

## This Day in History

(January 21)

Today is Monday; 1<sup>st</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 14<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and January 21, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1599 solar years ago**, on this day in 420 AD, Yazdegerd I, the 16th Sassanid Emperor of Iran, whose empire included Iraq, the Caucasus, and parts of Afghanistan and Central Asia, was killed by his own nobles after a reign of 21 years. Son of Shapur II, he was installed on the throne on the assassination of his elder brother, Bahram IV. Of peaceful disposition, he maintained cordial relations with both the Eastern and Western Roman Empires. Early during his reign, Yazdegerd I was entrusted the care of the Roman prince Theodosius by his father Arcadius on the latter's death in 408, and faithfully defended the life, power and possessions of the Roman prince. At the beginning of his reign, Yazdegerd I promoted Christianity and later opposed it. His alternate persecution of Zoroastrians and later Christians earned him the Arabic epithet of "*al-Khasha*" (the Harsh). The Persians gave him the epithet of "*Ramashtras*" (the Most Quiet). The later part of his reign was spent in his attempts to convert Armenia to Zoroastrianism, while his last days were rocked by a civil war among his sons.

**1256 solar years ago**, on this day in 763 AD, Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah al-Mahaz was martyred near Kufa in the Battle of Bakhama by the forces of Mansour Dawaniqi, the 2nd self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. He was a great-grandson of Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He had launched the uprising in Basra in coordination with the uprising of his elder brother, Mohammad Nafs Zakiyya, who had liberated the Hijaz including the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Within two months, Ibrahim liberated the whole of southern Iraq and Iran, thereby cornering Mansour in his capital Hirah in central Iraq (Baghdad was not yet built). While Ibrahim advanced towards Kufa, and Mansour was on the verge of defeat, Nafs Zakiyya was deserted by most of his army and martyred in combat. This emboldened the Abbasids and in the battle near Kufa, an arrow pierced Ibrahim's neck. He was unhorsed and decapitated by Hamid Ibn Qahataba, who sent the head of this venerable descendent of the Prophet to Mansour. Years earlier during the rule of the Godless Omayyad regime, the persecuted Abbasid brothers, Abu'l-Abbas Saffah and Mansour Dawaniqi, had sworn allegiance to Nafs Zakiyya at the famous gathering of the Hashemite clan at Abwa. However, on the fall of the Omayyads, the Abbasids, deserted him, broke their promise to return rule of the Islamic state to the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, and instead established their own dubious rule.

**732 solar years ago**, on this day in 1287 AD, Sa'eed ibn Hakam al-Qurashi, the last Muslim ruler of the Minorca or Manurqa group of islands off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea, seeing himself outnumbered by the invading Christian army of King Alfons III of Aragon, who had defeated him on 17 January, signed his surrender with the treaty of San Agayz, at the fortress near Madina al-Jazira – nowadays known as the fortress of Santa Àgueda. This ended over five centuries of glorious Muslim rule in Minorca, and the forced conversion to Christianity of the local Muslims. Sa'eed ibn Hakam was apparently allowed to leave the island towards North Africa, with two hundred of his followers, the remains of his father, and his library. The ship manned by a Genoese, encountered a storm off the North African coast and was destroyed. There were no survivors.

**282 solar years ago**, on this day in 1737 AD, a devastating cyclone in the Bay of Bengal hit the eastern coasts of India, killing at least 300,000 people. The Bay of Bengal is one of the major storm-prone regions, and frequently causes devastations in eastern India and Bangladesh.

**226 solar years ago**, on this day in 1793 AD, French King Louis XVI was beheaded by the guillotine four years after the victory of the French Revolution. He was crowned in 1774 and was under the influence of his wife, Marie Antoinette. Due to dire economic and social conditions, the people of France staged an uprising against him and three years later the monarchic system was officially annulled. But, since the French King had appealed to foreign powers to save him, he was prosecuted and executed on charge of treason. Several members of the royal family, including Marie Antoinette were beheaded by the guillotine.

**95 solar years ago**, on this day in 1924 AD, the leader of Russia's communist party, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, died at the age of 54. He started his struggles against the monarchic system while at university. Before fleeing Russia in 1900, he was incarcerated several times. He compiled books overseas, and taking advantage of the popular uprising against the Czar, he returned to Russia in April 1917. Lenin and his party manipulated the chaotic events and by October succeeded in hijacking the revolution to establish the repressive and Godless Soviet Union. In 1924, Lenin succumbed to injuries he had sustained during a botched assassination attempt against him, six years earlier. Lenin's ideas influenced Marxism and were officially promoted as the Marxist-Leninist ideology. His books include: "*Imperialism, the Highest State of Capitalism*", "*The State and Revolution*", and "*The Development of Capitalism in Russia*".

**57 solar years ago**, on this day in 1962 AD, Tehran University students suffered injuries when mercenaries of the British-installed and American-backed Pahlavi regime attacked their peaceful gathering. Text books were seized and the regime fearful of protests by the students, closed down Tehran University for more than two-and-a-half months.

**54 solar years ago**, on this day in 1965 AD, Prime Minister Hassan-Ali Mansour of the Shah's detested regime was revolutionarily executed by Muslim combatant, Mohammad Bokharai. Mansour was an American stooge. It was during his tenure that the rubber-stamp parliament of the Pahlavi regime passed the Capitulation Bill granting immunity to American criminals from judicial pursuit in Iran. This enabled the US to plunder Iran's resources and to interfere in its domestic affairs more freely. Mansour also earned notoriety for sending into exile the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Soon after the beloved Imam's exile to Turkey, Mansour was fatally shot by Bokharai, and died a few days later.

**51 solar years ago**, on this day in 1968 AD, in Vietnam, the Battle of Khe Sahn began, with US occupation forces dropping over 100,000 tons of bombs (equivalent in destructive force to five Hiroshima-size atomic bombs) until mid-April on the hapless Vietnamese people. This was roughly 1,300 tons of bombs dropped daily. In addition, 158,000 large-caliber shells were fired on the hills. It lasted for over five months and was the longest and bloodiest battle of the Vietnam War.

**44 solar years ago**, on this day in 1975 AD, Dr. Mohammad Qarib, physician, clinician, distinguished university professor and the Father of Pediatrics in Iran, passed away in Tehran at the age of 66. For his lifetime of service, Dr. Qarib was honoured on a stamp issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran on October 10, 1991. His personal, professional, and political life, was detailed in a 36-part television series entitled "*Roozegar-e Qarib*" or "*Times of Qarib*", was first shown on Iranian TV in 2007.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, pillars of the British-installed and US-backed Pahlavi regime were shaken by popular nationwide protests, as Iranians stormed the Shah's prisons to release thousands of prisoners. Simultaneously, a large number of Air Force officers staged demonstrations to announce their solidarity with the revolutionary masses. Reports circulated that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), would soon be returning from exile. People rejoiced and everyone prepared to accord a unique and historical welcome to the beloved leader.

**35 solar years ago**, on this day in 1983 AD, prominent Iranian musician, calligrapher, and scholar of Persian literature, Ibrahim Bonari, passed away at the age of 91. Born in Taleqan, he qualified in jurisprudence and Arabic literature, before mastering Persian literature, music and the art of calligraphy.

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

# Iran Documentary Competes at Sweden Youth Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 36th edition of the BUFF, a film festival for young audience, in Sweden has scheduled to screen Iranian documentary 'Beyond the Fence'. Directed by Arman Qolipour-

Dashtaki, the Iranian doc will go on screen at the competition section of the Swedish event in March 2019.

The documentary tells the story of a teenager named Behnaz

who lives in a small city and is an enthusiastic fan of football and Lionel Messi, the Argentine professional footballer. Moreover, she is talented in playing football and tries to gain her goal, but she

has to face some challenges.

Qolipour-Dashtaki is the producer, director and cinematographer of this documentary. Film editor Kamran Jahedi and sound engineers Neda Rahmanpour and Hossein Qourchian are also among crew members.

'Beyond the Fence' has also made it into the competition program of the 2nd La Picasa Internacional De Cine (International Film Festival) in Argentina.

The BUFF International Film Festival is an international children's and young people's film festival in Malmö, Sweden, held annually in March.

It was founded in 1984 and is a member of the European Children's Film Association.

The 2019 edition of the festival is scheduled for March 23-29.

## Heavy Snow Blankets Masuleh

TEHRAN (IFP) -- Heavy snow has blown the historic city of Masuleh in northern Iran turning it completely white and creating a mesmerizing perspective.

As a heritage tourism site in Iran, Masuleh is deemed as one of the greenest cities of Iran with a highly good weather, frequent foggy days, cold summers and snowy winters.

The historical town of Masuleh with an attractive nature and a

wonderful architecture with an antiquity of more than 1000 years, is situated at a distance of 36 km from Fooman and 60 km from Rasht, and 1050 meters above the Caspian Sea. Masuleh is registered as National Cultural and Natural Heritage in Iran.

It was announced as UNESCO Historical Heritage Site in September 2015. It is waiting to be included in other international heritage lists.



## Poor Sleep, Heart-Related Death Linked



SYDNEY (Dispatches)-- Elderly men who experience extended episodes of interrupted breathing while asleep have a high risk of heart problems.

A team led by Associate Professor Dominik Linz and Associate Professor Mathias Baumert of the University of Adelaide's Medical School and School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has published their study in the European Heart Journal which examined patterns of low blood oxygenation during sleep and the relation to heart-related deaths in 2840 men aged in their 70s and early 80s.

The study shows for the first time that poor blood oxygenation during sleep predicts the chance of heart-related death in elderly men. The study also demonstrates

that reduced blood oxygenation cannot be attributed to episodic drops in oxygen alone.

A healthy person normally has a 95-100 per cent saturation during the day. Oxygen saturation is slightly lower

while a person sleeps due to shallower breathing. Saturation below 90 per cent is considered low resulting in hypoxia where oxygen flow to the body is restricted.

"The study showed that

when the men had 12 or more minutes of sleep at low oxygen saturation below 90 per cent this increased the risk of heart-related death by 59 per cent," says Associate Professor Baumert.

## Picture of the Day



People in Iran's western provinces go to parks to enjoy the snowfall.

Courtesy: IRNA