

# This Day in History

(November 23)

Today is Thursday; 2nd of the Iranian month of Azar 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 4th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and November 23, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1439 lunar years ago**, on the eve of this day, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), who had sought refuge in the Cave of Thaur on the outskirts of Mecca from the evil of the Arab infidels, during his historic migration, as per God’s commandments, continued his journey towards Yathreb, which would become famous as “Medinat-an-Nabi” (City of the Prophet), or simply Medina. The Almighty had saved His Last Messenger from the plot of the polytheists, by commanding him to instruct his dear cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) to sleep on his bed, so that he could migrate undetected. The selfless act of Imam Ali (AS) in risking his life and limbs brought divine rewards in the form of revelation of ayah 207 of Surah al-Baqarah. With the Prophet’s arrival in Medina, Islam entered the decisive phase of its universal mission.

**843 solar years ago**, on this day in 1174 AD, Kurdish adventurer, Salah od-Din Ayyubi, entered Damascus, six months after the death of his former benefactor Noor od-Din Zangi, removed his young son, and declared himself Sultan of Syria and Egypt. He had seized Egypt three years earlier after resorting to deceit, treachery, and bloodshed, against the Fatemid Shi’a dynasty.

**796 solar years ago**, on this day in 1221 AD, King Alfonso X of Castile was born. He succeeded his father, Ferdinand III to the throne in 1252. During his 32-year rule, although he was successful against Portugal, and occupied the Muslim regions of Murcia and Cadiz, he suffered shattering defeats at the hands of Spanish Muslims when he tried to invade the Nasirid emirate of Granada. The important work undertaken by him was the study and translation of Arabic scientific books into the Castilian and Latin languages, in order to acquire knowledge from Muslims and break out from the dark ages into which the Christian Church had plunged Europe.

**506 solar years ago**, on this day in 1511 AD, Sultan Mahmoud Shah I of Gujarat, western India, died after a reign of 43 years. Popularly known as Begadha, he was the most prominent sultan of Gujarat, and the great-grandson of Ahmad Shah I, the founder of the Muzaffarid dynasty and of the city of Ahmadabad. He contacted the Ottoman Empire and the Mamluk Sultan of Cairo to form a naval alliance against Portuguese in the Indian Ocean, and it was during his reign the famous Battle of Diu took place against the European marauders. Sultan Begadha undertook great many public works in his kingdom, and built a magnificent Jama Mosque in Champaner.

**464 solar years ago**, on this day in 1553 AD, Italian physician and botanist, Prospero Alpini, was born. To increase his plant knowledge he travelled to Egypt in 1580 as physician at the Venetian consulate in Cairo. During his 3-year stay in Egypt, he seems to have benefitted from the botanical works of the early Islamic scientists. He was taught by the local Muslims the gender difference of plants which was later adopted by the Europeans as the foundation of the Linnaean taxonomy system. He was also taught and observed how the female date-trees or palms do not bear fruit unless the branches of the male and female plants are mixed together; or, as is generally done, unless the dust found in the male sheath or male flowers is sprinkled over the female flowers. He introduced the banana and baobab to Europeans from the Muslim world.

**352 solar years ago**, on this day in 1665 AD, Charles II of England commissioned Abraham Shipman to formally take over Mumbai (Bombay) from the Portuguese as part of dowry of his wife, Catherine of Braganza. Known as Heptanesia (Cluster of Seven Islands) to the Greeks, the islands were ruled by successive indigenous dynasties before becoming part of the Khalji Sultanate of Delhi and subsequently the Muzaffarid Sultanate of Gujarat. From 1429 onwards, the islands were a source of contention between Gujarat and the Bahmani Sultanate of Iranian origin of the Deccan. In 1535 they were given to Portuguese, and following the British takeover were the target of constant raids by the Abyssinian Muslim admirals of the Moghals and then the Marathas. By 1845, the seven islands coalesced into a single landmass by the Hornby Vellard Project via large scale land reclamation. On 16 April 1853 India’s first passenger railway line was established in Bombay. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 transformed Bombay into one of the largest seaports. Today, it is the commercial capital of India and has evolved into a global financial hub, in addition to being the seat of the thriving Bollywood film industry. It has a population of 14 million of which 25 percent are Muslims. It is also home to the largest population of Zoroastrians in the world, numbering about 80,000, who are known as Parsi and whose ancestors had migrated from Iran. Mumbai is also home to hundreds of thousands of Muslims of Iranian origin, including Yazdis who came last century and run restaurants.

**284 solar years ago**, on this day in 1733 AD, start of the so-called “Slave Insurrection” on St. John (presently US-controlled Virgin Islands) in what was then the Danish West Indies. Some 150 Africans from Akwamu (in present-day Ghana), who had been kidnapped and enslaved in the New World, revolted against the owners of plantations. Lasting several months into August 1734, the rebellion was one of the earliest and longest of the so-called slave revolts in the Americas. The Africans captured the fort in Coral Bay and took control of most of the island. They intended to resume crop production under their own control, but the white planters regained control by the end of May 1734, after defeating them with the help of several hundred better-armed French and Swiss troops sent in April from Martinique, a French colony.

**253 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1186 AH, the scholar Sheikh Yousuf al-Bahrani of Bahrain passed away in holy Karbala. The Omani invasion of Bahrain forced him to flee, first to Qatif in Arabia, thence to Mecca and then Iran, before he eventually settled in Karbala. He is the author of the famous biographical work of scholars titled “Lu’lu’ al-Bahrain” (Pearl of Bahrain). In Iran, resided in the town of Fasa, near Shiraz in Fars Province. It was here that he wrote his other famous work, “al-Hada’eq an-Nazerah” in several volumes on hadith and the unrivalled merits of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the Infallible Imams. He authored a total of 32 bopleworks.

**102 solar years ago**, on this day in 1915 AD, following the advance of Russian troops upon Qazvin during World War I and mass migration of officials, ulema and the elite from Tehran to Qom, the National Defence Committee was formed in this city to preserve Iran’s independence and issue fatwa for Jihad. When the Russians occupied Savah and advanced upon Qom, the National Defence Committee moved south to Isfahan and thence to Kermanshah where it set up the provisional government. The Russians and the British joined forces to fight the Iranians, who were forced to shift their headquarters to Qasr-e Shirin and to Mosul in Iraq and finally to Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. After end of World War I, and restoration of Iran’s independence, the National Defence Committee was dissolved.

**80 solar years ago**, on this day in 1937 AD, Indian physicist and plant physiologist, Jagadish Chandra Bose, died. He investigated the properties of very short radio waves, wireless telegraphy, and radiation-induced fatigue in inorganic materials. His physiological work involved comparative measurements of the responses of plants exposed to stress. His invention of highly sensitive instruments for detection of minute responses by living organisms to external stimuli enabled him to anticipate the parallelism between animal and plant tissues. A crater on the moon has been named in his honour.

**41 solar years ago**, on this day in 1976 AD, French author, Andre Malraux, died. During his youth, he traveled to French Indochina, where he helped freedom-fighters struggling for independence from colonialist rule. He also defended the Republicans during Spain’s civil war, and was twice imprisoned by Nazi forces in World War II. He later served as France’s minister of culture. He was against war and bloodshed and interpreted arts as a rebellion against death and destruction. He has left behind a large number of books including “Mankind’s Hope”.

**18 solar years ago**, on this day in 1999 AD, Iranian researcher and translator, Dr. Mohammad Hassan Lotfi Tabrizi passed away. An expert in English, German and French languages, after a career as attorney, he spent the rest of his life in translating into Persian the works of western scholars on Plato, Socrates, and the Renaissance in medieval Europe.

One solar year ago, on this day in 2016 AD, Iranian eulogist, Saleem Mo’azzen-Zadeh, passed away. Blessed with a good voice, from a young age he displayed his vocal talents at religious gatherings. For over six decades he served the cause of Islam, and used to say his wonderful voice is dedicated to Imam Husain (AS), and cannot be used for any frivolous purpose.

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

# Italian Museum to Show Iranian Jewelry



The exhibition is accompanied by a series of unpublished pictures depicting Iran’s nature.

MILAN (Dispatches) - For the first time in Italy, Museum of Bijou in Casalmaggiore in the province of Cremona, is to display a selection of jewelry and archaeological pearls from the region of ancient Mesopotamia from November 25.

Contemporary jewelry made by prominent Iranian designers based on Islamic and Iranian traditions are among the items on display.

Part of the museum is dedicated to an interesting selection of fancy jewels made by distinguished Italian jewelry designers from the 1960s to 2000, who were inspired

by Persian calligraphy and poetry, Honaronline reported.

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of unpublished pictures depicting Iran’s nature, art, and society taken by the 58-year-old Italian photographer Federico Wilhelm.

“Works reveal the beauty of Iranian culture, focusing on the jewelry world and its many fascinating dimensions,” the museum’s website says. The artworks will remain on show until January 28.

# ‘Animal’ Goes to Whistler Filmfest

TEHRAN (ISNA) – Iranian short ‘Animal’ directed by the Ark brothers will compete in the 17th edition of Whistler Film Festival (WFF) in Canada.

‘Animal’, a short film directed by Bahman and Bahram Ark which has won the best short film award at 18th Izmir Short film festival in Turkey, will be screened in the competition section of the 17th Whistler Film Festival.

The 15-minute film is about a man, who looking for escape, physically and mentally embodies a ram. The beast becomes a mechanism for survival in this visceral and visually arresting drama.

Established in 2001, the festival is held the first weekend of December and includes juried competitive sections, the Borsos Awards, and the Pandora Audience Award.

The 17th edition of the festival will be held on Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada.

Meantime, short animated piece ‘Bystander’, directed by Sheyda Kashi, will be screened at the 2017 edition of Madurai Film Festival in India.

The 19th Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2017 has put the Iranian short film of the list of selected films.

Hosting a total of 50 films, the international event will kick off on December 06 in the Indian city of Madurai and will run through December 10. Previously, the 8:23 long animation had been accepted in the competition section of Tirana International Film Festival in Albania. It was also screened at the Ninth Iran Independent Animation Celebration and the 4th Tehran Animation Festival.



‘Animal’ is about a man, who looking for escape, physically and mentally embodies a ram.

# Flower Paintings at Sareban



Sareban Gallery, located at No. 130, West Hoveyzeh St., N. Sohrvardi St., will host the exhibit for 10 days.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Paintings of flowers and trees, created in the past three years by Reza Nosrati, are to be presented at the solo ‘Rose & Rust’ exhibition at Sareban Art Gallery in Tehran from November 24.

The works demonstrate the artist’s personal style and approach in nature painting.

In a note on the exhibit, painter, essayist and art critic Mehdi Chitsazha, 44, says: “Flowers may be the simplest and at the same time hardest thing to paint. A flower is the first example of beauty coming to mind and giving it as a gift can be the most convenient way to express one’s feelings. It also is frequently referred to in everyday conversations,”

Nosrati, 36, is an associate member of Iran Painters Association based in Tehran. So far he has held 10 solo and 20 group exhibitions.

# Art Fest to Allocate Proceeds to Quake Victims

Kayhan International Culture Desk

TEHRAN - The organizers of the first Art Festival for Persian Speakers Living in Europe plan to allocate part of the proceeds this year to the victims of the recent earthquake in Kermanshah province.

The Festival is the first of its kind in association with the Persian Cultural Association, formed by Persian, Tajik, and Afghan speakers active in the arts and culture of the Persian

speaking world. It will be held in January in Paris with artists from Iran, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan attending. The organizers say 5 percent of all proceeds will go to the quake victims to help rebuild their shattered communities and lives.

The association has launched a number of cultural projects in Europe in recent years with the main goal of promoting the rich Iranian culture which dates back to thousands years ago. The association includes a spectrum

of members from various Persian-speaking populations including Iranians, Tajiks and Afghans. It is mainly focused on the promotion of the Persian culture and language across the globe.

The organizers hope the festival can play a role in introducing Iranians’ rich culture and language to the world and establish direct connections with the Iranian artists inside and outside of the country to exchange art and cultural experiences.

# Picture of the Day



Fishing season in the northern Iranian provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan is underway, as some 10,000 fishermen have started catching bony fish in the Caspian Sea.