

This Day in History

(September 12)

Today is Tuesday; 21st of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 21st of the Islamic month of Zi'l-Hijjah 1438 lunar hijri; and September 12, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

2507 solar years ago, on this day in 490 BC, the Battle of Marathon was fought in the place of the same name in Greece, between Athenians and their allies, and a Persian expeditionary force sent by the Achaemenian Emperor, Darius I. It resulted in a surprise defeat of the Iranians, because the main army had sailed towards a different destination. The Persian expedition was a response to Greek involvement in the Ionian Revolt, when Athens and Eretria had sent a force to support the cities of Ionia in their insurgency against Persian rule. Once the Ionian revolt was crushed by the Iranians at the Battle of Lade, Darius began plans to subjugate Greece. He sent a naval task force under Datis and Artaphernes across the Aegean. Reaching Euboea in mid-summer after a successful campaign in the Aegean, the Persians proceeded to capture Eretria. The Persian force then sailed for Attica, landing in the bay near the town of Marathon. The Athenians, joined by a force from Plataea, marched to Marathon, and succeeded in blocking the two exits from that plain. A stalemate ensued for five days, before the Athenians attacked the Iranians under the cover of night, because most of the Persian fleet had set sail. The Iranians withdrew but the next emperor, Xerxes I succeeded in subjugating Greece.

870 lunar years ago, on this day in 568 AH, the historian Jamal od-Din Abu'l-Hassan Ali ibn Yousuf ash-Shaybani, known popularly as Ibn Qifti, was born in Qift, Egypt. He studied in Cairo, moved to Bayt al-Moqaddas and then to Aleppo in Syria, where he compiled most of his works. He authored "Tarikh al-Hukama" (History of Learned Men), which contains biographies of 414 physicians, philosophers and astronomers. He also wrote "History of the Seljuqs of Iran, Iraq, Syria & Anatolia"; "History of the Mirdasids of Syria"; "History of the Buwayhids of Iraq-Iran"; and "History of Sultan Mahmoud Ghaznawi".

788 solar years ago, on this day in 1229 AD, a Christian mercenary army led James I of Aragon landed on the Spanish Muslim island of Majorca, and after over three-and-a-half months of fighting, occupied it and changed the name of the capital from "Medina Mayurqa" to Palma, thus ending over five glorious centuries of Islamic culture and civilization in the Balearic islands of the Mediterranean. Agriculture and irrigation networks were developed and local industries set up by the Muslims, who were forcibly Christianized or killed by the Christians.

640 lunar years ago, on this day in 798 AH, the Ottoman army led by Sultan Bayezid I "Yildirim" (Thunderbolt), inflicted a crushing defeat on an alliance of Christian powers led by Hungary's King Sigmund I. In the Battle of Nicopolis, near River Danube, the European army lost 100,000 soldiers, while 20,000 Christian troops fled the battlefield leaving behind as captives about ten thousand of their co-religionists, many of whom became Muslim.

618 solar years ago, on this day in 1309 AD, the siege of the Spanish Muslim island of Gibraltar was started by Ferdinand IV of Castile with the help of Christian mercenaries from other parts of Europe. The kingdom of Ghanata (Granada) was forced to surrender this important base of 600 years of Spanish Islamic culture, which today has become a bone of contention between Britain and Spain. Gibraltar is a corruption of the Arabic term "Jabal at-Tareq" meaning Rock of Tareq in honour of Tareq Ibn Ziyad, who landed on this island on his way to liberate Spain.

334 solar years ago, on this day in 1683 AD, the Ottoman army which was on the verge of conquering Vienna, the capital of Austria as part of its sweep into the heart of Europe, was surprisingly defeated by a coalition of European powers, including Poland. The setback suffered by the Turks marked the end of Ottoman aspirations to conquer all of Europe. While leaving, the Turks unburdened their provisions by leaving behind sacks of coffee which the Christians found too bitter, so they sweetened it with honey and milk and named the drink "cappuccino".

331 solar years ago, on this day in 1686 AD, the Sultanate of Bijapur fell to Mughal Emperor, Mohammad Aurangzeb, thereby ending the 192-year rule of the Adel-Shahi dynasty of the Deccan (southern India) set up by the Iranian adventurer from Saveh, Yusuf Adel Khan. In the 1490s, after asserting independence from the tottering Bahmani Empire (also of Iranian origin), Bijapur had declared Shi'a Islam as the state religion. Thousands of Iranians of all professions, including scholars, ulema, poets, painters, architects, craftsmen, merchants, soldiers and ordinary persons, migrated to Bijapur and contributed to the Persianate administration and flowering of the rich Indo-Persian style of art and architecture, such as the famous Ibrahim Rowza (proto type of the future Taj Mahal in Agra) and Gol-Gombad – the world's second largest dome.

294 solar years ago, on this day in 1723 AD, during the chaotic situation in Iran following the occupation of the country by the rebellious Hotaki Afghans who dethroned and imprisoned Shah Sultan Hussain Safavi in Isfahan, the year-long Russo-Persian War ended with the signing of a humiliating treaty by the weak Shah Tahmasp II, who ceded to the Russians the cities of Derbend in Daghestan and Baku in what is now the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the Caucasus province of Shirvan, and parts of Astara, Gilan, and Mazandaran. A decade later after the rise of Nader Shah Afshar and his crushing victories over the Afghan usurpers, the Russians were forced to withdraw from the northwestern parts of the country including Derbend and Daghestan, when the Iranian king threatened to march on to Moscow.

226 lunar years ago, on this day in 1212 AH, Fath-Ali Shah succeeded his childless uncle, Agha Mohammad Khan as the 2nd Qajarid king. During his 37-year misrule, Iran lost vast territories in the Caucasus to the Russians, in Khorasan to the Afghans, and in Baluchistan to the British, while Bahrain in the Persian Gulf was seized by Aal-e Khalifa pirates. The pleasure-loving king did not even provide military aid to his son, Crown Prince Abbas Mirza, during the Russian war.

120 solar years ago, on this day in 1897 AD, French chemist-physicist, Irene Curie, was born to the celebrated scientists, Madam Curie and Pierre Curie. Jointly with her husband, Frederic Joliot, she was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1935 for artificial radioactivity.

103 solar years ago, on this day in 1914 AD, the famous Urdu poet of Pakistan, Raees Amrohi, was born in Amroha in what is now the Uttar Pradesh of India. Named Seyyed Mohammad Mahdi, he migrated to Pakistan on 19 October 1947 and settled in Karachi. He was known for his unique style of "qatanigari" (disjointed rhymed verses) and "ruba'iyaat" (quatrains). He published a number of books on the topic of metaphysics, and meditation, before he was assassinated on 22 September 1988 at the age of 74. His poetical works include "Paas-e Ghubaar", "Hikayaat", and "Malboos-e Bahaar". Books written by him include "Alam-e Barzaq", "Jinnaat" (2 volumes), and "Ana min al-Husain".

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1944 AD, during World War II, the US, Britain and the Soviet Union, inked an accord for coordinating attacks on the Axis powers with the goal of occupying Germany. The Allied armies mercilessly pounded and shattered the Nazi defense lines in both the east and the west, resulting in Germany's surrender in May 1945. The capital Berlin was seized and untold crimes committed against the civilians. In 1949 Germany was divided into two separate countries by the names of West Germany and East Germany.

43 solar years ago, on this day in 1974 AD, Ethiopian king, Haile Selassie I ("Conquering Lion of Judah"), was deposed by the military, thus ending the Christian monarchy of the ancient land of Abyssinia. He died the next year in Addis Ababa during internment.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, famous Pakistani calligrapher, Hafez Mohammad Yousuf Sadidi, died in Lahore. He authored the book "Ta'lim an-Naskh"

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

Archeologists Discover Main Achaemenid Waterway in Persepolis



Ruins of the ancient Persepolis are seen in this file photo.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The main valve of the Achaemenid era which was used to transfer surface waters from the western site to the main network in the southern yard is discovered in Persepolis, near the southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

The Public Relations Office of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) said Ahmad Ali Assadi, head of the team to explore waterways of the Persepolis confirmed the finding on Monday.

Assadi was quoted as saying that the aim of the third season of exploration of waterways in the Persepolis was to continue exploration of the waterway in the southern yard of the Tachar Palace, identification of the status of the waterway compound of the unfinished gate, and identification and unearthing some parts of the Persepolis wall that had been buried under a pile of soil due to the dirt caused by the previous excavations half of the southern side of the royal court.

The waterway is meant to discharge the water in the roof of the palace, adding that a third waterway is in the southern yard of the Tachar Palace and was used for discharging waters in the mentioned yard, he said.

Referring to the identification of the

two sides' branches of the waterway, Assadi said: "One of these branches by continuing towards the northwest of the Tachar yard runs under the Tachar Palace and had been used for the disposal of the water in the roof of the southern porch of the palace."

Continued work in the southern branch of the Tachar yard could offer new insight into the status of the waterways in the southern yard, especially the H Palace, he added.

According to the archaeologist, another branch of the waterways is located in the eastern span of the unfinished gate which runs from the south under the Hundred Column Palace and from the north towards the northern wall of the royal court.

Assadi referred to the canals with about six meters height which are carved in one piece from the mountain rocks and have no regular structure.

'Parting' Wins Top Prize at Afghan Film Festival of Stockholm

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian film 'Parting' directed by Navid Mahmoudi and produced by Jamshid Mahmoudi has won the top prize at the 9th Afghan Film Festival of Stockholm in Sweden.

The closing ceremony of the 9th Afghan Film Festival of Stockholm was held on the eve of Sunday during which the winners of this edition were announced.

'Parting' was awarded as

the winner in the feature film competition section of the Swedish film festival.

Afghan director and Golden Globe winner Sedigh Barmak who was the head of the jury panel presented the award to Navid Mahmoudi.

On Sunday night, Mahmoudi's film also won an award at the 5th Persian Film Festival of Sydney, Australia.

More than 20 films were screened

in the 9th Afghan Film Festival in Stockholm during which several other films from France, Tajikistan, Iran and Afghanistan were awarded as well.

Within the past year, 'Parting' received quite a few international awards namely the special filmmaker award of Busan International Film Festival, the award for best actress in the International Festival of Morocco

and the award for best feature film in Tripoli International Festival.

'Parting' is a gloomy love story of two Afghan migrants, Fereshteh and Nabi who intend to immigrate to a European country for the sake of prosperity and happy marriage.

A joint production of Iran and Afghanistan, 'Parting' has also been introduced to compete at the foreign film category of Academy Awards.

UK's Only Female Panda Not Pregnant

LONDON (Reuters) – Britain's only female giant panda bear will not give birth this year, dashing hopes that she was about to produce the first panda cubs born in the country, Edinburgh Zoo said on Monday.

In August, the Scottish zoo had said it believed Tian Tian, which translates to Sweetie in Chinese, was pregnant but warned panda breeding was a complicated process.

"It is with sadness that we can confirm Tian Tian, Edinburgh Zoo's resident female giant panda, will not give birth to cubs this year," said Iain Valentine, director of giant pandas at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland.

Tian Tian, born in 2003, is one of two pandas who moved to Britain from China under a 10-year loan. Whilst in China she gave birth to twins in 2009 but has failed to produce a cub since arriving in Scotland in 2011.

The fetuses of giant pandas are extremely small, making it hard for zoos to know whether females are pregnant.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature last year reclassified the species as "vulnerable" rather than "endangered", citing growing numbers in the wild due to decades of protection efforts.

'Survival' Goes to Moroccan Film Festival

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian short film 'Survival' directed by Masoud Hatami has been accepted in the competition section of the 2nd Ouarzazate International Film Festival (OIFF) in Morocco.

The 8-minute short film, based on a script written by Masoud Hatami himself, is set in the middle of an unknown place,

where two people are living on a lake and have to survive on the flesh of corpses.

Hatami's short film has already participated in a number of international festivals including the Rural FilmFest El Eden de La Mancha in Spain, the 57th International Brno Sixteen Film Festival in Czech Republic, and

the Stockholm Experimental and Animation Film Festival 2016, in which it won Best Film award.

Ouarzazate International Film Festival (OIFF) showcases short films from emerging filmmakers from Morocco and abroad. The second edition of the festival will be held on September 18-23, 2017, in Moroccan city of Ouarzazate.

Picture of the Day



The 15th edition of the Scent of Apple Expo was inaugurated Monday in the Velayat Park in Tehran. The annual event held on the eve of the lunar month of Muharram, showcases goods and services for holding ceremonies that mark the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shia Imam, Hussain ibn Ali (Peace be upon him).

(Photo: IRNA)