

This Day in History

(October 17)

Today is Tuesday; 25th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 26th of the Islamic month of Muharram 1439 lunar hijri; and October 17, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1375 lunar years ago, on this day in 64 AH, the siege of holy Mecca began by forces of the Godless Yazid, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, a month after he had ordered the sack of holy Medina, slaughter of some 10,000 Muslims including hundreds of the Prophet's companions, mass rape of women and desecration of the sacred shrine of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The siege and subsequent sacrilege of the holy Ka'ba was led by the bloodthirsty and blasphemous Haseen ibn Numayr who was involved in the massacre in Medina and three years earlier had participated in the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson Imam Husain (AS), in Karbala. Ibn Numayr had taken command of the Omayyad army on the sudden death of his equally criminal predecessor, Muslim ibn Oqba al-Marri, who was struck by divine wrath after perpetrating the sacrilege of sacred Medina. The siege prolonged for over a month and twenty days during which the sanctity of the holy Ka'ba was desecrated by Yazid's forces who rained down fire and brimstone through catapults placed on mountains around the Masjid al-Haram or the Grand Sacred Mosque. As a result the supreme symbol of monotheism was badly damaged and many men, women and children who had sought refuge in the holiest sanctuary of Islam were killed or burnt. The people, inspired by the valour of Mukhtar Ibn Abu Obayda Thaqafi, bravely defended the city until the siege was lifted on the sudden death through divine wrath of the accursed Yazid in Damascus.

1293 lunar years ago, on this day in 146 AH, Ali al-Abed Ibn Hassan al-Musallas, passed away at the age of 45 in the dungeon of the tyrant Mansur Dawaniqi, the 2nd self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. His grandparents were Hassan al-Musanna, the son of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) elder grandson, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), and Fatema the daughter of the Prophet's younger grandson Imam Husain (AS). He was unsurpassed in patience, worship and remembrance of God. He was imprisoned along with other descendants of Imam Hasan (AS), because of Abbasid fears of the Prophet's progeny to whose leadership Mansur had sworn allegiance during persecution under Omayyad rule. On becoming caliph, Mansur put several descendants of Imam Hasan (AS) in a dark dungeon where the day could not be differentiated from the night, except by means of the recitations and acts of worship of Ali al-Abed. These disciplined, orderly and continuous acts used to make the others aware of the time for prayers. One day, due to the hardships of imprisonment and the weight of fetters, his uncle, Abdullah Mahadh (father of Taldh Zakiyya and Ibrahim - who were martyred in battle in 145 AH), lost patience and told him in a state of great agitation: Do you not witness our misfortunes and adversities? Do you not pray to God to grant us relief from this suffering? Ali al-Abed remained silent for a while and then said, "O' uncle! There exists for us a (lofty) rank in Paradise, which we can never achieve except through patience over these or even more severe adversities, and there exists for Mansur a dreadful place in Hell, which he shall never reach except by subjecting us to such persecution. If we are patient, we shall soon find ourselves in ease and comfort, for death is not very far from us. But if you wish I shall pray for our deliverance." Abdullah replied: We shall be patient. Three days later, Ali al-Abed passed away, while in prostration to God. Abdullah thought he was asleep and when he tried to wake him up, he realized that the soul had flown to the ethereal heavens. Soon, the bloodthirsty caliph killed the imprisoned Sadaat by felling the roof of the dungeon upon them.

751 solar years ago, on this day in 1266 AD, the Muslim missionary of the Chishti Sufi Order of the Punjab region of the Subcontinent, Baba Fareed od-Din Ganj-e Shekar, passed away. His forefathers had migrated from Khorasan to the Subcontinent, where he convinced many Hindus to accept the truth of Islam. Although, he was fluent in Persian, in order to carry the message of Islam to the non-Muslim masses, he composed poems and treatises in Punjabi. Many of his odes were incorporated into the holy book of the Sikh religion by its founder Guru Nanak a couple of centuries later. The shrine of Ganj-e Shekar, who was a devotee of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, is in Pakistan's Punjab, and is often the target of bomb attacks by the heretical Salafi groups.

572 solar years ago, on this day in 1448 AD, the Second Battle of Kosovo, led to the decisive victory of the Ottoman Turks under Sultan Murad II over a huge 100,000 strong army of several Christian countries led by Hungarian king, John Hunyadi. The Crusaders arrived at the Kosovo Field, the same place the First Battle of Kosovo had occurred 60 years earlier between the Serbs and Ottomans. The 60,000-strong Muslim army completely destroyed the numerically superior Christian army, and five years later ended the existence of the tottering Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire by taking its capital Constantinople and renaming it Istanbul (Istanbul).

416 lunar years ago, on this day in 1023 AH, Iranian scholar, Shaikh Mullah Abdullah Ibn Hussain Tustari, passed away. A student of the celebrated Moqaddas Ardabili, he taught at Isfahan's seminary and groomed many students, including Mullah Mohammad Taqi Majlisi. He authored such books as "Khawas al-Qur'an" and "Jam'e al-Fawa'id".

200 solar years ago, on this day in 1817 AD, Indian educator, politician, and Islamic reformer, Seyyed Ahmad Khan was born in Delhi in a family of migrants from Iran. His father, Mir Mohammad Muttaqi and grandfather, Seyyed Hadi, were attached to the Moghal court. He was trained in Persian, Arabic, Urdu and religious subjects, as well as mathematics and astronomy, and was well versed in the mathnavi of the great Persian mystic, Mowlana Jalal od-Din Roumi. After the 1857 rebellion against British rule, he wrote the book "Asbab-e Baghawat-e Hind" (Causes of the Indian Revolt). He criticized the British for colonial expansion and ignorance of India's rich culture. He launched the campaign for modern education of Muslims by founding the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, which evolved into Aligarh Muslim University. His efforts gave rise to a generation of Muslim entrepreneurs and politicians. He also founded the All-India Muslim League, which later under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, resulted in the birth of Pakistan. When the British banned the study of Persian in order to cut the cultural links of Indian Muslims with Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia, he took up the patronage of Urdu which led to its widespread use amongst Indian Muslims. Seyyed Ahmad Khan's views on nature were strongly criticized by Iran's pan-Islamic thinker, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi.

141 lunar years ago, on this day in 1298 AH, Iranian poet, Mirza Mohammad Hussein Adib Azad, was born. He wrote poetry in both Persian and Arabic, including delicate odes.

130 solar years ago, on this day in 1887 AD, German physicist, Gustav Kirchhoff, died at the age of 63. He discovered the scope of sun rays and laws of diversion of electrical currents.

105 solar years ago, on this day in 1912 AD, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia declared war on the tottering Ottoman Empire, joining Montenegro in the First Balkan War that resulted in further loss of the Turkish Muslim territories in Europe.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1961 AD, some 400 peaceful Algerian Muslim protesters were massacred in Paris on orders of Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, the Police Chief of France.

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1973 AD, Arab oil exporting states imposed oil sanctions on the US, Britain, and companies selling oil to the illegal Zionist entity, because of their support for Israel's October 6 war against Syria and Egypt. The swift oil price hike was an unexpected blow for Western regimes, and its consequences showed that Muslim countries, if united, are capable of countering the West's plots against the Ummah.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, Iranian Prime Minister, Mohammad Ali Rajai, in a keynote address at the UN General Assembly, unmasked Western-backed atrocities of the Pahlavi regime against the Iranian people as well as the US imposition of war on Iran through Saddam. He elaborated on global topics of importance such as the Zionist usurpation of Palestine and colonialist conspiracies across the world. US representatives requested a meeting with him, but he rejected it because of US crimes and meddling in the affairs of Iran. A year later Rajai was elected president of Iran, but was martyred in a bomb blast triggered by the US-backed MKO.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, Iranian researcher and translator, Hussein Khadiv Jam, passed away. As an authority on Persian literature, he served as lecturer at the University of Mashhad. He has left behind thirty books, including the translation of "Kimiya-e Sa'adat" on ethics, written in Arabic by the Iranian Sunni theologian and philosopher, Mohammad Ghazali.

19 solar years ago, on this day in 1998 AD, Hakeem Mohammed Saeed, Pakistan's Islamic medicinal expert, scholar and philanthropist, was killed by terrorists. Born in Delhi to a family of herbal medical practitioners, who had established the Hamdard Waqf Laboratories, he learned Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and English. In 1948, he migrated to Pakistan and settled in Karachi, where he set up the Hamdard Foundation, whose herbal medical products have become household names in the subcontinent. He authored or compiled about 200 books in medicines, philosophy, science, health, religion, natural medicine, literary, social, and travelogues.

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

'Icky' Wins Best Animation Award at Italy Festival



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian animation 'Icky' Directed by Parastou Kardgar won best animation award in the 16th edition of Festival Internazionale del Cinema d'Arte in Italy.

The festival which celebrates cinema art in all its different forms, took place from October 11-14. Another Iranian film 'Noise' by Pouria Razi was nominated in the festival as

well. The story of Icky portrays a world where people have solved Rubik's cube as their head, but there's a child in this world whose head is different

from everyone else in that her Rubik's cube remains unsolved.

Earlier, Icky had won several international awards from various festivals including best animation at Romania's Short to the Point festival, best animation at Seattle festival, best animation at NCU's international student festival and best director at Bollywood International Film Festival.

Launched in 2001, Festival Internazionale del Cinema d'Arte aims to contribute to greater disclosure and affirmation of the values of Culture and Arts (painting, sculpture, literature, theater, dance, film, music, architecture, photography, comics, etc.) through the language of film. The Festival is open both to foreign and Italian producers, as well as cinema companies, associations and singles.

Book House Contributes to Tehran Short Film Festival

TEHRAN (IBNA) - The 34th Tehran International Short Film Festival will open today as Iran's Book House Institute (IBHI) has contributed to this event in the section "Book and Cinema".

According to IBNA correspondent, many experts believe that Tehran International Short Film Festival is the major film

event in the Middle East which is held by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society. This year the secretary of the festival is Sayyed Sadeq Mousavi.

Over 5859 films from 117 countries were submitted to the festival and finally 110 films from 44 different countries will compete in the international section of the

event along with 9 Iranian films.

The members of the jury panel in this section are: Estonian director Peter Murdmaa, Polish filmmaker Andrej Bednarek, documentary film producer from Lebanon Abir Hashem, Yuk Mui Chang from Hong Kong, as well as Mahdi Karampur from Iran.

Learning, Staying in Shape Key to Longer Lifespan

LONDON (Dispatches) - People who are overweight cut their life expectancy by two months for every extra kilogram of weight they carry, research suggests. A major study has also found that education leads to a longer life, with almost a year added for each year spent studying beyond school.

Other key findings are that people who give up smoking, study for longer and are open to new experiences might expect to live longer.

Scientists at the University of Edinburgh analysed genetic information from more than 600,000 people alongside records of their parents' lifespan.

Because people share half of their genetic information with each of their parents, the team were able to calculate the impact of various genes on life expectancy.

Lifestyle choices are influenced to a certain extent by our DNA -- genes, for example, have been linked to increased alcohol consumption and addiction. The researchers were therefore able to work out which have the greatest influence on lifespan.

Their method was designed to rule out the chances that any observed associations could be caused by a separate, linked factor. This enabled them to pinpoint exactly which lifestyle factors cause people to live longer, or shorter, lives.

They found that cigarette smoking and traits associated with lung cancer had the greatest impact on shortening lifespan.

For example, smoking a packet of cigarettes per day over a lifetime knocks an average of seven years off life expectancy, they calculated. But smokers who

give up can eventually expect to live as long as somebody who has never smoked.

Body fat and other factors linked to diabetes also have a negative influence on life expectancy.

The study also identified two new DNA differences that affect lifespan. The first -- in a gene that affects blood cholesterol levels -- reduces lifespan by around eight months. The second -- in a gene linked to the immune system -- adds around half a year to life expectancy.



Picture of the Day



Pahlavanpur Garden is one of Iran's well-known, historical orchards. It manifests Iranian and traditional architecture, and has an eye catching landscape. Located in Mehriz city, in Iran's central province of Yazd, Pahlavanpure orchard covers an area of roughly 5 hectares which is dated to Qajar era.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency