

# This Day in History

(Sept 21)

Today is Thursday; 30<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 30<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zi'l-Hijjah 1438 lunar hijri; and September 21, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2036 solar years ago**, on this day in 19 BC; the poet of ancient Rome, Publius Vergilius Maro, popular as "Virgil", died at the age of 51. His masterpiece, the Latin poem "Aeneid" tells the legend of Aeneas, a Trojan who travelled to Italy, where he became the ancestor of the Romans. The first six of the poem's twelve books tell the story of Aeneas's wanderings from Troy to Italy, and the poem's second half tells of the Trojans' ultimately victorious war upon the Latins, under whose name Aeneas and his Trojan followers are destined to be subsumed.

**1425 lunar years ago**, on this day in 13 AH, Hind bint Utbah, an avowed enemy of Islam and a notorious adulteress who ordered her Abyssinian slave, Wahshi, to ambush and murder Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) valiant uncle, Hazrat Hamza (AS) during the Battle of Ohad, died. She was mother of the infamous founder of the Omayyad regime, Mu'awiyya, whose paternity was attributed to three other persons besides her third husband Abu Sufyan. Wahshi carved out the liver of Martyr Hamza (AS) and brought it to his cannibalistic mistress to chew but God made it as hard as a stone so that no part of a devout Muslim could enter the body of the hellish Hind.

**1231 lunar years ago**, on this day in 206 AH, the Arabic grammarian and philologist of Basra, Nazr Ibn Shumayl, passed away in Khorasan in the city of Marv (currently in Turkmenistan). He is believed to be the first to compile a work on "Ilm Ghara'eb al-Hadith" (Uncommon Aspects of Hadith). He was a student of the famous lexicographer, Khalil ibn Ahmad al-Farahidi, and a classmate of the celebrated Iranian grammarian of Arabic, Sibawaih.

**1100 lunar years ago**, on this day in 338 AH, Egyptian grammarian, Ahmad Ibn Moham-mad al-Misri Ibn Nahhas, passed away. He authored "E'rab al-Qur'an" on the correct pronunciation of Qur'anic ayahs: "Ishtiqaq al-Asma al-Husna", on explanation of Divine Attributes, and "Tafsir Ahyaat Sibawaih", a commentary on the verses of the Iranian gram-marian of Arabic, Sibawaih.

**832 lunar years ago**, on this day in 606 AH, the Kurdish Islamic scholar, Majd od-Din Mubarak Ibn Mohammad Ibn al-Athir al-Jazari, passed away in Mosul. An expert on hadith and Arabic language, he wrote "Jame' al-Usoul", which is a compendium of the "Sihah as-Sitta" or the Six Authoritative Hadith Books of Sunni Muslims, compiled mostly by Iranian converts. He was the elder brother of Ali Ibn al-Athir author of "al-Kamel fi'l-Tarikh" (The Complete History).

**580 solar years ago**, on this day in 1437 AD, Sultan Nasser Khan Farouqi of the Khandesh Muslim kingdom of Central India, died three days after his humiliating defeat at the Battle of Lalling and the sack of his capital, Burhanpur, by the forces of Sultan Ala od-Din Ahmad Shah of the Bahmani Dynasty of Iranian origin of the Deccan.

**441 solar years ago**, on this day in 1576 AD, Gerolamo Cardano, Italian physician, astrologer, mathematician, and philosopher, died. He borrowed extensively from the works of Muslim scientists, and became known in Europe as establisher of the binomial coefficients and the binomial theorem, which he mentions in his book "Opus Novum de Proportionibus".

**359 solar years ago**, on this day in 1658 AD, the religious reformer of the Malay-Indonesia region, Noor od-Din Mohammad Ibn Ali Ibn Hassan ar-Raniri, died in India. Born in Gujarat, to a father of a mixed Yemeni-Indian ancestry and a Malay mother, he studied in Hijaz, was a Shafe'i jurist and a member of the Rifa'iyya Sufi order. In 1637 he went to Sumatra and was appointed to the highest religious office. He accused followers of the Sufi Hamzah Fansuri, of heresy and had their books burned. He left in 1644 for Pahang in the Malay Peninsula, and several years later returned to India. During his years in Southeast Asia he wrote many books, including "as-Sirat al-Mustaqim" (The Straight Path) that led to the Islamization of Kedah. His longest work, the encyclopedic "Bustan al-Salatin fi Dhikr al-Awwalin wa-l-Akherin" (Garden of Kings Concerning Beginning and Ending), has received the most widespread attention.

**259 solar years ago**, on this day in 1758 AD, French orientalist, Antoine Isaac, titled Baron Silvestre de Sacy, was born in Paris. Having studied Semitic languages, he turned his attention to Iranology, and from 1787 to 1791 worked on the Pahlavi inscriptions of the Sassanids. In 1795 he became professor of Arabic in the School of Living Eastern languages (Ecole Speciale des Langues Orientales Vivantes). In 1806 he added the duties of Persian professor to his old chair. Among his works are his edition of "Maqa maat Hariri" (1822), with a selected Arabic commentary, and of the "Alfiya" (1833), as well as the "Kalila wa Dimna" (1816) - the Arabic version of the Sanskrit "Panchatantra". Other works include "The Book of Wandering Stars", a translation of a history of the Ottoman Empire and its rule of Egypt.

**241 solar years ago**, on this day in 1776 AD, part of New York was burned shortly after British forces captured it during the rebellion of the 13 New England colonies - later American War of Independence. The fire is believed to be an act of arson. The British withdrew in 1783.

**207 solar years ago**, on this day in 1810 AD, the famous Urdu and Persian poet of India, Mir Mohammad Taqi Mir, passed away. He was one of the pioneers who gave shape to Urdu language. Mir's instinctive aesthetic sense helped him strike a balance between the indigenous expression and new enrichment coming in from Persian imagery and idiom. A prolific author in both Urdu and Persian, he wrote his autobiography titled "Zikr-e Mir" in Persian. In addition to his "Kulliyat-e Farsi" or Persian language collection of poems, he composed six divans in Urdu.

**185 solar years ago**, on this day in 1832 AD, Walter Scott, Scottish author, poet, and playwright, died at the age of 61. His novels and poetry are based on historical accounts, and remain classics of both English-language literature and of Scottish literature. Famous titles include "Ivanhoe", "Rob Roy", "Old Mortality", "The Lady of the Lake", "Waverley", "The Heart of Midlothian", "Kenilworth", "The Talisman", and "The Bride of Lammermoor".

**157 solar years ago**, on this day in 1860 AD, during the 2nd Opium War, an Anglo-French force defeated Chinese troops at the Battle of Palikao (literally The Eight-Mile Bridge). It allowed Western forces to defeat the Qing Empire and take control of the capital Beijing on October 11.

**157 solar years ago**, on this day in 1860 AD, German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, died. Known for pessimism, he doctoral dissertation was "On the Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason". He arrived at many of the same conclusions of Eastern philosophy: "Hatred comes from the heart; contempt from the head; and neither feeling is quite within our control."

**151 solar years ago**, on this day in 1866 AD, English author and historian, Herbert George Wells, was born. He catapulted to fame with his science-fiction novels such as "The Time Machine", "The War of the Worlds", and "A Modern Utopia". He died in 1946.

**98 solar years ago**, on this day in 1919 AD, Pakistan's Islamic scholar Fazl ur-Rahman Malik was born. He studied Arabic at Punjab University, and went on to Oxford University in Britain, where he wrote a dissertation on the famous Iranian Islamic philosopher-physician, Abu Ali Ibn Sina. He began a teaching career, first at Durham University where he taught Persian language and Islamic philosophy, and then at McGill University where he taught Islamic studies until 1961, when he returned to Pakistan to head the Central Institute of Islamic Research. Because of hindrances, he resigned and returned to teaching. He moved to the US and taught at UCLA for some years. In 1969 he joined the University of Chicago as Professor of Islamic Thought. Here he was instrumental for starting a Near Eastern Studies program that continues till this day. He died in 1988. His books include: "Prophecy in Islam: Philosophy and Orthodoxy", "Islam and Modernity: Transformation of an Intellectual Tradition", "Major Themes of the Qur'an", and "Health and Medicine in Islamic Tradition".

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, US intruding forces in the Persian Gulf, in an act of state terrorism in support of Saddam during the imposed war, used helicopter gunships to attack the Iranian merchant vessel "Iran Ajr" and scuttled it. 4 Iranian crewmen were martyred.

**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2007 AD, Iranian pilots made successful test flights of two of the domestically manufactured fighter jet. The "Saeqeh" is a new generation of "Azarakhsh" class of fighter planes. Azarakhsh and Saeqeh mean lightning in Persian and Arabic.

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

# Iranians Preparing for Muharram Mourning Ceremonies



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TEHRAN (Dispatches) - **Iranians across the country are preparing for Muharram mourning ceremonies which commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions in the Battle of Karbala in the year 680 AD.**

Every year Iranians, along with Muslims from around the world, hold religious mourning ceremonies for the third Shia and commemorate the tragedy that took place in Karbala.

Millions of Muslims in Iran and other parts of the world are preparing to

commemorate the ten-day ceremony, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shia Imam.

The faithful converge on the streets and in mosques to honor the event.

During the ceremonies, eulogies are recited and sermons delivered in memory of Imam Hussein and his 72 companions.

Passion plays are also staged in remembrance of the suffering imposed on the venerated figure of Shia Islam and his companions, who refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I. Imam Hussein and his group were martyred in the Battle of Karbala, in southern Iraq in 680 AD, while fighting courageously against the 100,000-strong army of the despot.

During Muharram, benefactors cook and distribute food offerings among neighbors, family and the needy. Free food is also offered to people who take part in mourning ceremonies.

Large numbers of black-clad Iraqi and Iranian mourners plus people

from other countries have also flocked to the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala, which is home to Imam Hussein's holy shrine, to attend mourning rituals.

Mourning processions will also be held in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Lebanon. Similar ceremonies are scheduled to be held in Europe, America and Africa later in the day.

On the eve of Ashura, known as Tasu'a, Shia Muslims across the world pay special tribute to Abbas ibn Ali, the half-brother of Imam Hussein, because of his sacrifices in the Battle of Karbala.

Following Imam Hussein's martyrdom, his remaining family members, mainly women and children, were taken captive and transferred to the then Levant. His sister, Zeinab (PBUH), later delivered an eloquent sermon in the court of Yazid, which proved the righteousness of the Shia Imam and the mendacity of the tyrant.

## Sleep Deprivation Effective Anti-Depressant

TEHRAN (Medical Xpress) - **Sleep deprivation - typically administered in controlled, inpatient settings - rapidly reduces symptoms of depression in roughly half of depression patients, researchers found.**

Partial sleep deprivation (sleep for three to four hours followed by forced wakefulness for 20-21 hours) was equally as effective as total sleep deprivation (being deprived of sleep for 36 hours), and medication did not appear to significantly influence these results, according to the first meta-analysis on the subject in nearly 30 years, from researchers at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

The results have been published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.

Although total sleep deprivation or partial sleep deprivation can produce clinical improvement in depression symptoms within 24 hours, antidepressants are the most common treatment for depression. Such drugs typically take weeks or longer to experience results.

The findings of this meta-analysis hope to provide relief for the estimated 16.1 million adults in the US who experienced a major depressive episode in 2014.

"More than 30 years since the discovery of the antidepressant effects of sleep deprivation, we still do not have an effective grasp on precisely how effective the treatment is and how to achieve the best clinical results," said study senior author Philip Gehrman. "Our analysis precisely reports how effective sleep deprivation is and in which populations it should be administered."

Reviewing more than 2,000 studies, the team pulled data from a final group of 66 studies executed over a 36 year period to determine how response may be affected by the type and timing of sleep deprivation performed (total vs early or late partial sleep deprivation), the clinical sample (having depressive or manic episodes, or a combination of both), medication status, and age and gender of the sample.

"These studies in our analysis show that sleep deprivation is effective for many populations," said lead author Elaine Boland.

## Masoudieh Palace, a Beautiful Historical Mansion in Iran's Capital

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - **Masoudieh Palace (Emarat-e Masoudieh) is one of the most beautiful palaces or historical houses from Qajar dynasty in old Tehran near Baharestan Square, comprised of a palace and surrounding houses.**

It was built in 1879 for the prince Mass'oud Mirza (Zell-e Soltan) - the son of Nasseredin Shah and the governor of Isfahan - as his residence in the Capital. Spanning over an area of 5 hectares, the mansion was constructed in the middle of a garden.

Being close to the Baharestan Plaza and Iran Parliament, Masoudieh Mansion has been home to many events that changed the history of the country.

Masoudieh mansion was one of the main gathering centers during the Persian Constitutional Revolution.

Beside its political importance, the mansion has served the country culturally, since first steps of forming the national library of Iran and also national museum of Iran were taken there.

First independent, ministry of education of the country was also



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formed at the Masoudieh Mansion.

This palace narrates modern history of Iran to those who pay a visit during an Iran trip. Many ancient inscription and documents are kept at the site.

But perhaps one of the most impressive parts of this mansion is its beautiful cozy café in which you can spend few hours in one of the most historic and cultural monuments of Tehran while experiencing Qajar era environment

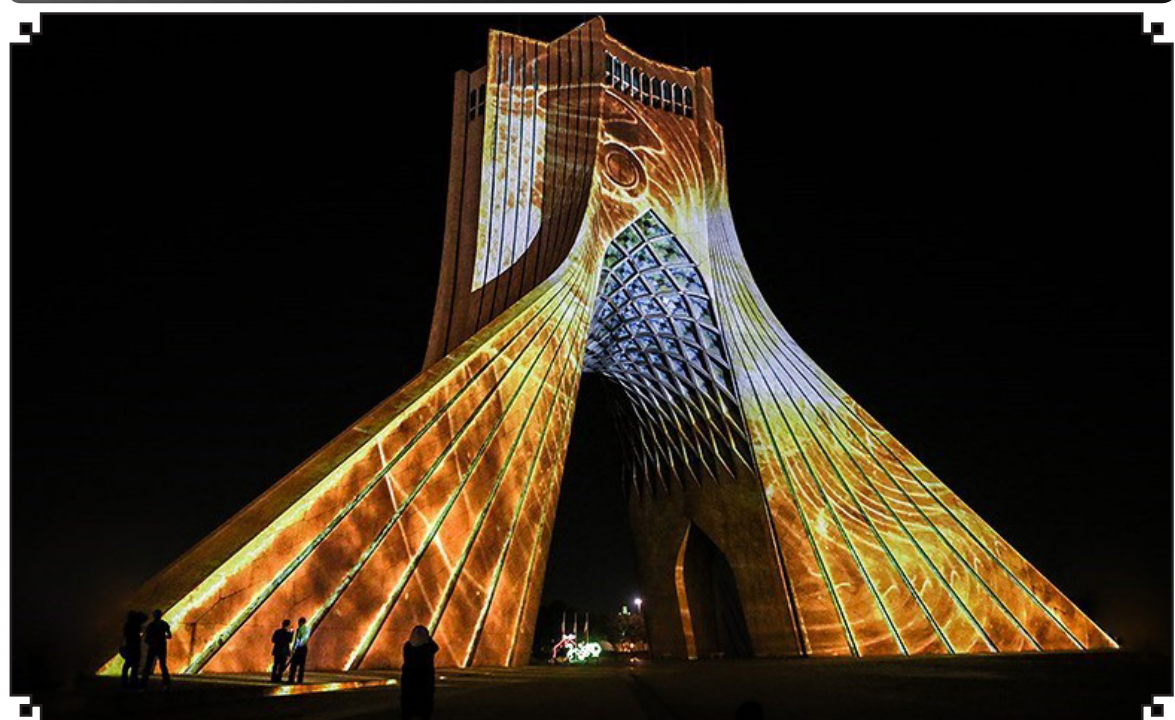
and enjoy the taste of the Iranian traditional foods and drinks.

Naturally the architecture of the building café resembles the mansions and the interior is furnished with items of the same period.

The café is decorated with wooden tables and chairs and checkered tablecloths and small flowerpots with fresh flowers on the table.

The restaurant staff who are famous theater artists, host the guests in a very welcoming and hospitable manner.

## Picture of the Day



The Symphony of Light and Phoenix held at Azadi complex

(Photo: Tasnim)