

This Day in History

(March 19)

Today is Tuesday, 28th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 12th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1440 lunar hijri; and March 19, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1784 solar years ago, on this day in 235 AD, Roman Emperor Alexander Severus, who suffered a series of disastrous defeats in the Levant and Armenia at the hands of the rising power of the Sassanid Dynasty of Iran, was assassinated, along with his mother Julia Mamaea, by legionaries near modern Mainz in Europe.

1408 lunar years ago, on this day in 32 AH, Abbas ibn Abdul-Muttaleb, the paternal uncle of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), passed away in Medina at almost 90 years of age and was laid to rest in the sacred Baqie Cemetery by his worthy son, Abdullah, the hadith narrator and exegete of the holy Qur'an, who was a disciple of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). Abbas, who had become a rich merchant in the days of ignorance, did not openly profess Islam in Mecca, but it is said that he stood beside his nephew when a group from Medina came to the Prophet for the secret allegiance of Aqaba. He was forced by the pagan Arabs to accompany them to the Battle of Badr in which he was captured by the Muslims and allowed to ransom himself and return to Mecca. Shortly before the peaceful takeover of Mecca by the Prophet, he disassociated from the Meccans and submitted to the Muslims, some twenty year after his wife, "Omm al-Fazl Lubaba bint al-Hareth had accepted Islam, claiming to be second woman to do so. Thereafter he accompanied the Prophet, like other members of the Hashemite clan in various endeavours. Abbas knew that after the passing away of the Prophet, his other nephew, Imam Ali (AS), was the divinely-decreed leader of mankind as was evident by the historic declaration at Ghadeer-Khom. Unfortunately, some of his descendants in blind pursuit of the material world, turned away from the truth, usurped political power by deceiving the Muslims, wrongly called themselves caliphs, and indulged in the persecution of the Prophet's progeny, to the extent that six of the Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt were martyred through poisoning by the Abbasids.

1234 lunar years ago, on this day in 206 AH, the narrator of hadith and historical events, Abu Hudhayfa, passed away. Among his important compilations, mention could be made of "*al-Mubtada*" on the creation of mankind and the biography of prophets. He has also narrated from Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), the account of Prophet Mohammad's Me'raj or ascension to the ethereal heavens and back in a fraction of the night.

1066 solar years ago, on this day in 953 AD, Ismail al-Mansur Billah, the third Caliph of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim dynasty of Ifriqiya, or what is known today as Tunisia, and parts of Algeria and Morocco, died at the age of 40 after a 7-year reign.

861 lunar years ago, on this day in 479AH, Spanish Muslims led by Yusuf bin Tashfin defeated Spanish Christians under command of Alphonse VI in the glorious battle of "*az-Zalaga*". This decisive battle halted for over two-and-a-half centuries the bid by the Christian powers to drive out Spanish Muslim from the Iberian Peninsula.

740 solar years ago, on this day in 1279 AD, a Mongolian victory at the Battle of Yamen ended the Song Dynasty in China, and established the Yuan Dynasty that lasted till 1368. Its greatest ruler was Kublai Khan, a grandson of the fearsome Mongol marauder Chengiz Khan.

613 solar years ago, on this day in 1406 AD, the Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, passed away in Cairo at the age of 74. Among his many works is a voluminous universal history, but his fame rests on the detailed "*Muqaddimah*" or Introduction, which is considered a unique work in itself.

370 solar years ago, on this day in 1649 AD, the prominent Hanafi jurist of Syria, Abdul-Ghani al-Nabulsi, was born in Damascus. A prolific writer who wrote several books, he was a member of both the Qaderiyya and Naqshbandi Sufi orders. Once, after visiting the shrine of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) granddaughter, Hazrat Zainab (SA) on the outskirts of Damascus, he expressed doubts on whether this was actually the holy site at which the Heroine of Karbala had been laid to rest. No sooner did he leave the place he fell from his mount and broke his leg. He realized his error and in that very condition of pain he dragged himself towards the blessed tomb in a state of repentance with the following rhymed phrases on his lips:

*"Zainab bint Haider, ma'dan al-'ilm wa'l-huda,
'Indaha Bab Hitta, fa adkhulu al-baab sujjada.*

*"(Zainab the daughter of Haider, the Mine of Knowledge and Guidance,
Her threshold is Door of Repentance, so enter it [head bowed] in prostration.)"*

At that very moment Shaikh Abdul-Ghani Nabulsi felt his broken leg miraculously cured and he stood up relieved of pain as if nothing had happened to him. Among his books is "*Shifa as-Sadr fi Fadha'il Laylat-an-Nisf min Sha'ban wa Laylat-al-Qadr*" (Curing the heart on the Virtues of the Night of 15th Sha'ban and the Night of Qadr). He passed away at the ripe age of 90 and was buried in Damascus.

231 lunar years ago, on this day in 1209 AH, Lotf Ali Khan, the last ruler of the Zand Dynasty of Iran, died under torture in prison in Tehran at the age of 25, three years after he was captured through deceit and bribing of the governor of Bam by Agha Mohammad Khan the founder of the Qajarid Dynasty. He was buried in the mausoleum of the Prophet's descendant, Imamzadah Zaid, near the Tehran Grand Bazaar.

213 lunar years ago, on this day in 1227 AH, the prominent jurisprudent, Shaikh Ja'far bin Khizr al-Hilli an-Najafi, popular as Kashef al-Gheta, an epithet by which his progeny of scholars became well-known, passed away at the age of 73. He wrote several books and groomed many scholars, including the famous jurisprudent, Shaikh Mohammad Hasan Najafi, the author of "*Jawaher al-Kalaam*".

136 solar years ago, on this day in 1883 AD, the English chemist, Norman Haworth, was born. He conducted extensive scientific research about hydrocarbons and succeeded in presentation of a new design for the molecular structure of sugar, which was named after him. He conducted major studies on Vitamin C, whose molecular structure is similar to sugar, and prepared its industrial type, naming it Ascorbic Acid. Due to these studies and discoveries, he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1937. He passed away in the year 1950.

130 lunar years ago, on this day in 1110 AH, Omani sailors who dominated Zanzibar and the eastern coast of Africa defeated the Portuguese in the sea Battle of Mombasa, off the coast of what is now Kenya.

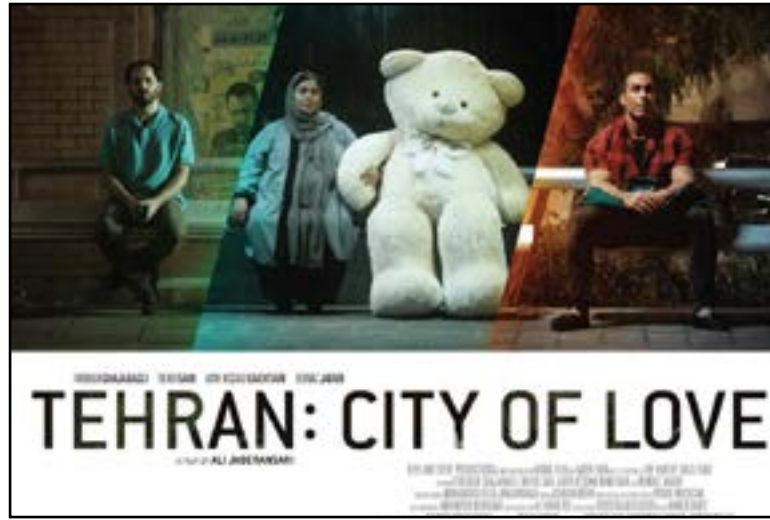
119 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, the French physicist and chemist, Frederic Joliot, was born in Paris. Following the completion of his academic studies, he worked as the assistant of the physicist and discoverer of radium, Marie Curie. He married to Marie Curie's daughter Irene, and with the assistance of his wife managed to find out the makeup of the new radioactive materials.

75 solar years ago, on this day in 1944 AD, Palestinian Christian activist, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who in a revolutionary style execution shot dead US presidential candidate, Robert F. Kennedy, in Los Angeles, was born in Bayt al-Moqaddas. A staunch opponent of the illegal Zionist entity, he had decided to shoot Kennedy for pledging to send 50 advanced bombers to the illegal entity called Israel, in order to further terrorize and kill Palestinians, on becoming president. Sirhan had moved to the US after a life in refugee camps on usurpation of his homeland by illegal Zionist migrants from Europe. He is serving a life sentence in the US, and his supporters defend his killing of Kennedy as a justified act in support of his occupied homeland.

32 solar years ago, on this day in 1987 AD, the last member of the generation of modern physics founders, Louis de Broglie, died at the age of 95.

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

Iranian Drama Wins Sofia Film Festival Award



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian drama "Tehran: City Of Love" directed by Ali Jaberansari has won the Young Jury Award at the 23rd edition of Sofia International Film Festival in Bulgaria.

The Young Jury Award in the International Competition of the 23rd edition of Sofia International Film Festival went to "Tehran: City Of Love" (Iran-UK-Netherlands) by Iranian director Ali Jaberansari.

The film, according to Screendaily, follows three disenchanted characters in the Iranian capital that yearn for love and a connection. They are a former bodybuilding

champion turned personal trainer, an overweight beauty clinic secretary and a dispirited religious singer who tries his luck at becoming a wedding singer.

Jaberansari is based in London and is a graduate of the London Film School.

Sofia International Film Festival is the biggest film festival in Bulgaria. It was founded in 1997 and attracts more than 85 000 spectators annually, according to the event's website.

The 23rd edition of the festival was held on 7-28 March 2019 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Tehran, Seoul Expand Academic Cooperation

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's Ambassador to Seoul Saeid Badamchi, in a meeting with South Korea's Minister of Education Yoo Eun Hae, discussed ways to broaden mutual academic cooperation, and agreed to step up efforts to increase relations between the two countries' universities.

Badamchi and Yoo Eun Hae, who also serves as South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister, met on Saturday and discussed ways of boosting academic cooperation, including student and professor exchange programs.

The Korean official described Iranian students studying at the country's universities as brilliant and talented, and said that her country



Iran's Ambassador to Seoul Saeid Badamchi, in a meeting with South Korea's Minister of Education Yoo Eun Hae.

will try to offer more facilities to receive more Iranian students.

She also expressed readiness to open centers in Tehran for teaching

South Korean language to interested Iranian people.

The two sides also emphasized the necessity of strengthening the scientific, academic ties between the two countries.

Currently, some 400 Iranian students have enrolled in South Korean universities with 80 percent of them studying at graduate courses.

The number of Iranian students at Korean universities has increased by 100 percent over the past three years.

Iran has sealed countless agreements with academic centers and universities across the globe, in a bid to expand academic cooperation and conduct joint research projects.

'Oblivion' Competes at India's We Care Film Festival

TEHRAN, (MNA) - Iranian short "Oblivion" directed by Fatemeh Mohammadi has been accepted into the screening program of the 16th We Care Film Festival in India.

"Oblivion" narrates the story of a woman who tries everything she can to make her husband's life worth living despite Alzheimer's.

The short film managed to snatch an award at the 2018 Moondance International Film Festival in the

U.S.

The We Care Film Festival is an effort by the Indian organization Brotherhood, in partnership with UNESCO, to raise awareness and to dispel stereotypes about disabilities through the medium of films. The festival is aimed at giving a fillip to the rights-based approach where persons with disability are considered persons first, according to the event's website.



Calcium in Arteries to Increase Risk of Heart Attack

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - New research findings show that identifying the presence or absence of coronary artery calcium (CAC) in a patient's arteries can help determine their future risk.

A new research study presented at the American College Cardiology Scientific Sessions from the Intermountain Healthcare Heart Institute in Salt Lake City shows that identifying the presence or absence of coronary artery calcium (CAC) in a patients' arteries can help determine their future risk.

"Through these results, we're seeing more clearly that the presence of coronary artery calcium can help us to predict who is more likely to have a cardiac event, not only later in life, but when symptoms are present, in the near future and hopefully, medically intervene in time to stop it," said Viet T. Le, PA-C, principal investigator and researcher at the Intermountain Healthcare Heart Institute in Salt Lake City.

For the study, researchers identified 5,547 patients without a history of coronary artery disease who came to Intermountain Medical Center with chest pain between April 2013 and June 2016.

These patients had undergone PET/CT scans to assess for ischemia, a disruption of normal blood flow through the heart arteries to the muscle tissues of the heart. This scan also looks for the presence of

CAC, which are calcium deposits on the walls of the heart's arteries, indicating

atherosclerosis, or plaque, the hallmark of heart disease. The researchers then

examined patients' medical outcomes for up to the next four years.

Picture of the Day



People of Arak, Markazi province, are doing preparations and shopping for marking Nowruz and the new Iranian calendar year 1398 (staring March 21).

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency