, history, jurisprudence, exegesis of the Holy Qur'an, and Arabic grammar and literature. His books are still taught in Islamic seminaries. In his exegesis "**ad-Dur al-Manthour**" (Scattered Pearls), he has pointed to the ayahs revealed by God Almighty on the outstanding merits of the Ahl al-Bayt or Blessed Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), i.e. Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS). He also wrote a separate book on the Merits of the Ahl al-Bayt. Among his works are "**al-Itqaan fi Uloom al-Qur'an**" which means The Perfect Guide to the Sciences of the Qur'an, and "**Tarikh al-Khulafa**" (History of the Caliphs), which exposes the true nature of the tyrannical Omayyad and Abbasid caliphs.

**369 solar years ago**, on this day in 1649 AD, the prominent Hanafi jurist of Syria, Abdul-Ghani al-Nabulsi, was born in Damascus. A prolific writer who wrote several books, once while visiting the shrine of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) granddaughter, Hazrat Zainab (SA), he expressed doubts on whether this was actually the holy site at which the Heroine of Karbala had been laid to rest. No sooner did he leave the place he fell from his mount and broke his leg. He realized his error and in that very condition of pain he dragged himself towards the blessed tomb in a state of repentance with the following rhymed phrases on his lips: "**Zainab the daughter of Haider, the Mine of Knowledge and Guidance; Her threshold is Door of Repentance, so enter it [head bowed] in prostration.**" At that very moment he felt his broken leg miraculously cured and he stood up relieved of pain.

**341 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1098 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Hussain ibn Mohammad, popular as "Mohaqqiq Khwansari" passed away. He was an expert in jurisprudence, theology, and other Islamic sciences. Among his is a translation of the Holy Qur'an into Persian along with annotations. In the field of jurisprudence, he wrote "**Mashareq ash-Shomous**", which is in fact a splendid elucidation of the book titled "**Durou**" written by the First Martyr.

**279 solar years ago**, on this day in 1739 AD, the defeated, captured, and subsequently released Moghal Emperor, Mohammad Shah, entered Delhi, followed the next day by the victor of the Battle of Karnal, Iran's Nader Shah Afshar. A few days later an insurrection broke out and led to the killing of several Iranian soldiers by miscreants, prompting Nader Shah to order a bloody massacre that was stopped when the sagacious Moghal Vizier, Qamar od-Din Khan Nizam ul-Mulk Asef Jah (founder of the Asef Jahi Dynasty of Haiderabad-Deccan) intervened and urged the Iranian monarch to stop the senseless bloodletting. Nader Shah returned to Iran with a huge booty including the famous Peacock Throne, the Koh-e Noor Diamond and the Tent of Pearls.

**135 solar years ago**, on this day in 1883 AD, English chemist, Norman Haworth, was born. He conducted extensive scientific research about hydrocarbons and succeeded in presentation of a new design for the molecular structure of sugar, which was named after him. He conducted major studies on Vitamin C, whose molecular structure is similar to sugar, and prepared its industrial type, naming it Ascorbic Acid. Due to these studies and discoveries, he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1937. He passed away in the year 1950.

**31 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, the last member of the generation of modern physics founders, Louis de Broglie, died. He catapulted to fame with presentation of the theory about the particle-wave nature of light. With presentation of this theory, major accomplishments were made in the science of physics.

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

# Iranian National Orchestra to Perform in Italy



Iranian National Orchestra.

TEHRAN (MNA) - At the official invitation of Italian conductor of "Emilia-Romagna" orchestra, a number of musicians from Iranian National Orchestra will travel to Italy to take part in special performance of this magnificent orchestra.

Given the above, conductor of orchestra "Emilia-Romagna" invited three prominent violin virtuosi and conductor of Iranian National Orchestra to attend Orchestra's performance in April, the report added.

This magnificent performance will be held on Mar. 28, 2018 on the occasion of Easter and 150th birth anniversary of "Rossini" outstanding and prominent Italian musician at the venue of main church of Italian city of Ravenna. Two leading violinists named Danial Joorabchi and Arash Jame' and Homayoun Hashemzadeh prominent "Alto" violin virtuoso and also leading violinists selected by Iranian National Orchestra will attend this prestigious event.

It is worth mentioning that Emilia-Romagna, conducted by Paolo Olmi, had been staged in Fajr International Film Festival last year.

# 36th FIFF Opens to Screen Films From Across World

TEHRAN (FNA) - On 120th anniversary of the Iranian Cinema, the 36th Fajr International Film Festival opens to screen films from across the world.

Given the timing of the fajr festival, the poster of the 36th FIFF is unveiled to be an old photo of a relevant theme. Ali Khorshid-pour, an Iranian graphic designer, chose such a theme for the poster to attract audiences' attention to cultural identity of the Iranian cinema.

Reza Mirkarimi, the director of the 36th FIFF said: "Fajr International Film Festival is one the main cultural and artistic event of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at the international level. With 36 years of experience, it is adopting new perspective to strengthen cooperation and interactions in Asia and the region, to leave mutual cinematic influence between Iran and other partners, to strengthen scientific and professional aspects of cinema and also to play an active role at the cultural diplomacy.

Mirkarimi said: "people, students, professional cinema members, national and international media and a 30,000-member FIFF Club are the backbone of the FIFF. At FIFF we present innovative events to promise a cultural event higher than normal standards.

The director of the 36th FIFF

said: "the new events and fringe of the festival aim to fulfill various cinematic tastes, to draw attention to Islamic Cinema, and to hold scientific workshops."

Mirkarimi added: "the successful record and credit of the FIFF has drawn more attention to the event in the current festival. As more foreign filmmakers and guests attend the 36th FIFF, there is a larger request for the screening of Iranian film which explains the popularity of "Review of Iranian Cinema" and "International Film Market".

In the heart of Iran, Fajr International Film Festival appreciates the valuable Iranian and international

films. This event highly regards the cultural exchange; screens the achievements of the well-credited filmmakers, and brings to your consideration those films which promote artistic collaboration through the cinematic medium.

Besides, the festival will pay special attention to those works that propagate justice, world peace, and human and ethical values. Also, the festival values the introduction of the films of the Middle East and Central Asia a lot and will have a special focus on films that inspired by the true teachings of God's prophets, spread the message of peace, brotherhood and friendship.

# Iran, Mauritania to Boost Cooperation on Drug Production

TEHRAN (MNA) - Mauritanian Health Minister Kane Boubacar said, "I am proud to visit Iran to help promote cooperation level between the two countries of Iran and Mauritania in the health sector."

Speaking on the sidelines of inking comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and Mauritania in the health sector, he added, "I visited different healthcare and treatment sectors, Pasteur Institute of Iran and one of Iran's leading pharmaceutical production companies, total of which indicates that salient achievements have been taken in Iran in the field of healthcare and treatment services."

Iran healthcare and medical treatment centers observe requirements of international standards, he said, adding, "I was deeply influenced by salient progresses of the country in this field."

There is a very good and strong relationship between academic centers and technology in the Islamic Republic of Iran in a way that knowledge-based companies in the field of health managed to take giant stride in this respect, the issue of which is appreciable."

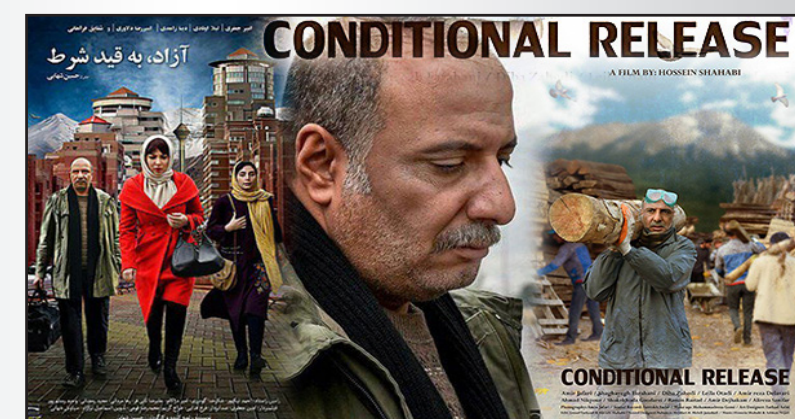
In conclusion, Mauritanian Health and Social Affairs minister added, "Iran and Mauritania will cooperate with each other jointly in various fields of health sector, the most important of which include training and educating manpower and manufacturing drug and medicine in Mauritania."

# International Film Festival to Screen Iranian Films

TEHRAN (ISNA) - The 17th edition of the Tiburon International Film Festival will host four Iranian films in the main category.

Representatives of Iranian cinema at the event in California, U.S.A, are: "Conditional Release" directed by Hossein Shahabi, "Azar" by Mohammad Hamzei, "Manicure" by Arman Fayaz and "Zona" by Toofan Nahan Ghodrati.

In addition to these four Iranian films, movies from France, UK, Russia, Germany, Denmark, U.S. and Slova-



A scene from the movie "Conditional Release".

kia and other countries will be screened at the 17th edition of the Tiburon International Film Festival. This festival will be held April 20- 27 in California.

# Picture of the Day



A ceremony marking the advent of Persian New Year dubbed Noroozkhani is underway in Sar Kalate village in northern province of Golestan.

Courtesy: IRNA