

## This Day in History

(February 16)

Today is Saturday; 27<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 10<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and February 16, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1903 solar years ago**, on this day in 116 AD, Roman Emperor Trajan, following his surprise attack on the Iranian province of Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) that saw Roman armies reach for the first time the shores of the Persian Gulf in what is now Kuwait, was so elated by this unexpected success that he prematurely sent a laureatae to the Senate in Rome, boosting of what he called the conquest of the Parthian Empire. However, as he left the Persian Gulf for Babylon, the Iranians led by Sanatrukes, the nephew of their Emperor, Osroes I, imperiled Roman positions in both Mesopotamia and Armenia, forcing Trajan to withdraw his troops that had penetrated Khuzestan. Although Sanatrukes was killed in the battle that the Iranians lost at Seleucia and their capital Ctesiphon (Mada'en near modern Baghdad) was temporarily occupied by the Romans, Trajan's deteriorating health started to fail him. Following the heat stroke he suffered during the unsuccessful Roman attempt to capture the fortress city of Hatra on the Tigris near Mosul in what was then the Iranian province of Khavaran, and coupled with the renewed uprising of the people of Mesopotamia, Trajan was forced to retreat. His claim of being the conqueror of Parthian Empire turned out to be hollow. Early in 117, his health worsened and he died in Selinus in Cilicia in what is now the southeastern coastal region of Turkey on 9 August.

**882 lunar years ago**, on this day in 558 AH, Abdul-Mo'men ibn Ali al-Koami, the founder of the Muwahhedoun (Almohad) State in Morocco and Andalusia, died. His capital was Marrakesh and he made relentless efforts to expand his territories in Spain across the Strait of Gibraltar, and in the east till the borders of Egypt.

**822 lunar years ago**, on this day in 618 AH, the acclaimed Persian poet and mystic, Farid od-Din Attar Naishapouri, was killed during the Mongol invasion of Khorasan at the age of 78. The son of a pharmacist, he followed his father's profession and led a prosperous life before experiencing an inner revolution that made him turn to mysticism and frequent travels that took him to Iraq and Arabia including holy Mecca, as well as to the different cities of Iran and Transoxiana. One of his valuable prose works is "*Tazkerat al-Awlia*" on the status of mystics. His poetical masterpieces manifest the power of imagination as is evident by the versified book "*Manteq ot-Tair*" (Discourse of the Birds). Attar, who in some of his poems also pays tribute to the peerless personality of Imam Ali (AS), had a profound influence on the great Persian poet, Mowlana Jalal od-Din Balkhi Roumi.

**800 lunar years ago**, on this day in 640 AH, al-Mustansir-Billah, the 36<sup>th</sup> and penultimate self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid dynasty died in Baghdad after a reign of 16 years. His lasting contribution was the founding of the Mustansiriyya Madrasah on the banks of the Tigris. A monumental water-powered alarm clock that announced the appointed hours of prayer and the time both by day and by night was installed in its entrance hall. The original building which survived the Mongol invasion in 1258 AD that threw the Abbasid caliphate into the dustbin of history is now part of the modern al-Mustansiriyya University.

**770 solar years ago**, on this day in 1249 AD, Christian priest, Andrew of Longjumeau, was dispatched by France's Louis IX as his ambassador to Karakorum, Mongolia, to meet with the Khaqan of the Mongol Empire, Guyuk Khan, to discuss an alliance with the Buddhists for attacking the Muslim world from the east and the west. Earlier, Andrew had carried letters from Pope Innocent IV to the Mongol Emperor, for the same purpose, but both his missions ended in failure. This is evident of the deep animosity of European rulers towards Islam and Muslims.

**740 solar years ago**, on this day in 1279 AD, King Afonso III of Portugal, who was a bitter enemy of Portuguese Muslims and occupied the principality of al-Gharb (Algarve), died at the age of 69. He has earned lasting notoriety by ending over five centuries of flourishing Islamic rule in the southern and western parts of the Iberian Peninsula in what is now called Portugal, where the Christians followed a policy of expansionism and occupation.

**715 solar years ago**, on this day in 1304 AD, Jayaatu Khan, Emperor Wenzong of Yuan Mongol Empire was born in China as Tugh Temur. Apart from Emperor of China, he is regarded as the 12th Great Khan of the Mongol Empire or Mongols, although it was only nominal due to the division of the empire.

**628 solar years ago**, on this day in 1391 AD, Byzantine Emperor John V Palaiologos died after a 50-year reign, spending his last years as a vassal of the Ottoman Sultans, Murad I and Bayazid I, after an unsuccessful bid to make an alliance with Rome and the Catholic Church against Muslims.

**321 solar years ago**, on this day in 1698 AD, Pierre Bouguer, French mathematician, geophysicist, geodesist, and astronomer, known as "the father of naval architecture", was born.

**259 solar years ago**, on this day in 1760 AD, the British treacherously massacred 29 Amerindian chiefs of the Cherokee tribe at Fort Prince George in South Carolina in what is now the USA in violation of the peace treaty.

**166 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1274 AH, the prominent Iranian Islamic scholar and literary figure, Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammad Qasim Ordo-Abadi, was born in the northwestern city of Tabriz. Following completion of studies, he left for holy Najaf in Iraq to attend the classes of prominent ulema of his day. After attaining the status of Ijtihad, he returned to his hometown, Tabriz. Ayatollah Ordo-Abadi wrote numerous books. Among his works mention could be made of "*ash-Shahaab al-Mobeen fi Ejaaz al-Qur'an al-Kareem*" on the Immortal Miracle this heavenly scripture is. He passed away in 1333 AH.

**73 solar years ago**, on this day in 1946 AD, for the first time the right to veto was exercised by the Soviet Union at the UN against a proposal at the Security Council. This questionable right is limited to the 5 self-imposed permanent members of Security Council – the US, Russia, Britain, France, and China. The US frequently uses veto to kill any resolution, especially against the crimes of the illegal Zionist entity.

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

# France Festival of Asian Cinema Awards 'Rona, Azim's Mother'



TEHRAN (IFILM) —“Rona, Azim's Mother”, a co-production of Iran and Afghanistan, has been awarded at the 25th Vesoul

International Film Festival of Asian Cinema in France.

The movie received the Grand Prix of the International Jury and the INALCO (Asian Studies University in Paris) award at the festival.

Directed and written by Jamshid Mahmoudi, the 89-minute flick narrates the story of Azim, an Afghan refugee who lives in Tehran along with his family and works at Tehran municipality at night.

Being the family's head, he must choose between his own life and his mother's whom he claims is the most important one in his life, as he found out that she is in dire need of kidney transplant.

The film is starring Mohsen Tanabandeh, Mojtaba Pirzadeh, Fatemeh Hosseini, Fereshteh Hosseini and Fatemeh Mirzaee.

The film has previously succeeded to win Kim Jiseok Award at the 23rd Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. It also grabbed two awards at the Diorama International Film Festival in India last month.

The Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinemas was held on February 5-12 in Vesoul, east of France, with the aim to present and promote the cinema of Asian territories, enhance intracultural dialog and encourage the discovery of other cultures through cinema.

## Belgrade, Tehran Sign MoU on Cinematic Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and Film Center Serbia have signed an agreement to expand cooperation in cinematic fields.

The agreement was signed by the two sides on the sidelines of the 69th Berlin Film Festival film market, with an aim to develop cultural diplomacy and improve cinematic ties between Iranian and Serbian cinema community.

Under the MoU, the two sides agreed to facilitate and support the mechanism of joint film production by utilizing governmental relations, supporting the distribution of co-



produced films across the world, holding joint meetings between filmmakers, producers and other representatives of Iranian and Serbian cinema industry, and the creation of a funding mechanism to support up-and-coming filmmakers, young talents and female directors.

The agreement also includes efforts on both sides for the screening of one other's films in their respective country, organizing film weeks, as well as supporting distribution and marketing of the films across the world.

## New Molecules Reverse Memory Loss From Aging

TORONTO (Dispatches)-- New therapeutic molecules developed at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) show promise in reversing the memory loss linked to depression and aging.

These molecules not only rapidly improve symptoms, but remarkably, also appear to renew the underlying brain impairments causing memory loss in preclinical models.

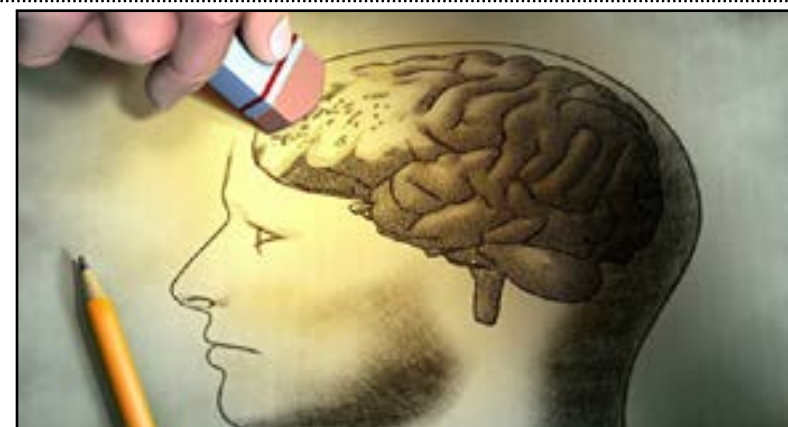
In the face of many failures in drug development for mental illness, is that the compounds are highly targeted to activate the impaired brain receptors that are causing memory loss, says Dr. Etienne Sibille, Deputy Director of the Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute at CAMH and lead scientist on the study.

It took a series of studies to reach this stage. First, Dr. Sibille and his team identified the specific impairments to brain cell receptors in the GABA neurotransmitter system. Then they showed that these impairments likely caused mood and memory symptoms in depression and in aging.

The new small molecules were invented to bind to and activate this receptor target. The idea was that they would exert a therapeutic effect by "fixing" the impairment, resulting in an improvement in symptoms. The molecules are chemical tweaks of benzodiazepines, a class of anti-anxiety and sedative medications that also activate the GABA system, but are not highly targeted.

A single dose of these new molecules was administered in preclinical models of stress-induced memory loss.

Thirty minutes later, memory performance returned to normal levels, an experiment that was reproduced more than 15 times. In another experiment involving preclinical models of aging, memory declines were rapidly reversed and performance increased to 80 per cent after administration, essentially reaching levels seen in youth or earlier stages of adulthood. This improvement lasted over two months with daily treatment.



## Picture of the Day



The Iranian capital Tehran is hosting the 12th edition of the International Exhibition of Tourism and Related Industries with hundreds of domestic and foreign companies taking part.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency