

## This Day in History

(January 19)

Today is Saturday; 29<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Dey 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 12<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and January 19, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1493 lunar years ago**, on this day 53 years before Hijra, Abdullah, the father of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), passed away in Yathreb at the age of 25, after a bout of illness while returning to Mecca from a trade trip to Syria. The year is known as *"Aam al-Feel"* (Year of the Elephant), since earlier in the year Yemen's Abyssinian governor Abraha led an army equipped with elephant corps to attack the holy Ka'ba that brought swift divine wrath upon the aggressors in the form of a flock of small birds which showered them with a hail of deathly pebbles. Abdullah was the youngest son of Abdul-Muttaleb, the custodian of the holy Ka'ba, and scion of the monotheist Hashemite clan of the Qoraish tribe, directly descended from Prophet Ishmael (AS), the firstborn son of Prophet Abraham (AS). Abdullah passed away some two months after his virtuous wife, Amena bint Wahb, gave birth to the future Prophet, whom he was not destined to see because of his journey. He was laid to rest in Dar an-Nabigha in the Banu Najjar quarters of Yathreb, which 53 years after his death became known as Medinat-an-Nabi or the City of the Prophet, following his son's migration and transforming of the city into the capital of the first-ever Islamic state. In 1925 Wahhabi heretics of the Aal-e Saud clan destroyed his grave.

**496 solar years ago**, on this day in 1523 AD, in Switzerland, Huldrych Zwingli published his 67 Articles, the first manifesto of the Zurich Reformation which attacked the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church.

**487 lunar years ago**, on this day in 953 AH, Sunni Muslim scholar Shams od-Din ibn Tuloun ad-Dimashqi, passed away in his hometown Damascus at the age of 73. He was well versed in several sciences such as jurisprudence, hadith, history, geography, medicine, literature and poetry. He wrote several books such as *"Safinat-al-Tulouniya"* and *"Shadharat az-Zahabiyyah"*. In the last named work he has mentioned through reliable chain of authority the famous Hadith Thaqalayn, which Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) proclaimed to a huge gathering on the plain of Arafaat from atop Jabal ar-Rahmah (Mount of Mercy) on 9th Zilhijjah during his Farewell Hajj Pilgrimage, saying:

*"I am leaving behind among you the Two Precious Things (Thaqalayn), the Book of Allah (holy Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt. Hold fast to them and you will never go astray, for the two never part with each other, even when they return to me at the Fountain (of Kowthar on the Day of Resurrection)."*

**421 solar years ago**, on this day in 1597 AD, Rajput rebel, Pratap Singh, who along with Afghan mercenaries fought several unsuccessful battles against Mughal Emperor Mohammad Jalal od-Din Akbar of Hindustan (northern subcontinent), died of injuries at the age of 57 in his principality of Mewar. He was succeeded by his son, Amar Singh who after initial rebellion, found it prudent to submit to the authority of the next emperor, Mohammad Noor od-Din Jahangir, and was appointed governor of Mewar.

**390 solar years ago**, on this day in 1629 AD, Shah Abbas I, regarded as the greatest emperor of the Safavid dynasty of Iran, passed away at the age of 58. The son of Shah Mohammad Khodabanda, he ascended the throne as a 16-year youth during troubled times, when the country was rife with discord between the different factions of the Qizilbash army, who killed his elder brother Hamza Mirza and mother Queen Khair on-Nisa Begum Mahd-e Olya – descended from Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS), the 4th Infallible Heir of the Prophet (SAWA). Meanwhile, Iran's enemies, the Ottomans and the Uzbeks, exploited the political chaos to seize territory in the west and northeast. Abbas soon reduced the influence of the Qizilbash in the administrative and military affairs, executed the killers of his mother and brother, and reformed the army, enabling him to fight the Ottomans and Uzbeks and retake Iran's lost provinces. He decisively defeated the Ottomans in several battles in the Caucasus, in Anatolia and in Iraq, where he rebuilt on a grand scale the shrines of the Infallible Imams in Najaf, Karbala, and Kazemain. He drove back the Uzbeks from the northern and western parts of Khorasan, and in fulfillment of a vow walked on foot from his new capital Isfahan to distant Mashhad, where he rebuilt the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He also liberated Iranian territories from the Portuguese invaders in the Persian Gulf and from the Mughals of India in what is now Afghanistan. Shah Abbas I was a great builder and moved his capital from Qazvin to Isfahan, which he adorned with beautiful mosques, such as Masjid Sheikh Lotfollah and the largest one named after, and which is now called Masjid-e Imam. He also built the Aali Qapu Palace and the world famous Naqsh-e Jahan Square, to the extent that Isfahan came to be known as Nisf-e Jahan or Half of the World. He patronized poets and painters, resulting in the birth of the Isfahan School that created some of the finest arts in Iranian history, by such illustrious painters as Reza Abbasi and others. He respected religious figures, and during his era some of the greatest ulema and philosophers of Iran, such as Shaikh Baha od-Din Ameli, Mir Baqer Damad and Mullah Sadra Shirazi flourished.

**283 solar years ago**, on this day in 1736 AD, the English inventor and engineer, James Watt, was born. He discovered steam power, which led to a revolution in industry, especially in the land and sea transportation network. Steam ships and locomotives were the result of his discoveries.

**229 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1211 AH, the Iranian astronomer and mathematician, Mirza Hussein Doost Mohammad Isfahani, was born. He passed away at the age of 81 years and was laid to rest in the holy city of Najaf in Iraq.

**221 solar years ago**, on this day in 1798 AD, French philosopher, economist and mathematician, Auguste Comte, was born in Montpellier. Considered Founder of modern Sociology, he also presented significant views in mathematics, philosophy, physics, and astronomy. In the last years of his life he founded a new school of thought known as *"Religion of Humanity"*. He wrote several books including *"Philosophical Treatise on Popular Astronomy"*. He died in 1857 at the age of 65.

**210 solar years ago**, on this day in 1809 AD, American writer, editor, and literary critic, Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston. He is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre.

**73 solar years ago**, on this day in 1946 AD, the first ever complaint heard by the newly formed United Nations Security Council was made by Iran and directed against the Soviet Union. Iran officially complained the Soviet interference in its internal affairs and the refusal of Moscow to withdraw Soviet occupation troops from Iranian territory. The very first session of the UN had begun just days earlier, on January 10, 1946, in London.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, the Iranian people through their trust in God and their solidarity staged a huge demonstration against the remnants of the Shah's despotic regime. The protesters demanded the ouster of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiyar and establishment of the Islamic system of government.

**31 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, renowned Iranian musician and physicist Mahdi Barkeshli, passed away at the age of 75 in his hometown Tehran. On the basis of his expertise as a physicist, he wrote several articles on music in Persian, French and English. Barkeshli also translated into Persian from Arabic Farabi's famous book *"Kitab al-Mosiqi al-Kabeer"*, and wrote the valuable work *"Development of Musical Instruments in Iran"*.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, Palestinian activist of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, was assassinated in Dubai by agents of the illegal Zionist entity, Israel, who had entered the UAE on fake western passports.

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

# Iranian Short Films Compete at Brussels Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) - Two filmmakers from Iran have made way to the 40th edition of Brussels Independent Film Festival.

"Maned & Macho" by Shiva Sadegh-Asadi and "Pain is Mine" by Farshid Akhlaghi are to

present Iran in Animated Film and Documentary Film sections of the event, respectively.

"Maned & Macho" is about a young girl's repressed emotions and instincts that are embodied in some animals that come out of

her dreams. However, no one in her family is receptive to these animals.

The short film has attended several international film events before, including the Giffoni 2017 Film Festival in Italy, Göteborg Film Festival in Sweden, 35th Busan Int'l Short Film Festival in South Korea and 2018 edition of LINOLEUM Int'l Contemporary Animation and Media Art Festival in Ukraine.

The long list goes on with 2018 Melbourne Int'l Animation Festival in Australia, 17th Hiroshima Int'l Animation Festival in Japan, 6th Flickers' Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival in the US, 2018 "Pacific Meridian" Int'l Film Festival of the Asian-Pacific region in Russia and 37th Uppsala Int'l Short Film Festival in Sweden.

"Maned & Macho" succeeded to grab the main award of the 3rd Animavi Int' Film Festival of Poetic Animation in Italy.

"One day, one room, one take. After her spinal surgery, she was always in pain, intense pain, and unendurable pain. Painkillers have been her refuge for a long time, but one day, she decided to stop," the synopsis of the Australian-made 'Pain is Mine' reads.

The Brussels Independent Film Festival, previously known as the Brussels International Independent Film Festival has taken place since 1974. It originally focused on super-8 films and today is a showcase for all kind of independent films.

The 40th edition of the event is scheduled for February 10-16, 2019.

## Big Sky Festival Hosts Iranian Films

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Five Iranian documentaries are to be screened at the 16th edition of the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. "Beloved" by Yasser Talebi, "Lotus" by Mohammadreza Vatandust, "Skipper Soleiman" by Saadat-Ali Saeedpour and "Finding Farideh" co-directed by Azadeh Mousavi and Kourosh Ataee are among the Iranian contestants of the festival.

"Aleppo: The Silence of the War" by Amir Osanlu will also vie at the screening event along with other participants.

According to the official



website of the festival, the aim is to celebrate and promote the art of nonfiction filmmaking, and to encourage media literacy by fostering public understanding and appreciation of documentary film.

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (BSFI) nurtures and elevates non-fiction films that have the power to transform the world, culture, our youth and ourselves.

The event will be held in the U.S. city of Missoula, Montana from February 15-24, 2019.

## Caffeinated Soft Drinks May Cause Kidney Disease



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - New research suggests that drinking sugary, caffeinated soft drinks while exercising in hot weather may increase the risk of kidney disease.

A research team from the University at Buffalo in New York studied healthy adults in a laboratory environment that mimicked working at an agricultural site on a hot day (95 degrees Fahrenheit). The volunteers completed an hour-long exercise cycle consisting of a 30-minute treadmill workout followed by three different five-minute lifting, dexterity and sledgehammer swinging activities. After 45 minutes of exercise, the volunteers rested for 15 minutes in the same room while drinking 16 ounces of either a high-fructose, caffeinated soft drink or water. After the break, they repeated the cycle three more times for a total of four hours. Before leaving the laboratory, the volunteers were given more of their assigned beverage to drink before consuming any further fluids. The volume was either 1 liter or a volume equal to 115 percent of their body weight lost through sweating, if that amount was greater. The researchers measured the participants' core

body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, body weight and markers of kidney injury before, immediately after and 24 hours after each trial. All volunteers participated in both soft drink and water trials separated by at least seven days.

The research team found higher levels of creatinine in the blood and a lower glomerular filtration

rate -- markers for kidney injury -- after the soft drink trial. These temporary changes did not occur when the participants drank water. In addition, the participants' blood level of vasopressin, an anti-diuretic hormone that raises blood pressure, was higher and they were mildly dehydrated during and after the soft drink trial. "The consumption of soft drinks during

and following exercise in the heat does not rehydrate," the researchers explained. "Thus, consuming soft drinks as a rehydration beverage during exercise in the heat may not be ideal. Further work will need to discern the long-term effects of soft drink consumption during exercise in the heat, and its relation to the risk of [kidney disease]."

## Picture of the Day



*Dar ul-Funun is a science institute established in 1851 in Tehran by Amir Kabir (1807-1852), the prime minister of Qajar monarch Nasser-al Din Shah (1831-1896). It is considered the first modern institution of higher education of the country.*

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency