

## This Day in History

(December 17)

Today is Sunday; 26th of the Iranian month of Azar 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 28th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and December 17, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1117 solar years ago**, on this day in 908 AD, Abdallah ibn Mu'taz, an Abbasid caliph who ruled for only a day and a night, was killed at the age of 47. Son of the notorious Mu'taz, the murderer of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) 10th Infallible Heir, Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS), he was an Arabic poet and the author of the "Kitab al-Badi", an early study of Arabic forms of poetry. Persuaded to assume the role of caliph of the usurper Abbasid dynasty following the death of al-Muktafi, after a single day and a night, he was forced into hiding, found, and then strangled in a palace intrigue that brought al-Muqtadir, then thirteen years old, to the throne.

**1032 lunar years ago**, on this day in 407 AH, the able prime minister of the Buwaihidi dynasty of Iran and Iraq, Abu Ghaleb Mohammad ibn Ali Waseti, titled Fakhr ol-Molk, was martyred in Ahwaz. A very pious person, known for his charity and devotion to the genuine teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He started the practice of distributing among the needy people the 'Halva' or a sweet dish on the auspicious eve of 15th Sha'ban which also marks the birthday of the Lord of the Age, the Prophet's 12th and Last Infallible Heir, Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice). Fakhr ol-Molk built the walls in Karbala around the holy shrine of Imam Hussain (AS).

**735 solar years ago**, on this day in 1273 AD, the famous Persian poet and mystic, Jalal od-Din Mohammad Balkhi Rumi, passed away in Konya in what is now Turkey. Born to Iranian parents in Balkh, Khorasan, he was hardly ten years when the family fled to Iraq because of the Mongol invasion. After a sojourn in Baghdad and travel to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, followed by a brief stay in Damascus, he settled in Konya, which was under the Persianate Seljuq Sultanate of Rum. His poems have been translated into many languages including English. His "Mathnawi" remains one of the literary glories of the Persian language. In his poems he has lauded the unsurpassed merits of Imam Ali (AS) - vicegerent of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**619 solar years ago**, on this day in 1398 AD, Sultan Naseer ud-Din Mahmud Tughlaq's armies were defeated near Delhi by the fearsome Turkic conqueror Amir Timur, whose campaigns were marked by systematic slaughter on a massive scale as was the case in all the lands he conquered, including Iran. He crossed the Indus River at Attock (now in Pakistan) on 24 September 1398, and after defeating the Jats, the Ahirs, and the governor of Meerut, resolved to capture Delhi. Delhi was sacked and left in ruins, while artisans and scholars were carried off to Samarqand.

**461 solar years ago**, on this day in 1556 AD, the Moghal statesman and literary figure, Abdur-Rahim Khan-e Khanaana was born in Lahore to the famous Baharlu Turkman general, Bairam Khan. Following his father's assassination, was raised at the court of Emperor Jalal od-Din Akbar, and became an accomplished scholar of Persian, Arabic, Turkic and Sanskrit languages. He translated Emperor Babar's memoirs "Tuzuk Babari" from Chaghatay to Persian as "Babarnamah". He wrote books in Sanskrit on astrology, and named them "Kheta Kautukama" and "Dwawishd Yogavali". He is famous today for his Hindi couplets known as "Dohe".

**372 solar years ago**, on this day in 1645 AD, the celebrated Moghal Empress Noor Jahan died in Lahore. Born in Qandahar to Iranian nobleman, Mirza Ghiyas Beg E'temad od-Dowla who served Emperor Jalal od-Din Akbar, she was a lady of outstanding beauty. On the murder of her husband in Bengal, Ali Quli Sher Afgan, she became consort of Emperor Jahangir, and was the power behind the throne. She patronized poetry, art, architecture, culture and social etiquette.

**279 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1160 AH, the great scholar Seyyed Ali Tabatabaie was born in holy Kazemain in Iraq. He wrote several books including commentaries on the "Ma'fatih" of Faiz Kashani, and the "Mukhtasar an-Nafe'" of Muhaqqiq Awwal. His famous work was "Riyadh al-Masa'el", and for this reason, he is also known as "Saheb-e Riyadh".

**239 solar years ago**, on this day in 1778 AD, English chemist and physicist, Humphrey Davy, was born. His research led him to separate sodium, potassium, calcium, barium, and magnesium from other elements, and this was considered a major achievement in Europe, although Islamic scientists had already accomplished it a thousand years earlier.

**227 solar years ago**, on this day in 1790 AD, Mexico's greatest Aztec relic, a calendar stone was discovered. The 24-ton "Sun Stone" bears carved astronomical symbols. Based on movements of the stars, it reflects the Aztecs' knowledge of astronomy and mathematics. Used to predict the seasons and natural events, it also regulated economic and social activities as well as religious ceremonies. It is 103 years older than the Christian Gregorian calendar. Spanish invaders, who destroyed the Aztec civilization, buried this colossal monument and built a cathedral over it in what is now Mexico City. This heritage of mankind was accidentally uncovered during repair.

**210 solar years ago**, on this day in 1807 AD, French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, issued a decree authorizing French warships and privateers to capture British vessels and even neutral ships sailing from any British port or from any country that was occupied by Britain. This was in response to the measures adopted by London on November 11 that British cruisers have the right to search, detain, and subject to an arbitrary tax the ships of countries allied to France.

**187 solar years ago**, on this day in 1830 AD, South American revolutionary, Simon Bolivar, died in Colombia, where after initial burial his remains were transferred to his hometown Caracas in Venezuela. He played the key role in Hispanic America's successful struggle for independence from the Spanish colonial empire. He led Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia to independence, and helped lay the foundations for democratic ideology in much of Latin America. The country "Bolivia" is named in his honour.

**114 solar years ago**, on this day in 1903 AD, the first airplane after several experiments finally took off and flew for almost a minute. Made by the Wright Brothers - Wilbur and Orville - it was tested in the US. The history of aviation is as old as Man's quest to fly since antiquity. The earliest known record is of Yuan Huangtou, a Chinese prince, who was briefly airborne by tying himself to a kite. In the heyday of Islamic science and civilization, there are records pertaining to the Spanish Muslim polymath, Abbas ibn Firnas, who flew from Jabal al-Arus Hill by employing a rudimentary glider in the 9th century AD - a thousand years before the airplane was invented.

**26 solar years ago**, on this day in 1991 AD, the body of the martyred Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tonggoyan was returned to Iran by the Ba'th minority regime of Baghdad, which had captured him at the oil installations in Khuzestan in the initial days of the 8-year war imposed on the Islamic Republic by Saddam on the orders of the US. Baghdad continued to deny any information about him to the International Red Cross but subjected him all the time to imprisonment and torture against the clauses of the Geneva Convention.

**25 solar years ago**, on this day in 1992 AD, the illegal Zionist entity banished 415 members and leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement and the Palestine Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to the border areas of southern Lebanon, where the exiles had to endure cold and shortage of food and medicine. These inhuman measures angered Muslims worldwide, forcing the UN Security Council to issue Resolution 977 castigating the Zionist entity and calling for return home of the Palestinian exiles. Israel relented and allowed the 415 exiles to return home, since it was alarmed to see the Palestinians developing crucial ties with the Lebanese people, especially after coming into contact with members of the legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, a factor that strengthened the revolutionary spirit and steadfastness of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2003 AD, in an act of Islamophobia and encroachment on the right of women to protect their dignity in public, French President Jacques Chirac passed a law banning Islamic headscarves in public schools. This lawless move shocked the civilized world.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, the alleged self-immolation of a Tunisian youth, Tareq Tayyeb Mohammad bin Bu Azizi, sparked the liberation movement against the US-supported dictatorial rule of Zain al-Abidin bin Ali, who finally fled the country and sought asylum in Saudi Arabia. The uprising soon spread to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia.

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

# 11th Tehran Int'l Cartoon Biennial Names Winners



The Grand Prize for the thematic section comprised \$8000 with trophy and honorable mention.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Winners of the 11th Tehran International Cartoon Biennial have been honored with awards in three sections of thematic, caricature, and free cartoon during a ceremony.

A total of 730 works from among 4,000 cartoons were submitted to the secretariat of the 11th Tehran International Cartoon Biennial which wrapped up on December 15.

The names of the winners:  
Thematic Cartoon  
Grand Prize: Sajjad Rafei - Iran  
First Prize: Toso Borkovic - Serbia

Second Prize: Shahram Rezaei - Iran

Third Prize: Mikhail Zlatkovsky - Russia

Grand Prize: Sajjad Rafei - Iran  
Caricature

First Prize: Bruno Hamzagic - Brazil

Second Prize: Amin Torabi - Iran

Third Prize: Aref Niazi - Iran

Free Cartoon  
First Prize: Mahnaz Yazdani - Iran

Second Prize: Josef Prchal - Spain

Third Prize: Klaus Pitter - Austria

First Prize: Mahnaz Yazdani - Iran

## Iranian Short Films Win in Kolkata Event

KOLKATA (IRNA) - The 5th Indian International Deaf Film Festival (IIDFF) granted its trophy for the international section to short Iranian film 'Limit'.

The award ceremony was held in the eastern zonal cultural center in

Kolkata city on December 11-12.

'Limit' which is directed by the 25-year-old filmmaker, Javad Daraei, is an 8-minute narrative about a physically-challenged boy who cannot speak properly. 'Melody' directed by the deaf couple Behrouz Qasemi and

Fatemeh Lotfi also won the second award in the international section.

The 7-minute movie is about a young deaf girl who tries hard to learn to speak so that the family of the boy (also deaf) who she loves consents to their marriage.

IIDFF focuses on films reflecting real life experience scripted, created, performed, produced or directed by the deaf and those with hearing difficulties. The jury constitutes film professionals who know sign language.

## 'Breath' Fails to Make Oscars Shortlist

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood) - Iran's Foreign Language Academy Award entry for 2018, Narges Abyar's Iran-Iraq war drama 'Breath', did not make the Academy's shortlist that was announced this week.

The Academy has announced the nine films that will compete for a

nomination for the best foreign-language film Oscar. Iran's entry, Abyar's Iran-Iraq war drama 'Breath', was not among the selected films, neither was Angelina Jolie's 'First They Killed My Father', which was submitted by Cambodia and also has earned a Golden Globe nomination.

The shortlist of films was chosen from a record 92 titles. The selected films will now screen for committees in New York, Los Angeles and London, and the final verdict will be announced Jan. 23.

The 90th Oscars will be held on March 4, 2018, at the Dolby Theatre

at Hollywood & Highland Center.

The previous edition of the event picked Iranian acclaimed director Asghar Farhadi's 'The Salesman' as the winner of the best foreign-language film Oscar. Farhadi won Iran's first Oscar for his 'A Separation' in 2012.

## French Cinemas Screening Starless Dreams

PARIS (MNA) - Mehrdad Oskouei's award-winning and much admired 'Starless Dreams' has been screened at 24 cinemas across France.

The French Cinema Center selects a number of films produced in the European country and the rest of the world to be displayed in various French cinemas during what is called 'Month of Documentary'.

Iranian director Oskouei's portrait of teenage inmates, Starless Dreams, was shown in cinemas in cities like Marseille, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse, Otterio, Ramonville, Jastar, Cover, Montagne, Willem Neuf Sorlot and Verdon Sur Gharon.

Winning 24 international awards so far, Starless Dreams marks the second Iranian documentary to have been screened in France on the occasion of Month of Documentary.

Starless Dreams narrates the lives of a group of young Iranian women who live together in a correctional and rehabilitation center for a variety of reasons ranging from drug dealing and trafficking, to pick-pocketing and manslaughter. Though bored with their incarcerated life, they are, nevertheless, scared about what might happen to them once outside. As the New Year approaches, they all hope to celebrate it with their families.

Starless Dreams won awards at the 34th Fajr Film festival and the 66th Berlin International film festival (Berlinale). Mehrdad Oskouei won the True Vision award at True/False film festival which is given to the best documentary filmmaker.

## Why Some Meats May Be Causing Cancer

LONDON (Science) - Around two million years ago, a genetic change occurred that differentiated humans from most other primates that both protected humans from diseases, yet made red meat a health risk.

At this point in human evolution, a certain gene, known as CMAH, that allows for the synthesis of a sugar called Neu5Gc, went missing. This sugar is present in red meats, some fish and dairy products. When humans consume an animal that has that gene, the body has an immune reaction to the foreign sugar, which can cause inflammation, arthritis,

and cancer.

University of Nevada, Reno researchers, led by College of Science Assistant Professor David Alvarez-Ponce, have analyzed 322 animal genome sequences from the National Center for Biotechnology Information looking for animals that show the presence of active CMAH genes. They placed the data from the 322 animal genomes into a "tree" to determine when in an animal's evolutionary history did the CMAH gene become inactive or "turned off." This is useful in explaining why certain species

have an active CMAH gene and why similar species don't.

The Alvarez-Ponce lab specializes in studying the evolution of genes and genomes using bioinformatics. When it comes to the few fish investigated so far, there is an insignificant concentration of the Neu5Gc sugar to be a medical concern, but the concentrations of Neu5Gc are significantly higher in fish eggs, better known as caviar. As masters' student Sateesh Peri puts it, "one of the most expensive foods is among the ones with the highest amount of toxic Neu5Gc."

## Picture of the Day



A ceremony was held in Roudaki Hall to mark the closing of the second