

## This Day in History

(October 12)

Today is Thursday; 20th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 21st of the Islamic month of Muharram 1439 lunar hijri; and October 12, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1009 lunar years ago**, on this day in 430 AH, the Iranian Shafei hadith scholar and historian, Ahmad Ibn Abdullah, known as Hafez Abu Nu'aym al-Isfahani, passed away in his hometown Isfahan. Abu Nu'aym Isfahani travelled widely, as far as Islamic Spain. He authored scores of books and treatises including "Dala'el an-Nubuwwa" (Proofs of Prophethood), "The History of Isfahan", and the 10-volume work "Hilyat al-Awliya" – a biography of 650 pious figures, including six of the 12 Infallible Imams of the Prophet's Household. Abu Nu'aym Isfahani was the ancestor of the famous Imami scholar, Allamah Majlisi, who says his forbear was a devout follower of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) Ahl al-Bayt and because of the repressive atmosphere of the times, he lived in a state of dissimulation (taqiyya).

**713 lunar years ago**, on this day in 726 AH, the renowned theologian Hassan Ibn Yousuf Ibn Ali Ibn Mutahhar al-Hilli, passed away in his hometown Hilla and was laid to rest in Najaf in the holy mausoleum of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS). Renowned as "Allamah Hilli", he was a child prodigy, and after initial education under his qualified father, and acquiring of fiqh from his maternal uncle "Muhacqiq Hilli", he proceeded to study under other masters of his era, including Seyyed Ali bin Tawus, Maytham al-Bahrani and the Iranian Islamic genius, Khwaja Naseer odDin Tousi, who taught him philosophy and logic. Later, he held debates with scholars of the four Sunni schools of jurisprudence – Hanbali, Hanafi, Maleki, and Shafei. During one such debate in the Ilkhanid court, his rationality convinced the Buddhist-born and Christian-baptized Mongol Emperor of Iran-Iraq, Oljeitu Khodabanda, to become a Muslim and a staunch follower of the Ahl al-Bayt. Allamah Hilli's works include at least a hundred books and treatises on various subjects. Among his works is "Nahj al-Haq wa Kashf as-Sidq". on proofs from the holy Qur'an, the hadith, and the intellect, on the right to caliphate of Imam Ali (AS).

**535 solar years ago**, on this day in 1492 AD, Italian navigator Christopher Columbus' Spanish-funded expedition across the Atlantic Ocean, with the help of Spanish Muslim navigators, who knew the routes to the 'New World', made landfall in the Caribbean, on an island of the Bahamas which he named San Salvador, but which was called Guanahani by the local Taino people, whom the Spaniard Christians exterminated.

**485 solar years ago**, on this day in 1532 AD, Spanish invaders, led by Francisco Pizarro, attacked Peru, destroying the advanced Inca Empire and massacring the native people.

**437 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1002 AH, ambassadors of the sultanates of the Deccan (southern India) conveyed the refusal of the Nizamshahi, Adelshahi and Qotbshahi sultans to acknowledge Jalal od-Din Akbar Shah, the Moghal Emperor of Hindustan (northern subcontinent), as their overlord. Akbar was furious and sent armies to attack them, but did not succeed in subjugating the three Persianate sultanates which followed the creed of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, and considered the Safavid emperor of Iran as their overlord, reciting his name in the Friday sermons in their capitals – Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkandah-Haiderabad.

**204 solar years ago**, on this day in 1813 AD, the Golestan Treaty was imposed on Iran by Russia in the village of the same name in the Caucasus, following ten years of warfare that led to the loss of vast areas of northwestern Iran. The Russians occupied what are now the republics of Daghestan and Georgia. Thirteen years later, Russia again invaded Iran, and occupied other Iranian regions, such as Armenia, Nakhchivan and what is now the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**195 solar years ago**, on this day in 1822 AD, Prince Pedro proclaimed Brazil as an independent country and himself an emperor on his 24th birthday, over a year after the return to Lisbon of his father King Joao VI, who in 1807 had shifted to Brazil the entire royal court following Portugal's invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte of France. Portugal had seized this part of South America in 1500 with the landing of a fleet led by Pedro Alvares Cabral. The Portuguese almost drove into extinction the local Amerindians and forcibly Christianized other natives. They then kidnapped hundreds of thousands of black people from Africa to work as slaves on plantations and farmlands. On 29 August 1825, Portugal formally recognized the independence of Brazil. In 1831 Pedro I abdicated the throne of Brazil in favour of his minor son, Pedro II and returned to Europe, where shortly after retaking Portugal following a civil war, and ascending the throne in Lisbon as Pedro IV, he died of tuberculosis in 1834. In 1889 Brazil became a republic.

**194 solar years ago**, on this day in 1823 AD, Charles Macintosh of Scotland began selling for the first time what he had invented and called a raincoat for protection of clothes from showers.

**146 solar years ago**, on this day in 1871 AD, the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) was enacted by British colonialists in India, which unjustly branded over 160 local communities as 'Criminal Tribes' or 'hereditary criminals'. This discriminatory law was repealed in 1949.

**93 solar years ago**, on this day in 1924 AD, French journalist, author, poet, and Nobel Prize laureate, Anatole France, died. He was considered the ideal French man of letters.

**23 solar years ago**, on this day in 1994 AD, Iranian researcher Mahmoud Riyazi, passed away. His works include "Emergence and Downfall of Big Powers", and "Energy Crisis".

**18 solar years ago**, on this day in 1999 AD, General Pervez Musharraf ousted Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup and seized power in Pakistan, a day after the latter had dismissed him from his post of chairman of the army's joint chief of staff. For nine years, Musharraf stayed in power, by changing the constitution and becoming the president. He turned the country into a US base for the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. In July 2008 he was forced to resign and hand over power to an elected civilian government.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, Iranian President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, welcomed by tens of thousands of Lebanese people in Beirut, including Christians and Sunni Muslims, throwing rose petals at his cavalcade, underscored the growing power of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Resistance in the face of US-Zionist plots. Later, the Iranian president visited the border with occupied Palestine and boldly denounced the illegal Zionist entity.

**3 solar years ago**, on this day in 2014 AD, East African academic, Professor Ali Mazrui, passed away in New York, where he was Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University, and as per his will, his body was taken to his hometown Mombasa in Kenya for burial in his ancestral graveyard as per Islamic rites. After preliminary studies in Mombasa, he completed higher education in Britain, and returned to East Africa to teach at the University of Kampala in Uganda, from where after expulsion by the dictator Idi Amin, he settled in the US, teaching as professor in several universities. An expert writer on African and Islamic studies, he was critical of African socialism and all strains of Marxism. He argued that communism was a Western import just as unsuited for the African condition as the earlier colonial attempts to install European type governments. He believed the capitalist system was deeply exploitative of Africa, and that the West practiced global apartheid. He opposed the West's interventions in the developing world, such as the US war on Iraq, and was against the policies of the Zionist entity, Israel. He rejected violence and terrorism and praised the anti-imperialist sentiment that plays an important role in the modern world. He maintained that the dynamism of the shari'a law is compatible with democracy..

Today, 20th of the Iranian month of Mehr, is dedicated to the famous Iranian poet, Khwajah Shams od-Din Mohammad Hafez Shirazi, who was born in Shiraz in 1348 AD. He was a memorizer of the Holy Qur'an and Arabic literature, and thus popularly known as "Hafez". Being inspired by Islamic teachings, he used unique metaphors, writing the best Persian ghazals or lyrics in the history of Iran's literature. The Diwan of Hafez has been translated into major world languages. Hafez passed away in 1413 AD.

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

# ‘Light Sight’ Scoops Up 8 Int’l Awards



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian 3D animated piece ‘Light Sight’ directed by Moslem Tabatabaee has won eight international awards from its recent screenings in festivals in UK, U.S., India, and Bosnia.

‘Light Sight’ received Best Student film award at Sunrise 45 Film Festival on August 18 in the U.S., Best International Short Animation at Pink City International Short Film Festival on September

1 in India, and Best Animation award at the third edition of Full Bloom Film Festival on Sep. 14 in the U.S.

The 3D animation also scooped best animation awards at the 18th Moondance International Film Festival on Sep. 15 in the U.S., and the 10th Jahorina Film Festival on Sep. 20th in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Special Jury award for creativity in short student films went to ‘Light Sight’ at the 9th edition of DTLA Film Festival in U.S. on Sep. 21.

The seven-minute animated piece also won Best Short Film award at the 5th Universal Film Festival on Sep. 28 in U.S., and Best Student film award and nominations for Best International Short Film and Best Animation at the 9th Wimbledon International Short Film Festival in UK on Oct. 7.

According to the director of ‘Light Sight’, the animation has one character and one setting; the character tries to escape from the room to get to the light he sees outside.

## Iran Receives ICID.CIID Award

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (IRNCID) received the award of the 23rd ICID Congress and the 68th IEC Meeting.

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), established in 1950, is the leading scientific, technical and not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Iranian Ambassador to Mexico Mohammad Taqi Hosseini and Deputy Agricultural Jihad Minister Alimorad Akbari attended the meeting.

ICID, through its network of



professionals spreading across more than 100 countries, has facilitated sharing of experiences and transfer of water management technology for over half a century.

ICID supports capacity development, stimulates research and innovation and strives to promote policies and programs to enhance sustainable development of irrigated agriculture through a comprehensive water management framework.

The 23rd ICID Congress and the 68th IEC Meeting is now underway in Mexico.

## Breath Instead of a Blood Test

ZURICH (Dispatches) - In the future, a new sensor is going to make it possible to measure the fat the body burns with a convenient breathalyzer in order to test the condition of athletes and people who want to lose weight.

Scientists at ETH Zurich and the University Hospital Zurich have now developed a method for the highly convenient, real-time monitoring of lipolysis by testing a person's exhalations during exercise.

“When burning fat, the body produces by-products that find their way into the blood,” explains Andreas Güntner, a postdoc in the group of ETH Professor Sotiris Pratsinis. In the pulmonary alveoli, these molecules -- especially the volatile ones -- enter the air exhaled by the person. The most volatile of these lipid metabolites is acetone. Güntner and his colleagues have developed a small gas sensor that measures the presence of this substance. The sensor is much more sensitive than previous sensors: it can detect a single acetone molecule in hundred million molecules. It also measures acetone exclusively, so the more than 800 other known volatile components in exhalations do not affect the measurement.

In collaboration with pulmonary specialists at the University Hospital Zurich led by Malcolm Kohler, Professor and Director of the Department of Pulmonology, the researchers tested the functioning of the sensor in volunteers while they exercised. The test subjects

completed a one-and-a-half-hour session on a bicycle ergometer with two short breaks. Researchers asked the test subjects to blow into a tube that was connected to the acetone sensor at regular intervals.

“We were able to show how the acetone concentration in the

exhalations varies greatly from person to person,” says Güntner. Scientific opinion used to hold that athletes only begin burning fat after a certain period of physical exertion and on reaching a certain heart rate, but this view is now outdated. The measurements taken by the

researchers in Zurich showed that lipolysis in some test subjects did, in fact, only start towards the end of the one-and-a-half-hour training session. In the other volunteers, the measurements showed that their bodies began burning fat much sooner.

## Picture of the Day



An international exhibition has opened at the Art Bureau in Tehran to display posters on the massacre of Muslims in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency