

This Day in History

(January 24)

Today is Wednesday; 4th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 17th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and January 24, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1943 solar years ago, on this day in 76 AD, Hadrian was born into a Roman family in Spain. He succeeded his cousin Trajan as Roman Emperor in 117 and ruled for 21 years till his death in 138 AD. Regarded as one of the five good Roman Emperors, he had joined Trajan's expedition against the Parthian Empire of Iran and was serving as governor of Syria when the latter died. Neither during the first phase of the Parthian campaign nor during its 2nd phase when the Romans were driven from Mesopotamia or modern Iraq by the Iranians, Hadrian did anything of note. He deemed it wise to surrender Trajan's gains, considering them to be indefensible against Parthian pressure. There was almost a war with Parthia around 121, but the threat was averted when Hadrian succeeded in negotiating a peace with Emperor Osroes I or Khosrow.

894 solar years ago, on this day in 1125 AD King David IV, ruler of the Caucasus land of Georgia, died at the age of 52 after a reign of 36 years. He succeeded in driving out the Seljuq Turks from most of the cities including Tbilisi, after winning the Battle of Didgori in 1121. His reforms of the army and administration enabled him to reunite the country and bring most of the lands under Georgia's control.

352 solar years ago, on this day in 1667 AD, the Treaty of Breda was signed by Britain and Holland, according to which the latter handed over its colonies in the newly-discovered American Continent. The most important region that came under British control was the state of New York, which the Dutch used to call New Amsterdam. In return, Britain gave to Holland part of Guyana in South America.

280 solar years ago, on this day in 1739 AD, Iranian forces led by Nader Shah Afshar defeated the Moghal armies at Shahdaula in Punjab and proceeded towards Karnal for the final battle that saw the surrender of Emperor Mohammad Shah "Rangileh". Nader invaded the subcontinent in pursuit of the Hotaki Afghan rebels and the failure of the weak administration in Delhi to hand over these refractory elements despite his writing of several letters to the Moghal Emperor. Nader Shah restored Mohammad Shah to the throne of Delhi and returned to Iran with a huge booty that included the world famous "**Koh-e Noor**" (Mountain of Light) diamond, the "**Takht-e Tavous**" (Peacock Throne) and the Tent of Pearls.

243 solar years ago, on this day in 1776 AD, the German author, Ernst Hoffmann, was born. He had a strong sense of imagination and has left behind a number of books, including "**Strange Tales**". He died in 1822.

182 lunar years ago, on this day in 1258 AH, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Ali Shah-Abdulazimi, was born in Rayy, near modern Tehran. He went to Iraq to complete his higher religious studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf, where he mastered Islamic sciences under Ayatollah Sheikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli, Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Hassan Shirazi, and Ayatollah Sheikh Mullah Ali Khalili – whose daughter he married. He passed away at the age of 76 in Tuweiraj while returning from Karbala after pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Husain (AS). He was laid to rest in Najaf in the holy mausoleum of Imam Ali (AS). He was a prolific writer, whose several works have not yet been published. Among his printed works mention could be made of "**al-Iqaa**", and "**al-Jowharah**".

162 solar years ago, on this day in 1857 AD, the University of Calcutta was formally founded by the British colonialists as the first fully-fledged university in south Asia.

160 solar years ago, on this day in 1859 AD for the first time oil was extracted through drilling by Edwin Laurentine Drake in the US State of Pennsylvania at a depth of 230-meter. The oil rig and other drilling equipment of this well are kept in a museum in the US as symbols of emergence of the global oil industry.

89 solar years ago, on this day in 1930 AD, Iran's celebrated contemporary painter, Mahmoud Farshchian, was born in Isfahan. He studied under the tutelage of Haji Mirza-Agha Imami and Eisa Bahadori for several years. After receiving diploma from Isfahan's High School for Fine Arts, he left for Europe, where he studied works of the great western masters of painting. Consequently, he developed an innovative artistic style with universal appeal. Upon return to Iran, he worked at the National Institute of Fine Arts and in time, was appointed director of the Department of National Arts and professor at the University of Tehran's School of Fine Arts. All the while, word of his exemplary works spread far and wide. So far, he has held 57 individual exhibits and 86 group shows in Iran, Europe, the US, and Asian countries. His works adorn several museums and major collections worldwide. "The Museum of Master Mahmoud Farshchian", set up at Sa'dabad Cultural Complex in Tehran in 2001 includes such paintings as the pathetic scene of "**Sham-e Gharibaan**" – or the evening following the tragic martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS), as well as the Martyrdom of Ali Asghar, (the infant son of the Imam) and the "**Zamen-e Ahou**" that depicts the Deer Hunter, the released doe with her fawns, and Imam Reza (AS). Farshchian has designed the Zarih (the silver grill latticed enclosure of the tomb of Imam Husain (AS) in Karbala), as well as the roof, door and cellar in the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad. He is the founder of his own unique school of Iranian Painting, which adheres to classical form while making use of new techniques. His powerful and innovative paintings on vibrant canvases have an appealing fusion of the traditional and the modern.

80 solar years ago, on this day in 1939 AD, Chile in South America was rocked by its deadliest earthquake that killed approximately 28,000 to 30,000 people

61 solar years ago, on this day in 1958 AD, after warming to hundred million degrees, 2 light atoms were bashed together in the US to create a heavier atom, resulting in the 1st man-made nuclear fusion. Unethical and Godless regimes have misused science and technology for destructive and suicidal pursuits, instead of working for peace, tranquility and collective development of mankind. The US is the world's most criminally armed nuclear power whose doomsday terrorism includes the dropping of atomic bombs on the unsuspecting Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 when World War 2 had almost ended.

54 solar years ago, on this day in 1965 AD, British politician, Winston Churchill, died at the age of 91. He joined the British army in 1895 and participated in colonial wars. He was elected to the House of Commons as a Conservative Party MP, and later served as a minister in various positions, including war. He was twice elected as Prime Minister – the second time during World War 2. He authored several books, including "**The World Crisis**" in four volumes, and a series of books under the name of "**The Second World War**", in addition to the "**History of the English-Speaking Peoples**". Churchill was an unabashed imperialist and was notorious for his defence of Britain's colonialist policies of expansion and exploitation around the world.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, on reports of the return home from exile of the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), the fugitive Shah's premier, Shapour Bakhtiyar, ordered closure of all airports in Iran. The people demanded their opening, and led by Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari and Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hussaini Beheshti, staged a sit-in at Tehran University's Mosque.

17 solar years, on this day in 2002 AD, the illegal Zionist entity murdered its own former agent, Elie Hobeika of the Christian Phalangist militia of Lebanon, along with three others in Beirut through a car bomb, following the latter's agreement to testify against the then Zionist premier Ariel Sharon who as war minister in 1982 had ordered the cold-blooded massacre of over 5,000 Palestinian men, women, and children at the Sabra and Shatillah refugee camps.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, two car bombs struck holy Karbala, resulting in the martyrdom of over 30 people and injury to scores of others, as pilgrims massed for Arba'een rituals at the shrine of Imam Husain (AS). A year later on the same day, a series of car bombs triggered by Saudi-backed terrorists in Shi'a Muslim areas of the capital Baghdad, resulted in the martyrdom of over 20 people, while over 60 others were injured as day labourers were targeted.

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

Iranian Actor Awarded at India Diorama Festival



Iranian actor Mohsen Tanabandeh in "Rona, Azim's Mother".

TEHRAN (IFILM) - Iranian actor **Mohsen Tanabandeh** wins an award at the 2019 Diorama International Film Festival in India.

The Iranian star took home Best Actor award from the 19th edition of the Indian film event for his role in Iran-Afghanistan joint

production "Rona, Azim's Mother" directed by Jamshid Mahmoudi.

Besides being an actor, Tanabandeh has worked on developing screenplays for some films and TV series. Two of the series he has penned, "The Bounced Check" and "A Message

from the Afterlife", have been aired by ifilm.

The 89-minute family drama "Rona, Azim's Mother" shows an Afghan family that has lived in Iran for around 15 years as refugees. Azim as the eldest son is considered to be the family's head

and he has all the responsibilities for his folk.

The movie depicts how Azim's brother is about to illegally enter Germany leaving his mother who is recently diagnosed with diabetes behind. Once again the burden fall on Azim to take care of his ailing mother.

The film acutely presents distressing situation shared by many Afghans around the world today.

The flick enjoys a number of Afghan and Iranian cast members, including Mojtaba Pirzadeh, Fatemeh Hosseini, Fereshteh Hosseini, Fatemeh Mirzaee, Alireza Ostadi, and Saeed Changizian.

"Rona, Azim's Mother" was selected as Afghan Cinema's Oscars entry in 2019.

The Diorama International Film Festival aims to "redefine Film Festivals by introducing meaningful film sections, real entertainment, business of cinema and education," the official website for the festival writes.

The latest edition of the film festival was held on January 14-20, 2019, in the Indian capital city of New Delhi.

Spain Hosts '40 Years of Iranian Cinema'

TEHRAN (MNA) - A collection of seven prominent Iranian films are currently being screened in Barcelona to introduce the Spanish audience with summary of the past 40 years of the Iranian cinema.

The cultural attaché at the Iranian embassy in Spain in cooperation with Farabi Cinema Foundation has organized a program entitled 'A Review of 40 Years of Iranian Cinema' in the city of Barcelona to mark the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Concussions Linked to Epilepsy Development



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Experiments show a strong relationship between changes in astrocytes after mild traumatic brain injury and the eventual occurrence of a seizure.

The study by researchers at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech suggests that the development of epilepsy triggered by mild traumatic brain injury may be related to an atypical response from brain cells known as astrocytes, which change to form scars after a severe brain injury. This process is important to protect uninjured brain areas but comes at a price, because these scars have been associated with epilepsy.

The scientists found that astrocytes do not form scars after mild traumatic brain injury, but some astrocytes are altered in a different way almost immediately by these less severe types of injuries. Then, weeks later, the scientists observed spontaneous, recurrent seizures in some mice.

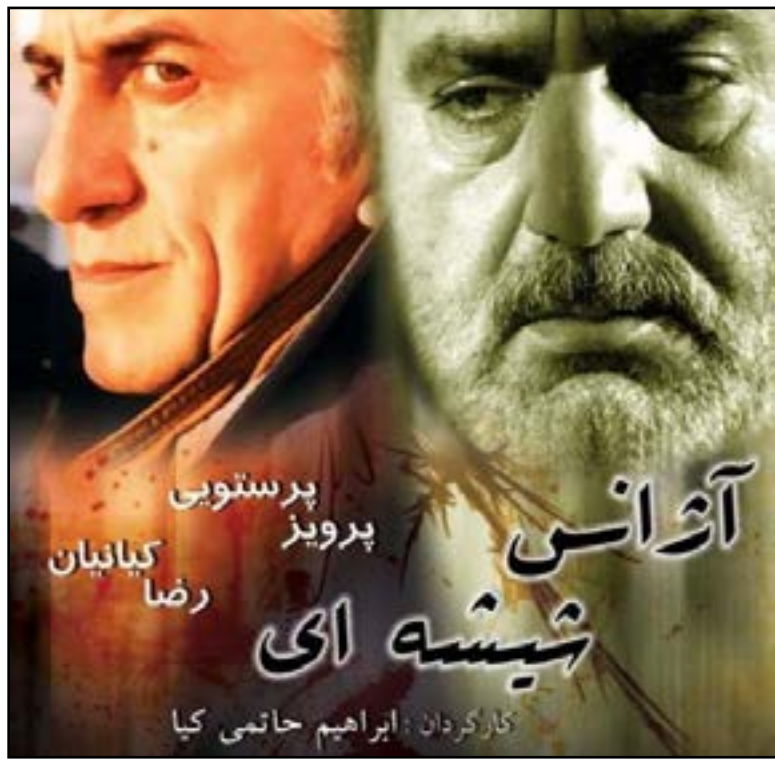
The program includes the screening of seven prominent Iranian films, the first of which was "Close-up" by late Abbas Kiarostami, which was screened in Barcelona on January 12.

"Travelers" (1992) by Bahram Beyzai was screened on January 19.

Movie lovers interested in the Iranian cinema are welcome to watch "The Blue-Veiled" (1995) directed by Rakhshan Banietemad on January 26.

The program will continue to screen four other movies every Saturday at 20 PM at Girona movie theater in Barcelona. The movies include 'Leila' (1999) by Dariush Mehrjui, 'The Glass Agency' (1998) by Ebrahim Hatamikia, "I'm Taraneh, 15"(2006) by Sarul Sadr Ameli, and "So Close, So Far" (2005) by Reza Mirkarimi.

The program will wrap up on March 23.



Picture of the Day



Written by Aram Mahzari and directed by Saeed Honaramouz, 'Who pulled the trigger?' is on stage at Tehran's Mehregan Theatre till February 6.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency