

## This Day in History

(February 7)

Today is Thursday; 18<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 1<sup>st</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and February 7, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1061 lunar years ago**, on this day in 379 AH, noted linguist of Islamic Spain, Abu Bakr Mohammad ibn Hassan az-Zubaidi, passed away. He authored the books "*Lahn al-Aamma*" (Errors of Language of Common People), and "*Tabaqat an-Nahwiyyeen wa'l-Loghawiyyeen*" (Who is Who of Arabic Grammar and Linguistics). In the latter work, compiled in Spain, he has hailed the sermons of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), as unrivalled masterpieces of eloquence, decades before the compilation of "*Nahj al-Balaghah*" by Seyyed Razi in Baghdad.

**781 lunar years ago**, on this day in 659 AH, the biographer and poet, Mohammad bin Abi Bakr al-Ishbili al-Andalusi, popularly known as Ibn Saiyid an-Naas, was born in the Egyptian capital Cairo. He was a member of a distinguished Spanish Muslim scholarly family of Seville, which was forced to leave its homeland for Tunis because of the city's occupation by the Christians. He studied in Cairo and in Damascus, under such prominent ulema as the historian-theologian, Ibn Asaker (author of the voluminous History of Damascus), before becoming a teacher of hadith at the Zaheriyya School of the Egyptian capital. He composed a biography of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) entitled "*Uyun al-Asar fi Fonoun al-Maghazi, ash-Shama' el-wa's-Siyar*". He also wrote a number of Qasidas or panegyrics in praise of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**541 solar years ago**, on this day in 1478 AD, Thomas More, English lawyer, social philosopher, author, and statesman, who coined the word "*Utopia*" in the novel of the same name, was born in London to the lawyer and judge, John More.

**294 solar years ago**, on this day in 1725 AD, in Isfahan, Mahmoud Ghilzai Hotaki, the Afghan occupier of Iran, brutally slaughtered 39 family members of the deposed Safavid monarch, Shah Sultan Hussain, including 11 princes. Mahmoud who had seized control of the Persian Empire in 1722 went mad and was killed in April 1725 by his cousin, Ashraf, who now styled himself king, until he was defeated in battle four years later in 1729 by Nader Quli Afshar (later Nader Shah), the commander of the army of the last Safavid king, Shah Tampasp II. The 6-year Afghan occupation of Iran was a period of great chaos.

**207 solar years ago**, on this day in 1812 AD, the English author and novelist, Charles Dickens, was born. His masterpiece is "*A Christmas Carol*", which depicts how a very rich but stingy person was finally forced to change his miserly habits to help the poor. Some of his more famous novels include "*Oliver Twist*", "*Great Expectations*", "*Hard Times*" and "*A Tale of Two Cities*". Dickens who was editor of "*Bentley's Miscellany*" a general interest monthly magazine, from January 1837 to 1839, paid tribute to the Martyr of Karbala in it, by writing:

*"If Husain had fought to quench his worldly desires...then I do not understand why his sister, wife, and children accompanied him. It stands to reason therefore, that he sacrificed purely for Islam."*

**163 solar years ago**, on this day in 1856 AD, the Muslim Kingdom of Awadh (the granary of northern India) was annexed by the British, who imprisoned its ruler Wajed Ali Shah, after a 9-year reign and exiled him to Calcutta, thereby ending the 124-year rule of the Naishapuri Dynasty established in 1722 by Seyyed Mohammad Amin Musavi Sa'adat Khan Burhan ul-Mulk of Khorasan, the Nawab-Wazir or prime minister of the Moghal Emperor, Mohammad Shah. Before its migration to India, the family, which was descended from Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) had been settled in Naishapur by Shah Ismail I, the founder of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran. With the weakening of Moghal rule, the 7th ruler of Awadh, Ghazi od-Din Haider, crowned himself as king of the region which is now part of the Uttar Pradesh and Utanachal Pradesh states of India. The dynasty followed the school of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt and adopted the Imami legal system of government that had been codified and successfully implemented for over 170 years in the Deccan (South India) by the Qutb Shahi Dynasty of Iranian origin of Golkandah-Haiderabad. The result was the spread of the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt and the emergence of outstanding ulema, writing in Arabic, Persian, and later Urdu – such as Ayatollah Dildar Ali Naseerabadi and the celebrated Mir Hamed Hussain Musavi, the author of "*Abaqaat al-Anوار*". With their capital, first in Faizabad and then in Lucknow, the rulers of Awadh gave distinct flavour to Indian Muslim culture, dress, arts, literature, cuisine, and the mourning ceremonies for the Martyrs of Karbala by building majestic Hussainiyas, such as the Asefa Imambara. They also contributed to development projects in the holy cities of Najaf, Karbala and Kazemayn in Iraq. Wajed Ali Shah, during the 31 more years he was alive in exile, transformed the vast 4-mile long Matiaborj area on the River Hooghly near Calcutta into a mini Lucknow, building a grand Hussainiya and spending lavishly to recreate the pomp and splendour of his opulent days of kingship.

**125 solar years ago**, on this day in 1894 AD, the Belgian inventor and musician, Adolphe Sax, died at the age of 80. He was the son of a seller of musical instruments, and invented the Saxophone.

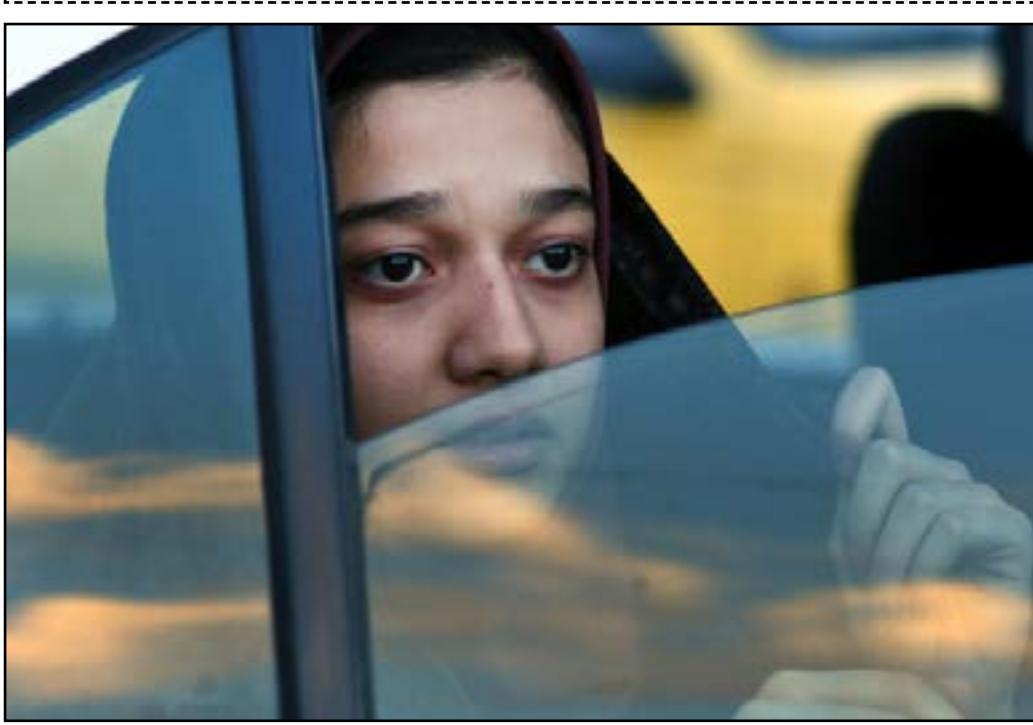
**68 solar years ago**, on this day in 1951 AD, during the US-backed war to divide the Korean Peninsula, South Korea butchered seven hundred and five suspected communist sympathizers with the approval of the American forces.

**45 solar years ago**, on this day in 1974 AD, the small island-state of Grenada in the Caribbean Sea gained independence from the British. The first Europeans to occupy it were the Spanish under Christopher Columbus in 1498. In 1674 it was seized by the French, and over a century later in 1783 it fell to the British. In 1979, five years after independence, Maurice Bishop formed a socialist government in Grenada and established close relations with Cuba. In 1982, Grenada was attacked and occupied by the US, which brutally killed Maurice Bishop. It is now ruled by a US client regime.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, people of various walks of life thronged the residence of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), to pledge allegiance to him. The same day officers of the armed forces came to the Beloved Leader, and in a moving ceremony hailed him as the "Saviour of Iran" by reciting a rhythmical anthem in his praise. In his speech to the audience the Imam insisted that the fugitive Shah be brought to justice, and once again called on Prime Minister Shapour Bahktiar to resign.

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

# 'Watching This Film Is a Crime' Competes at Fajr Film Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) - The 37th Fajr Film Festival (FFF) contender "Watching this Film is a Crime" has unveiled poster.

Directed by Reza Zehtabchian, the film has been selected to compete at the New Look section of the 37th FFF – for first-time directors.

Produced by Mohammad-Reza Shahaf, "Watching This Movie is a Crime" is a political thriller centered on a hostage situation.

"All I wanted was five-minute footage in order to defend my wife and daughter later, but they didn't cut me a break... The sound of their sirens is getting closer... They're going to pour in here any second now..." a brief excerpt from the film reads.

The film's cast includes Amir Aqaei, Linda Kiani, Hossein Pakdel, Mahmoud Pakniyyat, Hamid Ebrahimi, Mehdi Zaminpardaz, and Hamid-Reza Pegah.

The FFF coincides with the Ten-Day Fajr ceremonies across Iran, marking the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Since its establishment in 1982, the FFF has played a vital role in the development of Iranian Cinema.

Supervised by Iran's Ministry of Culture, the festival hosts veteran directors and new filmmakers from Iran every year.

This is while, the international version of the Fajr Film Festival will be held in April 2019.

The 37th FFF kicked off on January 30, 2019, and will run until February 11 in Tehran and a selection of other Iranian cities.

## Iran Animations Participate at Clermont-Ferrand Film Market

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran is taking part at the Clermont-Ferrand film market in

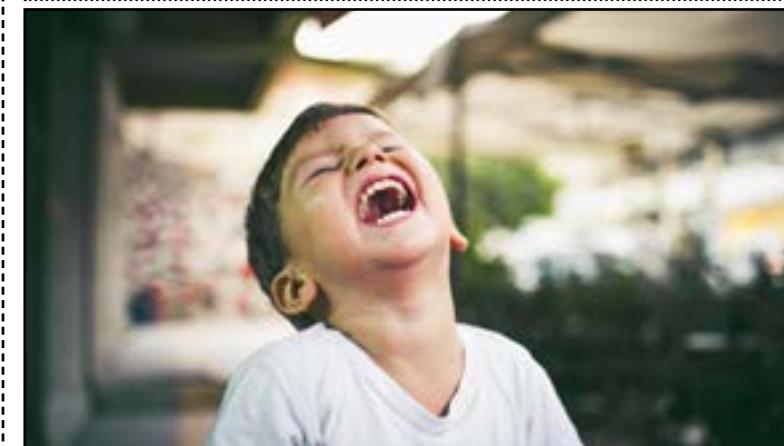
France with eight short animated pieces, the latest productions of the Institute for

the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

The 34th Clermont-Ferrand film market in France is hosting 41 stands from 32 countries this year. Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults is the country's sole representative at the event, which is running from 2-6 February 2019 in the French city of Clermont-Ferrand.

The Iranian stand at the film market is introducing and distributing eight short animated pieces, including: 'The Cycling Wind' by Nazanin Sobhan

### Laughter May Be Best Medicine for Brain Surgery



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Neuroscientists have discovered a focal pathway in the brain that when electrically stimulated causes immediate laughter, followed by a sense of calm and happiness, even during awake brain surgery.

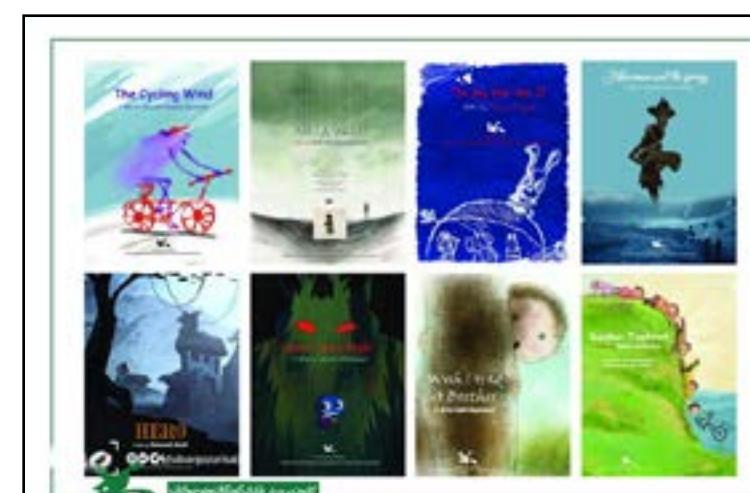
The behavioral effects of direct electrical stimulation of the cingulum bundle, a white matter tract in the brain, were confirmed in two other epilepsy patients undergoing diagnostic monitoring, according to neuroscientists at Emory University School of Medicine.

Emory neurosurgeons see the technique as a "potentially transformative" way to calm some patients during awake brain surgery, even for people who are not especially anxious. For optimal protection of critical brain functions during surgery, patients may need to be awake and not sedated, so that doctors can talk with them, assess their language skills, and detect impairments that may arise from resection.

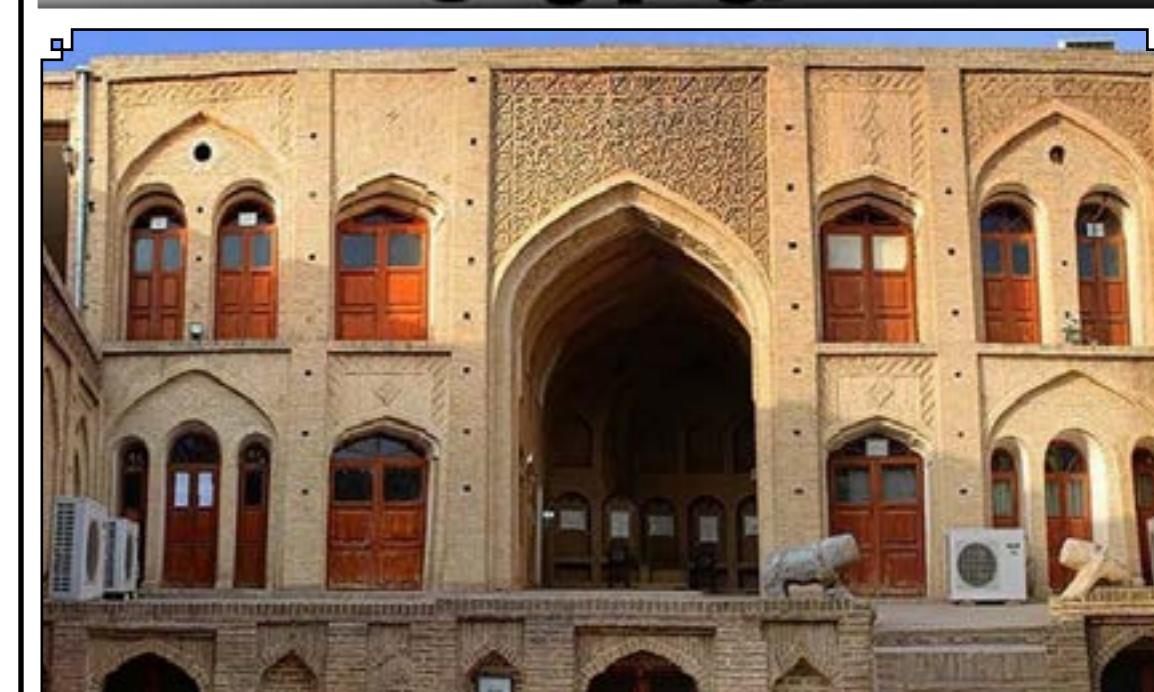
"Even well-prepared patients may panic during awake surgery, which can be dangerous," says lead author Kelly Bijanki, PhD, assistant professor of neurosurgery. "This particular patient was especially prone to it because of moderate baseline anxiety. And upon waking from global anesthesia, she did indeed begin to panic. When we turned on her cingulum stimulation, she immediately reported feeling happy and relaxed, told jokes about her family, and was able to tolerate

the awake procedure successfully."

Outside of use during awake surgery, understanding how cingulum bundle stimulation works could also inform efforts to better treat depression, anxiety disorders, or chronic pain via deep brain stimulation.



## Picture of the Day



Tizno House is one of the biggest and oldest residential homes in Dezful which dates back to the Safavid era (1501-1722).

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency