

This Day in History

(June 21)

Today is Thursday; 31st of the Iranian month of Khordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 7th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1439 lunar hijri; and June 21, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

2235 solar years ago, the largest and most successful ambushes in military history took place in the Battle of Lake Trasimene in northern Italy as part of the Second Punic War, when the Carthaginians led by general, Hannibal, defeated the Romans under the Consul Gaius Flaminius, who had set out with a huge army to try to avenge the earlier defeat at Trebia.

1128 lunar years ago, on this day in 311 AH, the renowned Iranian statesman, scientist, and geographer, Abu Abdullah Mohammad Ibn Ahmad Ibn Jeyhani, passed away in Bukhara, where he served as vizier to the Iranian Samanid Dynasty.

1112 solar years ago, on this day in 906 AD, Ahmad ibn Mohammad, the Saffarid emir of Sistan for forty years, was born in the family of the famous Iranian adventurer Yaqoub bin Layth. His wife was the granddaughter of Amr bin Layth, and he was proclaimed ruler by the people in 923 at the age of 17 in Zaranj – ten years after the last Saffarid ruler was ousted from power. He was succeeded by his son Khalaf Wali od-Dowla, who ruled Sistan for the next forty years until his defeat and capture by Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi the Turk, who ended the almost 140-year rule of the Saffarid dynasty.

491 solar years ago, on this day in 1527 AD, Italian historian and philosopher, Niccolo Machiavelli, died in his hometown Florence.

359 lunar years ago, on this day in 1080 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Seyyed Rafi od-Din Mohammad ibn Seyyed Haidar, popular as Mirza-e Rafi'a Na'ini, passed away in Isfahan and was laid to rest in the Takht-e Foulad Cemetery. He was the teacher of the famous scholar, Allamah Baqer Majlisi. His works include the book titled "Hamla-e Haidari". He wrote important works on beliefs and philosophy.

194 solar years ago, on this day in 1824 AD, Egyptian forces, dispatched by Mohammad Ali Pasha to quell the West European-backed Greek sedition against Ottoman rule, recaptured Psara Island in the Aegean Sea from the rebels.

113 solar years ago, on this day in 1905 AD, the French philosopher and author, Jean-Paul Sartre, was born in Paris. He was among the pioneers of the weird school of thought known as Existentialism. He refused to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964. Among his books, mention can be made of "The Flies" and "Being and Nothingness".

92 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, Iraqi Islamogist and philosopher, Muhsin Seyyed Mahdi, was born in the holy city of Karbala. He is especially known for the recovery, edition, translation and interpretation of many of the works of the renowned Iranian Islamic philosopher, Abu Nasr al-Farabi. Among his books is "Alfarabi and the Foundation of Islamic Political Philosophy". He also researched, edited, and published "The Thousand and One Nights."

65 solar years ago, on this day in 1953 AD, Benazir Bhutto, who served as Pakistan's prime minister for two terms – from 1988 until 1990 and 1993 until 1996 – was born in Karachi in a Sindhi Muslim family.

59 solar years ago, on this day in 1959 AD, Martyr Shaikh Nimr Baqer an-Nimr was born in Awwamiyya in the eastern oil-rich part of the Arabian Peninsula, that is currently under occupation of the Wahhabi Aal-e Saudi regime, which brutally martyred him on 2nd January 2016 in a move that shocked the civilized world and led to protests around the globe.

58 lunar years ago, on this day in 1381 AH, the religious leader and famous political figure of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Abu'l-Qasem Kashani, passed away. He attained the status of Ijtihad at the Najaf Seminary at a young age, simultaneous with his struggles against British colonial rule over Iraq, in the company of other ulema. He was expelled by the British, and on arriving in Iran, he launched his struggle against British colonial infiltration, which led to his imprisonment for several years. Following release, he was elected to the parliament. With Ayatollah Kashani's support for Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq and the continued struggles of the masses, Iran's oil industry was nationalized and Mosaddeq was chosen as Prime Minister. But, when the Shah appointed the British stooge, Qawwam os-Saltanah, as the Premier; Ayatollah Kashani issued a statement calling on the people to enter the scene. As a result, the July 21, 1952 uprising took place. The terrified Shah removed Qawwam and Mosaddeq was reinstated as Premier. Following the US-staged coup in 1953 and the fugitive Shah's return to Iran, his agents put Ayatollah Kashani under surveillance until his death on this day, after his lifelong struggles against domestic despotism and foreign hegemony.

48 solar years ago, on this day in 1970 AD, the Leader of Indonesia's independence from Dutch colonial rule, Ahmed Sukarno, died at the age of 69. He was elected as president of Indonesia in 1949, and was in power for 15 years when General Suharto staged a coup and seized power. In 1967, he was forced to resign.

46 lunar years ago, on this day in 1393 AH, the exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Ayatollah Mirza Abu'l-Hussain Sha'rani, passed away at the age of 73. As an authority on Islamic sciences, he was fluent in French, Arabic, and English languages. His works include a 10-volume exegesis of the Holy Qur'an.

40 lunar years ago, on this day in 1399 AH, the prominent Iranian religious scholar and exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmoud Taleqani, passed away due to a heart attack at the age of 70. He was involved in the political developments from an early age, and in 1963 was jailed by the Pahlavi regime for participating in the Khordad 15 Uprising (June 5, 1963), following the arrest of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). In the subsequent years till the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he was incarcerated or banished to the country's remote places. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he was named by the Late Imam as Head of the Revolutionary Council as well as the Friday Prayer Leader of Tehran. In the first round of elections for the Assembly of Experts, he was elected as the Tehran representative for an 8-year term. He was a prolific writer and among his works is an exegesis of several surahs of the Holy Qur'an as well as a book titled "System of Ownership in Islam".

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1981 AD, Islamic thinker, scientist, and Iranian defence minister, Dr. Mostafa Chamran, was martyred by the invading Ba'ist forces at the age of 49 while directing operations at the warfronts in Khuzestan, southwest Iran. He studied electronic engineering and obtained a PhD in this field from the US, where he was active in the struggle against the British-installed and US-backed Pahlavi regime. He left his prestigious job as a senior research staff scientist at Bell Laboratories and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, to live in self-exile in Lebanon, where, while cooperating with the famous Iranian émigré religious leader, Imam Musa Sadr, he helped the deprived Lebanese people set up the Amal (Hope) Movement to confront the state terrorism of the illegal Zionist entity. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, he returned to Iran and was in charge of organizing the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). Elected to the parliament in March 1980 he subsequently became defence minister. When Saddam at the behest of the US imposed the 8-year war on Iran, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), appointed him representative to the Supreme Defense Council. As an experienced general he was actively involved in defence operations at the warfronts and achieved martyrdom.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, a massive earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale jolted Gilan and Zanjan Provinces in northwestern Iran, at night, inflicting huge fatalities and major losses. The epicenter was in Roudbar. It claimed more than 50,000 lives, while wounding 60,000 others and leaving 500,000 people homeless. In the wake of this catastrophic earthquake, the Iranian people and government rushed to help the quake victims and compensated for the damages imposed by this quake.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2004 AD, Iranian engineer, architect and archeologist, Mohammad Mehryar, passed away at the age of 65, while engaged in projects to restore the historic Bam Citadel following the devastating earthquake. For over 30 years he was active in research, field work, and projects to determine pre-Islamic and Islamic architectural masterpieces at Iran's historical sites.

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

‘Are You Volleyball?!’ Wins Best Editor at Bucharest Cinefest



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short “Are You Volleyball?!”, directed by Mohammad Bakhshi, has recived Best Editor award for Esmail Alizadeh at the 3rd Bucharest ShortCut Cinefest in Romania.

The Best Editor award of the April edition of 3rd Bucharest ShortCut Cinefest went to Esmail Alizadeh for his editing of the Iranian short film “Are You Volleyball?!”, directed by Mohammad Bakhshi.

“Are You Volleyball?!” narrates the story of a group of Arabian speaking asylum seekers who arrive to an English-speaking

country border and can't keep going. They come into conflict with border soldiers every day until a deaf-mute child becomes a catalyst for better communication between two groups.

Bucharest ShortCut Cinefes is a monthly film competition focusing on international independent cinema. The event aims to “support new filmmakers and to promote the research and development of new means of expressivity through cinematography as art among diverse audiences.”

‘Mermaid’ Wins Award at Chinese SCO Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) - Iranian feature “Mermaid” has won an award at the 1st edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival in China.

Directed by Amir-Masoud Aqababaeian and produced by Mohammad-Reza Arab, the film received a special jury award at the Chinese event.

“Mermaid” depicts a survivor of a diving team from Iraq-Iran war who lives beside the Persian Gulf and tries to prove that the oil companies are responsible for the water pollution in the gulf.

The film has so far attended a number of film festivals around the globe, including the 9th



A still from Iranian feature “Mermaid”.

CMS Vatavaran International Environment and Wildlife Film Festival and Forum in India and won awards such as the

Best Feature Film award at the Mediterranean Film Festival Cannes 2017 in France. Amir Aqae, Shahrokh

Foroutanian, Sirous Kahourinezhad, Asghar Hemmat and Pantea Mehdinia are among the cast.

The other special jury awards of the SCO festival went to ‘Yo’L Bo’Lsin’ from Uzbekistan, ‘Air Safar’ from Tajikistan, ‘Punjab Nahi Jaungi’ from Pakistan and ‘Tum-Pabi-Dum’ from Belarus.

The best film award was jointly presented to ‘Mina Walking’ from Afghanistan and ‘Enter the Forbidden City’ from China.

Iranian director and writer Masud Jafari-Jozani was among the jury panel of the festival.

The first edition of the SCO has been held in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, on June 13-17, 2018.

Marriage May Protect Against Heart Disease, Stroke

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- Marriage may protect against the development of heart disease/stroke as well as influencing that is more likely to die of it, suggests a new analysis.

Most (80%) cardiovascular disease can be attributed to well known risk factors: age; sex; high blood pressure; high cholesterol; smoking; and diabetes. But it's not clear what influences the remaining 20 per cent.

The researchers drew on 34 out of a total of 225, all of which had been published between 1963 and 2015, and involved more than 2 million people aged between 42 and 77 from Europe, Scandinavia, North America, the Middle East, and Asia.

Pooled analysis of the data published online in the journal Heart, revealed that, compared with people who were married, those who weren't (never married, divorced, widowed) were at heightened risk of developing cardiovascular disease (42%) and coronary artery heart disease (16%).

Not being married was also associated with a heightened risk of dying from both coronary heart disease (42%) and stroke (55%).

When the data were broken down further, the analysis showed that divorce was associated with a 35 per cent higher risk of developing heart disease for both men and women, while widowers of both sexes were 16 per cent more likely to have a stroke.

While there was no difference in the risk of death following a

stroke between the married and the unmarried, this was not the case after a heart attack, the risk of which was significantly higher (42%) among those who had never married.

The authors caution that the methods used and adjustments made for potentially influential factors varied considerably across all the studies, which may have affected the results of their analysis.



Picture of the Day



Tehran Horse and Pet Show is underway in Tehran's Shahr Aftab International Exhibition. The event started on June 18 and will end on June 21.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency