

This Day in History

(August 22)

Today is Tuesday; 31st of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1396 solar hijri, corresponding to 29th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1438 lunar hijri; and August 22, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Several millennia ago, after the descent of Adam (AS) and Eve (SA) on Planet Earth, the Almighty Creator showered one of His permanent blessings on the first human pair and their offspring, by sending the structure of the holy Ka'ba on the very spot that ages before had emerged as the first piece of dry land from under waters, in what is now Mecca. Adam (AS) thus built the cubic-shaped edifice as the first-ever model of a house and dedicated it to the worship of the Unseen but Omnipresent God. It was rebuilt by Prophet Abraham (AS) after the damage it suffered in the Great Deluge of the days of Prophet Noah (AS), while the rituals of its pilgrimage, the Hajj, were finalized by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). It is the focal point of worship for Muslims all over the world, and not a single moment passes as the earth rotates on its axis while revolving around the sun to determine minutes, hours, days and nights, when people around the globe are not bowing towards it. The only person ever born in the holy Ka'ba, by the Will of God, is the Prophet's divinely-decreed vicegerent Imam Ali (AS).

1432 lunar years ago, on this day in 6 AH, God granted Islam and Muslims a Great Victory over the pagan Arabs with the signing of the Treaty of Hodaibiyya by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The holy Qur'an, in the opening ayah of Surah Fath, says in this regard: **"Indeed, We have opened for you a Manifest Victory."** The Prophet, along with some 1,400 unarmed Muslims, had set out from Medina to perform the Umrah or the minor pilgrimage and reached within 20 km of Mecca, when the pagan Arabs breached their word and blocked his way at Hodaibiyya. Negotiations took place between the two parties and it was decided that the Muslims would return to Medina for now, but would be allowed to perform the pilgrimage next year. A treaty was drafted specifying the terms of truce. Imam Ali (AS) acted as the scribe of the Prophet, who placed his seal and signature on the document despite the opposition to its contents by some of his companions. The Prophet insisted on honouring the letter and spirit of the treaty, which was indeed a new and dynamic development in Arabia and established the rapidly increasing Muslim community as the paramount power. The terms of the Treaty of Hodaibiyya were violated by the Arabs, and two years later in 8 AH, the Prophet was commanded by God to march peacefully upon Mecca, which surrendered without bloodshed. This was another milestone in the history of monotheism and led to the cleansing of the holy Ka'ba of the idols that the pagan Arabs had installed in Prophet Abraham's edifice to the One and Only God.

1218 lunar years ago, on this day in 220 AH, Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS) the 9th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) attained martyrdom in Baghdad as a result of a fatal dose of poison administered by Mu'tasim, the 8th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. Known as Jawad (Generous), because of his generosity in both spiritual and material matters, he was only 25 years old on this day, having been entrusted with the Imamate by God Almighty 17 years earlier at the tender age of 8, following the martyrdom of his father, Imam Reza (AS) in Khorasan. Like the Prophets Jesus and John the Baptist, who were blessed with wisdom since childhood, he enlightened all those who came into contact with him. His memorable debates with scholars, while yet a boy, are recorded in books of history and hadith.

491 solar years ago, on this day in 1526 AD, Sultan Qutb od-Din Bahadur Shah ascended the throne of Gujarat in western India by removing his youngest brother Mahmoud Shah II, who had been installed as king by the nobles on the murder of the eldest brother, Sikandar Shah, within a few months of the death of his father, Muzaffar Shah II. During his 11-year reign he had to face the menace of the Portuguese who raided the seaports of his realm and seized several islands including what would later be known as Bombay. He made the fatal mistake of seeking assistance from the Portuguese against the expansion of the Mughals of northern India. While on board a Portuguese ship to sign a treaty, he was treacherously killed by the Portuguese admiral and his body dumped into the sea. Gujarat was a Persianate state and promoted Islamic art, culture and architecture for 166 years until its annexation by the Mughal Emperor, Akbar the Great in 1573.

390 solar years ago, on this day in 1627 AD, the last Battle of La Rochelle broke out in western France between the French Catholics and Protestants. It started due to provocation by England. The Catholics, under command of Cardinal Richelieu emerged victorious.

378 solar years ago, on this day in 1639 AD, Madras was founded by the British East India Company on a sliver of land bought from local Nayak rulers in the district of Chennaitanam which was leased from King Abdullah Qutb Shah of the dynasty of Iranian origin of Hyderabad-Deccan. The area was added to the Qutb Shahi dominions by the Iranian statesman and adventurer, Mohammad Sa'eed Ardestani of Isfahan, titled "Mir Jumla", who later went over to the Mughal court in northern India, was made governor of Bengal with capital in Dhaka (Bangladesh), and died in Khizpur, Garo Hills, in what is now the Meghalaya-Assam border. Madras is derived from the Arabic word Madrasah for schools, since there were several Islamic schools in the area. Currently it is called Chennai and is the capital of Tamilnadu State.

319 solar years ago, on this day in 1698 AD, a treaty was signed by Russia, Poland, and Denmark against Sweden. The kings of these three countries intended to divide Sweden amongst them by defeating the young Swedish king, Charles XII. Thus in April 1700 AD, they attacked Sweden, but were defeated. Charles XII concluded peace with Denmark, and attacked and occupied Poland in 1704, but suffered defeat in his war against Russia.

199 solar years ago, on this day in 1818 AD, Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of the British occupied parts of India, died in England. He rose from low positions to become governor of the British trading post of Qassimbazaar in Bengal, where he learned Urdu and Persian. He was rapidly promoted in view of his administrative abilities as the crafty British started occupying more parts of Bengal from the Najafi dynasty of Iranian origin, becoming Head of the Supreme Council of Bengal, and thereby the first de facto Governor-General of British possessions in India from 1772 to 1785. He was accused of corruption and impeached in 1787.

172 lunar years ago, on this day in 1266 AH, prominent jurist Mullah Mohammad Hussain Fesharaki, was born. He was a product of the famous seminary of holy Najaf, where his teachers included Ayatollah Mirza Habibollah Rashti, Ayatollah Shaikh Zain al-Abidin Mazandarani, and Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi (famous for the fatwa against tobacco consumption in order to save Iranian economy from British exploitation). On his return to Iran, he taught at the seminary of Isfahan, and was active both socially and politically, in order to counter un-Islamic trends and laws creeping into the Iranian society. He issued a 5-point declaration specifying that the ulema will not attest any document written on imported paper, and will not perform the funeral prayer of any deceased person whose shroud is made of imported cloth instead of Iranian cloth. The British installed Pahlavi dictator, Reza Khan, despite his disdain and maltreatment of the ulema, was afraid of Ayatollah Mohammad Hussain Fesharaki, who passed away in his hometown Isfahan at the age of 87.

169 solar years ago, on this day in 1848 AD, the US, as part of its expansionist policies, annexed New Mexico. In the 1830s, it had occupied Texas and in 1846 had seized from Mexico the large region of California including what are now the southwestern US states.

168 solar years ago, on this day in 1849 AD, the first air raid in history was launched by Austria through pilotless balloons against the city of Venice.

157 solar years ago, on this day in 1860 AD, one of the inventors of TV, Paul Gottlieb Nipkow, was born in Germany. He conducted extensive research for telecasting of images, and finally invented a device which could emit image waves for 30-meter distance, died in 1940.

153 solar years ago, on this day in 1864 AD, the Geneva Convention was signed by twelve countries for providing assistance to soldiers wounded on the battlefields. It stipulated that medical personnel and relief workers are impartial and should be immune from any aggression.

77 lunar years ago, on this day in 1361 AH, prominent Iranian scholar of the seminary of holy Najaf, Ayatollah Ziya od-Din Iraqi, passed away. Born near Arak in Markazi Province, after basic studies he left for Iraq and studied under leading scholars such as Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Fesharaki. He was famous for his eloquent oratory skills as well as fluent style of writing. He wrote several books and groomed many scholars.

69 solar years ago, on this day in 1950 AD, Egypt's Hassan Abdur-Rahim, the first Muslim to swim the English Channel from Britain to France, did it for the 3rd time and won the Daily Mail race. In all, he swam across the English Channel four times - 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951.

10 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, Iran developed a new 2,000-pound "smart" bomb, the latest in a recent series of new measures to upgrade the weapons systems, for strengthening the defence capabilities of the Islamic Republic.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD Iran started mass production of two models of high-speed missile-launching assault boats, as part of efforts to boost security along its large coastlines on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

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



Jerry Lewis wrote, produced and directed many of his own films.

Famed Comedian Jerry Lewis Dies at 91

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Jerry Lewis, the "king of comedy" who dominated 1950s Hollywood, has died at the age of 91.

Publicist Candi Cazau said Lewis passed away Sunday morning of natural causes at age 91 in Las Vegas with his family by his side.

Figures from the world of film paid tribute to the American entertainer, known for hit films such as the Nutty Professor and for his comedy double act with Dean

Martin. Lewis, at his prime, was embraced as the ultimate 20th-century village idiot, a pocket tornado who blended slapstick prowess with squeaky-voiced histrionics. It was a combination that helped make him the industry's top box-office draw for several years running.

After his break with Dean Martin in 1956, Lewis went on to a successful solo career, eventually writing, producing and directing many of his own films.

China Relaunches World's Fastest Train

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China is going to once again hold the title for the world's fastest train.

China seeks to stay ahead globally in its rail services and sell its bullet trains and railways as part of the "Belt and Road Initiative," it has decided to relaunch the world's fastest train service.

Seven pairs of bullet trains will be operating under the name "Fuxing," meaning rejuvenation, according to the South China Morning Post. The trains will run

at 350 km/h, with a maximum speed of 400 km/h (248 mph). It is reported that the train service will boast a monitoring system that will automatically slow the trains in case of emergency.

The Beijing-Shanghai line will begin operating on 21 September and will shorten the nearly 820 mile journey by an hour, to four hours thirty minutes. Nearly 600 million people use this route each year, providing a reported \$1 billion in profits. Other routes include Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei



'Under the Smoky Roof' to Go on Screen in 10 German Cities



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian feature movie 'Under the Smoky Roof', directed by Pouran Derakhshandeh, will go on screen at 10 cities in Germany.

Pouran Derakhshandeh's Under the Smoky Roof, starring Farhad Aslani and Merila Zarei, is based on the social and emotional dilemma of divorce in Iranian culture.

The movie will be screened in 10 cities of Frankfurt, Bonn, Berlin, Munich, Cologne, Cologne, Darmstadt, Gibson, Karlsruhe, and Varnheim in Germany as well as in Kinopolis cinema chains.

Under the Smoky Roof is about Shirin who has problems with her husband and child and is searching for a way to communicate with them and solve her family problems but she cannot succeed reaching instead a crisis. Her second try to get out of this crisis makes her confront new challenges.

Pouran Derakhshandeh's movie was screened at the 35th Fajr Film Festival and nominated at six different sections for the Crystal Simorgh award.

Acclaimed Iranian actress Merila Zarei won the best actress award at the 35th edition of the Fajr Film Festival, along with Leila Hatami for her role in Hamid Nematollah's Subdue.

Iranian Cinema Presents 9 Works to Asia-Pacific Festival

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Khaneh Cinema has introduced nine films for the Asia-Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) festival in Brisbane.

The awards ceremony will be held on November 23, 2017 in the Australian city. The films are Far From Heaven, The Next 21 Day, Ski Player, Fugitive, Subdue, House, Without Date, Without Signature, Villa Residents, Yeva.

Last year, at the 10th round of the APSA festival, several Iranian movies were candidate for awards.

"Malaria" Arrives in Russia

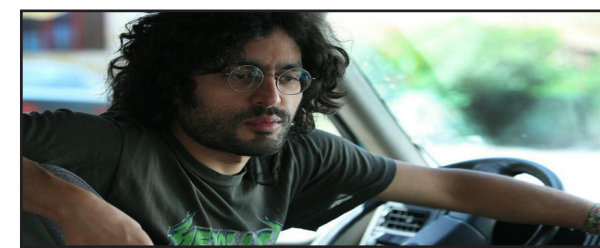
TEHRAN (ISNA) - Iranian film "Malaria" directed by Parviz Shahbazi participates in the competition section of the 10th East and West Film Festival of Orenburg, Russia.

For its 20th international presence, "Malaria" will compete with films from France, Armenia, Belgium, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Russia, Lithuania and Macedonia at the festival.

The 10th edition of the East and West Film Festival of Orenburg will be held August 25-31 in Russia.

The Iranian film tells the story of a girl and a boy

who walk in the city of Tehran and meet a man who has a problem. They then try to find a solution to this problem.



Picture of the Day



The carcass of a whale has been found dead off the shores of the coastal city of Bandar Lengeh, Iran.

Image credit: IRNA