

## This Day in History

(February 17)

Today is Sunday; 28<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 11<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and February 17, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1655 solar years ago**, on this day in 364 AD, Roman Emperor Jovian died in Antioch during retreat from Mesopotamia following the shattering defeat inflicted by the Iranian army of Sassanid Emperor Shapur II eight months earlier at the Battle of Samarra in Iraq where his predecessor, Emperor Julian the Apostate, was killed. This means Jovian ruled for only 8 months during which he sought peace with Sassanid Persia on humiliating terms by surrendering the fortresses of Nisibis, Castra Maurorum and Singara, in what are now parts of northern Syria and southern Turkey. The Romans also surrendered their interests in the Kingdom of Armenia to the Persians.

**1096 solar years ago**, on this day in 923 AD, the renowned Iranian Islamic historian and exegete of the holy Qur'an, Abu Ja'far Mohammad bin Jarir at-Tabari, passed away in Baghdad at the age of 84. Tabari's monumental work is titled "*Tarikh ar-Rusul wa'l-Mulouk*" (History of Prophets and Kings). It is a universal history from the time of creation to some seven years before his death. His history is renowned for its detail and near accuracy concerning Muslim history, as well as the history of pre-Islamic Iran, Rome, Greece, Egypt and other places. His exegesis of the holy Qur'an is titled "*Jame' al-Bayan*". He also wrote a two-volume book titled "*al-Wilayah*" in which he has collected various sources of the historical event of Ghadeer-Khom, where on 18th Zilhijja, 10 AH, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) while returning from his farewell Hajj pilgrimage, was commanded by God Almighty to proclaim Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) as vicegerent.

**1042 lunar years ago**, on this day in 398 AH, the acclaimed Iranian literary figure, author, and poet, Ahmad ibn Hussain, Badi oz-Zamaan Fazel-e Hamedani, passed away in Khorasan in the northeastern Iranian city of Herat, at the age of 40. Born in the western Iranian city of Hamedan, he was highly talented in both Arabic and Persian prose and poetry. At the age of 21 he went to Gorgan, northern Iran, where he remained for two years; then journeying through Khorasan and Sistan, he finally settled in Herat under the protection of the vizier of Sultan Mahmoud Ghaznavi. He is best known for his work titled "*Maqamaat*" - a collection of 52 episodic stories of a rogue. Among his works is an excellent Diwan of poems.

**786 lunar years ago**, on this day in 654 AH, the historian and Arabic literary figure, Kamal od-Din Ahmad ibn Hamdan ibn Mubarak, passed away in Aleppo, Syria. Born in Mosul in Iraq, he spent fifty years collecting material about poets and authors, resulting in compilation of the valuable book "*Oqoud al-Jamaan*".

**451 solar years ago**, on this day in 1568 AD, while the 10th Ottoman sultan and 3rd self-styled Turkic caliph, Selim II, had given up all state affairs and immersed himself in wine and pleasures of the flesh, his able Grand Vizier, Mohammad Sokollu (an ethnic Bosnian), succeeded in concluding a treaty with the Habsburg Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian II, who agreed to pay an annual tribute of 30,000 ducats and cede authority to the Turks in Walachia (in present day Romania) as well as in Moldavia.

**419 solar years ago**, on this day in 1600 AD, Giordano Bruno, the Italian philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer, was burned at the stake on charges of heresy by the Christian church for suggesting the Sun was essentially a star, and moreover, that the universe contained an infinite number of planets. Bruno was deeply influenced by the astronomical facts of the universe which he learned from Latin translations of Arabic works written by Islamic scholars and scientists several centuries before. He refused to renounce his scientific discoveries and was brutally killed by the Catholic sect of Christianity.

**291 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1149 AH, as per the Second Treaty of Istanbul between the Ottoman Turkish Empire and the Safavid Persian Empire, the 6-year war came to its end, with Iraq and the Caucasus restored to Ottoman control. The military commander, Nader Qoli, who was dissatisfied by the loss of territory to the Ottomans by Shah Tahmasp II as per the clauses of a treaty signed 4 years earlier, revived the might of Iran with his victories, deposed Abbas III to end the Safavid Dynasty, crowned himself as Nader Shah, and forced the Ottomans to hand over to Iran both Tbilisi the capital of Georgia, and Yerevan the capital of Armenia, as per the terms of the new treaty.

**210 solar years ago**, on this day in 1809 AD, the gory Battle of Zaragoza between French and Spanish forces ended with French victory and occupation of the city of Zaragoza in eastern Spain. The war broke out as of November 15, 1808, with Napoleon's attack that aroused strong resistance by the Spanish people. Both sides were ruthless, and countless people were killed in this war. Although Spain was occupied by France, after Napoleon's retreat from Russia and his subsequent defeat by the allied European armies, Spain was liberated.

**191 solar years ago**, on this day in 1827 AD, the Swiss scientist, Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, died at the age of 81. An expert in natural sciences and mathematics, he was fluent in several languages.

**102 solar years ago**, on this day in 1917 AD, Egyptian philosopher and poet, Abdur-Rahman Badawi, was born in the village of Sharabas, some 150 km from Cairo. He has been called the "Master of Arab Existentialism." and authored more than 150 works. He wrote fluently in his native Arabic, English, Spanish, French and German; and read Greek, Latin and Persian. From 1950 to 1956 he taught at Ibrahim Pasha University. As a member of a 1954 committee to draft a new Egyptian constitution, he clashed with President Jamal Abdun-Nasser, who dissolved the committee in 1956. From 1956 to 1958 he was a cultural attaché in Switzerland. He described leaving Nasser's Egypt to teach at Sorbonne University in Paris as escaping from "the big jail". He later moved to Libya as university professor, and in 1973 when his students demanded freedom of expression, he was imprisoned by Mu'ammar Qadhafi, who publicly burned his personal library. After release he moved to Kuwait from 1975 to 1982. He died in 2005 at the age of 88.

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

# Athens Film Festival Screens Iran Short Film Lineup



TEHRAN (IFILM) - The 14th run of Athens Animfest in Greece is to host

## Scientists Develop Adaptive Fabric to Keep Temperature Just Right



*This new fabric is the first textile to automatically change properties to trap or release heat depending on conditions.*

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Researchers have engineered a new fabric from synthetic yarn with a carbon nanotube coating that is activated by temperature and humidity, releasing heat in warm humid conditions and trapping heat when conditions are cool and dry.

University of Maryland researchers have created a fabric that can automatically regulate the amount of heat that passes through it. When conditions are warm and moist, such as those near a sweating body, the fabric allows infrared radiation (heat) to pass through. When conditions become cooler and drier, the fabric reduces the heat that escapes.

The researchers created the fabric from specially engineered yarn coated with a conductive metal. Under hot, humid conditions, the strands of yarn compact and activate the coating, which changes the way the fabric interacts with infrared radiation. They refer to the action as "gating" of infrared radiation, which acts as a tunable blind to transmit or block heat.

The base yarn for this new textile is created with fibers made of two different synthetic materials -- one absorbs water and the other repels it. The strands are coated with carbon nanotubes, a special class of lightweight, carbon-based, conductive metal. Because materials in the fibers both resist and absorb water, the fibers warp when exposed to humidity such as that surrounding a sweating body. That distortion brings the strands of yarn closer together, which does two things. First, it opens the pores in the fabric. This has a small cooling effect because it allows heat to escape. Second, and most importantly, it modifies the electromagnetic coupling between the carbon nanotubes in the coating.

a playlist of thirteen short films from Iran.

Among the highlights appear "Am I a Wolf?" by Amir-Houshang Moeen and "Bystander" by Sheyda Kashi.

"Bystander" is about "An old man living with a window in front of his eyes. He sees a cold, black

and white and fragile world from behind the window. But the window was not always there while he was a young active participant of a big revolution..."

Moeen's short film goes into the pure world of children narrating how they can easily feel lonely and

irritated.

The fest will also screen "Flight 655" by Hamid Jamali portraying the tragedy of the downing Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988 by the U.S.

As reported earlier by ifilm, Mojtaba Mousavi's multiple-award winning movie "Mr. Deer" is also another contender for the Grand Prix Athena.

The 9-minute "Mr. Deer" is set in an unknown time, in a ruined subway station which is similar to those in modern European societies. People in this society have animal faces and have forgotten humane values.

The playlist goes on with "Tangle" by Maliheh Gholamzadeh, "Pet Man" by Marzieh Abrarpaydar, "Mother" by Mohammad Qanefard, "Starvation" by Zahra Rostampour and "The Damn Junk" by Amirpouya Afzalipour and Rouhollah Saadatmand.

"The Last Fish" by Mahmoud Saemin, "The Fox" by Sadeq Javadi Nikjeh, "The Stranger and the Wind" co-directed by Hamed and Hamid-Reza Ahmadi, and "Till the Following Morning" by Makan Mansourian will also compete at the festival.

The 14th Athens ANIMFEST - International Animation Festival hosts a program full of shorts and feature animation.

The event is slated for March 14-17, 2019 in Athens, Greece.

## Italy Donates Sculpture to Music Museum of Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Italian Ambassador Mauro Conciatori donated an artwork made by Iranian sculptor Bijan Basiri to the Music Museum of Iran in Tehran on Thursday.

The sculptures in the series have been made of metal, lava and graphite between 1994 and 2015. The sculptures, each resembling the heads of monsters and animals like dinosaurs, have been fixed on 2-meter-high metal poles.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the sculpture, Conciatori called the museum the best location to preserve the artwork, and said that the sculpture was born from within the heart of history and can



draw the attention of every visitor.

He said that he believes what master Basiri has made is both

audio and visual, and when it is mixed with music, it can make a powerful impact on the mind of every visitor.

## Picture of the Day



Chabhar Free Trade-Industrial Zone is hosting this year's Fajr International Fashion and Clothing Festival which is to continue until 17 February.

Courtesy: Honaronline