

This Day in History

(July 9)

Today is Sunday; 18th of the Iranian month of Tir 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 14th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1438 lunar hijri; and July 9, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1354 lunar years ago, on this day in 84 AH, the 5th caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, Abdul-Malik Ibn Marwan, died in Damascus at the age of 61 after a reign of 20 tyrannical years during which among a spate of crimes against Islam, he ordered his Godless general, Hajjaj bin Yusuf, to defile the sanctity of the holy Ka'ba to kill the rival caliph, Abdullah Ibn Zubayr. Born in Mecca to the despicable Marwan, who along with his pagan father Hakam, was expelled by the Prophet for ridiculing Islam, he grew up in Medina, where his father as the cousin and son-in-law of caliph Othman Ibn Affan manipulated all state affairs and was the actual cause of the latter's murder. When Mu'awiyah seized the caliphate from Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), Marwan was appointed governor of Medina, and years later in 63 AH, along with his son Abdul-Malik, was lucky to be allowed to go alive to Syria on the seizure of Arabia by Abdullah ibn Zubayr. In 64 AH he found himself propelled to the truncated caliphate following the death of the tyrant Yazid, abdication of the latter's son Mu'awiyah II, and his own father Marwan's surprising rise as caliph and death nine months later. He faced an uncertain future with the Omayyad caliphate shrunken to Damascus as Mokhtar Ibn Abu Obaidah, the Avenger of the Martyrs of Karbala, was all set to wipe out the Omayyads. At this juncture, Abdullah Ibn Zubayr blundered by refusing to join forces with Mokhtar and instead sent his brother to attack and kill the latter, thereby giving breathing space to Abdul-Malik and in fact allowing him to regroup and attack the divided armies of Iraq and Hijaz. What followed was revival of Omayyad supremacy and suppression of Muslims. Abdul-Malik initiated brazenly racist and chauvinistic policies against the letter and spirit of Islam that made Arabs (especially Omayyad supporters) the dominant class of the empire, hand-in-hand with rabid Arabization that deprived Syrians, Egyptians, and North Africans of their native languages and rich cultural heritage.

865 lunar years ago, on this day in 573 AH, the jurisprudent, hadith scholar, and exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Qotb od-Din Rawandi, passed away and was laid to rest in the courtyard of the holy mausoleum of Hazrat Ma'souma (SA) in Qom. He was from Rawand near Kashan and has left behind 80 compilations, including an exegesis of the Holy Qur'an, and exegesis of the Nahj al-Balagha and several other books including "*Risalat al-Fuqaha*", and "*Ayaat al-Akhaam*".

616 solar years ago, on this day in 1401AD, the Central Asian Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur (Tamerlane) destroyed the city of Baghdad, massacring 20,000 people. He was not notorious for his barbaric erection of towers of human heads, that when his forces took Baghdad, he spared almost no one, and ordered that each of his soldiers bring back two severed human heads.

262 solar years ago, on this day in 1755 AD, the Braddock Expedition occurred in what is now Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, when British troops and colonial militiamen were ambushed and suffered a devastating defeat by French forces and their native Amerindian allies.

227 solar years ago, on this day in 1790 AD, during the Russo-Swedish War, the 2nd Battle of Svenskund occurred in the Baltic Sea. The Swedes captured one third of the Russian fleet.

201 solar years ago, on this day in 1816 AD, Argentina gained independence from Spanish colonial rule following war between Spain and Britain, and the occupation of Buenos Aires by the British forces. The Argentine people stood up against the British troops and after driving them out, declared their independence.

198 solar years ago, on this day in 1819 AD, Elias Howe, inventor of the sewing machine, was born in Spencer, Massachusetts, USA.

167 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, the British agent, Mohammad Ali Bab was executed in Tabriz at on being found guilty of "spreading corruption on earth" for his blasphemous claim to be the imam, then a prophet and finally the divine manifestation with a new creed in replacement of Islam. Born in Shiraz to an obscure father, and initiated into the deviant Shaykhi cult, he stirred up sedition by first styling himself "Bab" - gateway to Imam Mahdi (AS) - then the Awaited Imam himself, later the incarnation of the Prophets Elijah and John the Baptist, and eventually the godhead. His devilish designs to mislead the people, led the Qajarid minister Mirza Mohammad Taqi Khan Amir Kabir, to order his arrest and trial. After execution his body was thrown into the ditch near the barracks where it was eaten up by dogs.

109 solar years ago, on this day in 1908 AD, the religious scholar, philosopher, poet and outstanding orator of the subcontinent, Allamah Rasheed Turabi was born in Hyderabad. He mastered Urdu, English, Persian and Arabic. In 1949, following the fall of Hyderabad-Deccan to Indian forces in 1948, he migrated to Pakistan, where he left active politics, and devoted himself to religious erudition, especially discourses on Imam Husain (AS) and the tragedy of Karbala. His great knowledge of hadith, jurisprudence, and exegesis of the holy Qur'an enabled him to deliver more than 5,000 religious lectures and speeches. He was a prolific author as well, and among his works is the book, "*Tibb-e Ma'soomeen*" which is a composition of antidotes from Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the 12 Infallible Imams. He also wrote the 2-volume book "*The Forests of Hyderabad*" on the jungles of the Deccan. Another of his work is the idiomatic translation of Imam Ali's (AS) famous Letter of Instructions to his governor of the then Christian-majority Egypt, Malik Ashtar. Turabi's masterpiece on "*Ilm Rijal*" or biographical evaluation of narrators of hadith, which he titled "*Wasl-e Qowl*" was published after his death.

69 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, after a month of cessation of hostilities, fighting broke out between Arabs and the illegal Zionist entity, which was supplied modern weapons by western regimes. The usurper state of Israel occupied 78% of Palestinian soil by uprooting 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and driving them into neighbouring states as refugees.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, following two mysterious explosions in Mecca, resulting in the death of a Hajj pilgrim and injury to 16 others, the Saudi regime blamed Iran, and rounding up 16 innocent Kuwaiti Shi'a Muslim pilgrims brutally beheaded them. No pilgrims from Iran were participating in the Hajj during that year following the massacre of over 400 mostly Iranian Hajj pilgrims in Mecca two years earlier by the Saudi regime.

15 solar years ago, on this day in 2002 AD, the African Union replaced the Organization of African Unity that was set up in 1963 to support the independence of African countries and to solve their disputes. The African Union, on the model of the European Union, has taken into consideration the setting up of a parliament, an executive committee, a central bank, a monetary fund, and a court of justice, for the collective development of African states. Based in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, it holds annual summit in a member country.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2008 AD, the Islamic Republic of Iran test-fired nine long and medium range missiles during military maneuvers to test the defence readiness of the country.

8 solar years ago, on this day 2009 AD, the Iranian Children's Author, Mahdi Azar Yazdi, passed away at the age of 81 in Tehran and was laid to rest in his hometown Yazd. He wrote his first book at the age of 35, titled "*Good Stories for Good Children*". He wrote seven sequels to it based on the classics of Persian literature as well as accounts from the holy Qur'an, the life of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and the Imams of his Infallible Ahl al-Bayt. He also wrote "*The Naughty Cat*", "*The Playful Cat*", and "*Poetry of Sugar and Honey*".

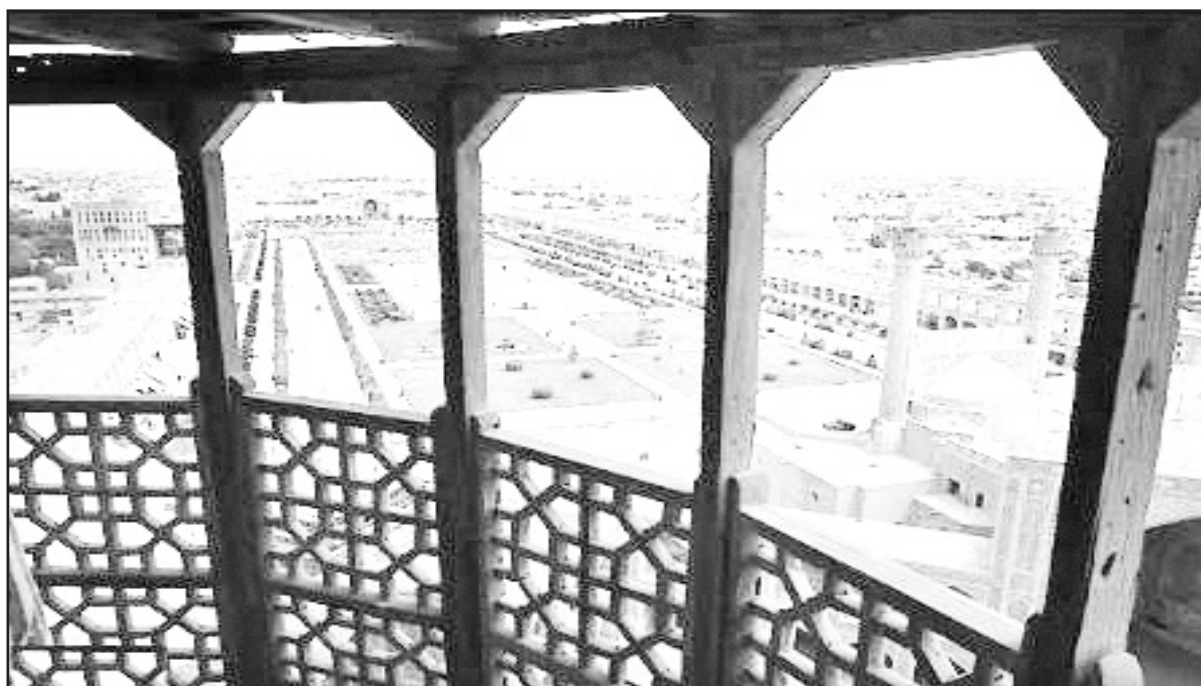
8 solar years ago, on this day in 2009 AD, in Iraq, Takfiri terrorists backed by the US and Saudi Arabia triggered bomb blasts in the Turkmen populated town of Tal Afar, martyring over 50 Shi'a Muslim men, women, and children; and wounding of some one hundred others.

6 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, South Sudan seceded from Sudan, with western support as an independent country. The region of South Sudan, where the population is mainly Christian and animist, was involved in guerilla war with the central government of Sudan from 1955 till 1972, and again from 1983 till 2005, resulting in a large number of casualties.

3 solar years ago, on this day in 2014 AD, Iraqi officials discovered 53 bodies of Shi'a Muslims, many of them blindfolded and with their hands bound, in the village of Khamissiya near the city of Hillah. They were the victims of the savage Takfiri terrorists.

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

UNESCO Recognizes Iran's Efforts in Preserving Historical Sites



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's preservation measures on Isfahan Naqsh-e-Jahan Square and Shoush ancient city have been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

"The World Heritage Committee appreciated Iran's comprehensive report on protection measures it has taken for the two historical sites by issuing a statement in the 41st annual session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee confer-

ence," Deputy for Cultural Heritage Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Mohammad Hassan Talebian said on Saturday. "Describing Iran's measures as satisfactory, the committee asked the delegation in the

UNESCO conference to deliver other reports in 2018 and 2019 pertaining to protection of the two historical sites," he added.

The repairs done in Naqsh-e-Jahan Square, and transferring the construction project of Isfahan subway to outside of the site were among the steps that were appreciated by the international body, according to the official.

"The preservation measures taken for the ancient city of Shoush were also an indication of Iran's efforts on the basis of UNESCO instructions," Talebian added.

He noted that UNESCO also asked Iran to present its periodical report on preservation status of Shoush before February 2017.

The 41st session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee conference (July 2-12) is underway in Krakow, Poland.

Int'l Academy of Mathematical Chemistry Elects Iranian Academic as Vice President



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Participants at the The 13th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry (IAMC) elected the Iranian academic Ali Iranmanesh as vice president of the academy.

Iranmanesh is a member of Iran's Tarbiat Modares University scientific board and a full professor at the university.

is a member of several scientific associations in the U.S. and Europe and has released several articles in the international journals and is the head of Iran's Nanotechnology Association.

The 13th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry (IAMC) and the 2017 International Conference on Mathematical Chemistry (ICMC 2017) is ongoing in Romania (July 4-8, 2017).

The International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry (IAMC) was founded in Dubrovnik (Croatia) in 2005 by Milan Randić. It is an organization for chemistry and mathematics avocation, and its predecessors have been around since the 1930s.

The main purpose of this academic activity is to bring together people working in (all aspects of) mathematical chemistry to exchange new ideas and achievements in this field. During the 13th annual meeting, the IAMC members will have discussions on the Academy business, election of new members and nomination of candidates for IAMC members, etc.

Tehran Auction 2017 Grosses Over \$8mn

TEHRAN (MNA) - The 7th Tehran Auction was held 7 July 2017 at Parisian Hotel in the capital city where the best of Iranian artworks were introduced and sold to art collectors.

The 7th edition of the auction was conducted by famous Iranian actor Hossein Pakdel at Parsian Hotel in Tehran. 13 artworks were presented in the classic category and 59 artworks in the modern section including pieces by Abbas Kiarostami, Manouchehr Yektaei, and Parviz Kalantari. The total proceeds of the auction stood at \$8,020,000 which was some \$300,000 less than the proceeds in the previous edition.

The first artwork that was hammered on Friday was an untitled piece from the Snow White series by Abbas Kiarostami, which was sold at \$56,411.



An untitled painting by celebrated Iranian poet and painter Sohrab Sepehri sold for \$794,872, became the most expensive painting sold in the auction.

Other works that attracted large sums include 'Poet and Cage' by sculptor Parviz Tanavoli (\$641,026), 'Blind Eagle' by Bahman Mohassess (\$307,693),

and another untitled painting from the Tree Trunks series by Sepehri (\$307,693).

The first of its kind in Iran, Tehran Auction was launched in 2012 as an independent and private initiative to introduce the best of Iranian art ranging from established and emerging Iranian artists to Iranian art collectors and global audience.

Picture of the Day



The 30th International Film Festival for Children and Youth ended work in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency