

## This Day in History

(June 24)

Today is Sunday; 3rd of the Iranian month of Tir 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 10th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1439 lunar hijri; and June 24, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1111 lunar years ago**, on this day in 328 AH, famous calligrapher, Abu Ali Mohammad Ibn Ali Ibn Muqlah Shirazi, was tortuously executed by the usurper Abbasid regime in his hometown Baghdad at the age of 59 years. He is regarded as inventor of the “thuluth” script, the first cursive style of Arabic, though none of his original work remains. Ibn Muqlah was also a government official. Along with Ibn al-Bawwab and Yaqut al-Musta’simi, he is considered the founder of the modern style. Among his valuable books, mention can be made of “Risalah fi Ilm al-Khat wa’l-Qalam”.

**790 lunar years ago**, on the eve of this day in 648 AH, celebrated scholar, Hassan Ibn Yusuf Ibn Ali Ibn Mohammad Ibn Mutahhar, was born in Hillah, Iraq. Renowned as “Allamah Hilli”, he was a child prodigy, and after initial education under his qualified father, and acquiring of fiqh from his famous maternal uncle “Muhaqqiq Hilli”, he proceeded to study from other masters of his era, including the celebrated scholars of Iraq Seyyed Ali bin Tawous and Seyyed Ahmad bin Tawous, as well as Maytham al-Bahrani of Bahrain and the Iranian Islamic genius, Khwaja Naseer od-Din Tusi, who taught him philosophy and logic. Later, he held debates with scholars of the four Sunni schools of jurisprudence – Hanbali, Hanafi, Maleki, and Shafei. During one such debate in the Ilkhanid court, his rationality convinced the Buddhist-born and Christian-baptized Mongol Emperor of Iran-Iraq, Oljeitu Khodabanda, to become a Muslim and a staunch follower of the Ahl al-Bayt. Allamah Hilli’s works include at least a hundred books and treatises on various subjects such as jurisprudence, theology, logic, philosophy, hadith, exegesis of the holy Qur’an and Rijal or evaluation of hadith narrators. Each book of this great mujtahid is enough to portray his precocity and genius. Among the noteworthy works are “Ma’arej al-Fahm”, “Qawa’ed al-Ahkaam”, “Tadkhirat ul-Fuqaha” and “Tabsirat ul-Mutallimeen”, the last being studied by seminary students till this day. He also wrote on proofs from the holy Qur’an, the hadith, and the intellect, on the right to caliphate of Imam Ali (AS) after the passing away of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). This famous book is titled “Nahj al-Haq wa Kashf as-Sidq”. Allamah Hilli was succeeded by his worthy son, Mohammad, acclaimed as Fakhr al-Muhaqqiqeen (Pride of Researchers).

**788 solar years ago**, on this day in 1230 AD, the siege of the Muslim province of Jayyan in southern Spain was started by Christian mercenaries from various parts of Europe. Four months later the Spanish Muslim defenders forced the Christians to retreat. Earlier the traitor, Abdullah al-Bayasi had joined the Christian aggressors against fellow Muslims, but failed to break the resolve of the defenders.

**704 solar years ago**, on this day in 1314 AD, the Battle of Bannockburn during the First War of Scottish Independence against English hegemony, concluded with a decisive victory for Scottish forces led by Robert the Bruce. In 1328, after 14 years of struggle, England was forced to recognize Scottish independence by signing the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton.

**620 solar years ago**, on this day in 1398 AD, Founder of China’s Ming Dynasty, the Hongwu Emperor, died at the age of 70 after a reign of 30 years. Born in a peasant family and named Zhu Yuanzhang, he liberated China from the Mongol Yuan Dynasty, and transformed it into a major power. Although born a Buddhist, he embraced the Confucian doctrine, and showed inclination towards Islam. He ordered the construction of several mosques in Nanjing, Yunnan, Guangdong, Xijing and Fujian, and had inscriptions praising Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) placed in them. He rebuilt the Jinjue Mosque in his capital Nanjing, and large numbers of the Muslim Hui people moved to the city during his rule. He had some ten Muslim generals in his military, including Chang Yuchun, Lan Yu, Ding Dexing, Mu Ying, Feng Sheng and Hu Dahai. He personally wrote a 100-word praise (baizizan) on Islam, Allah and the Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Around 1384, the Hongwu Emperor ordered the Chinese translation and compilation of Islamic astronomical tables, a task that was carried out by the scholars Mashayihai, a Muslim astronomer, and Wu Bozong, a Chinese scholar-official. These tables came to be known as the Huihui Lifa (Muslim System of Calendrical Astronomy), which was published in China a number of times until the early 18th century.

**257 solar years ago**, on this day in 1762 AD, the British deceitfully seized Patna in Bihar, but the next day Mir Qassim Ali Khan the Nawab-Nazem of Bengal defeated them to retake the city. The British soon conspired to replace Qassim Ali Khan with his father-in-law, Mir Ja’far Ali Khan, whom they had installed as Nawab-Nazem a few years earlier after he had betrayed Siraj od-Dowla, the last independent ruler of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, at the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

**206 solar years ago**, on this day in 1812 AD French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte with a huge 350,000 army crossed the Neman River to begin the invasion of Russia, in violation of the non-aggression pact signed by the two sides five years earlier. Napoleon advanced till Moscow, but the freezing cold of Russia, coupled with delay in the arrival of food and ammunitions for French soldiers grounded his army and finally forced him to retreat, during which Russian forces raided and killed many French soldiers. The defeat of Napoleon in Russia marked the beginning of the collapse of Napoleon’s empire.

**206 solar years ago**, on this day in 1812 AD, Caracas, which is now the capital of Venezuela, was taken by South American freedom-fighter Simon Bolivar after crushing the Spanish colonialists. Bolivar as president set up the Greater Columbia Federation, which included Venezuela, Columbia, Panama, Bolivia and Ecuador. After him the federation collapsed.

**180 solar years ago**, on this day in 1838 AD, the indecisiveness of Mohammad Shah Qajar, coupled with treason among his ministers, who were bribed by the British, resulted in the failure of the Iranian army to liberate Herat, the capital of Khorasan, from Afghan occupation. The siege of the city began in November 1837 and Herat could well have been liberated in view of the superiority of the Iranian army, which became the victim of British-Russian intrigues as part of the Great Game of the two superpowers in Central Asia. While the British viewed a resurgent Iran as threat to their vested interests in the Subcontinent and banned the teaching of Persian language in India in late 1837, Yar Mohammad the Pashto chieftain in occupation of Herat, unleashed a reign of terror on the local population, ruthlessly confiscating supplies and money and brutally crushing even the slightest hint of a pro-Persian movement among the citizens. He savagely decapitated Iranian prisoners of war and sympathizers and gruesomely displayed their heads on the ramparts. The Afghan occupiers were assisted by the prominent Anglo-Indian mercenary, Eldred Pottinger, whose military skills, coupled with British threats to attack Iran, thwarted Mohammad Shah’s attempts to enter Herat after the Iranian army had breached its walls. Iran made one last attempt to liberate Herat from Afghan occupation in 1856-57, but was again defeated because of British meddling.

**159 solar years ago**, on this day in 1859 AD, the Battle of Solferino broke out between Austria and the allied French and Sardinian armies, resulting in the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, thereby setting the stage for unity of Italy, in the face of Austrian opposition.

**110 solar years ago**, on this day in 1908 AD, a day after the artillery shelling of the Majlis or Parliamentary building by Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar, martial law was declared in Tehran and two leading reformists were hanged, thereby ending the first phase of the Constitutional Movement after a two-year period of people’s success against despotism. The martyred figures were Mirza Jahangir Khan Shirazi – the editor of the newspaper Sour-e Israfeel – and the famous preacher and orator Mirza Nasrollah Malik al-Motakallemin. Despotism, however, did not last long, and inspired by the religious scholars the Iranian Muslim people rose against the regime and its British and Russian colonial masters, to force Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar to abdicate the throne and flee Iran.

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, Saddam of the repressive Ba’th minority regime of Iraq, with US support, ordered chemical bombardment of Iranian forces in Majnoon Islands during the 8-year imposed war. In these barbaric air raids, hundreds of Iranian combatants were martyred or wounded. The world turned a blind eye to the use of internationally banned chemical weapons against Iran by Saddam, who parallel with the victories of Iranian combatants intensified usage of chemical weapons. The Ba’thist army used chemical weapons against Iran at least on 200 different occasions during the 8-year war, wounding and martyring nearly 30,000 Iranian soldiers and civilians.

**14 solar years ago**, on this day in 2004 AD, Iranian master painter, Abbas Jalali Sowsanabadi, passed away at the age of 70. In his youth, he studied under the modern day master miniaturist, Hussain Behzad, and later under Abu Taleb Moqimi, and Altafi, before emerging as innovator of a unique style of painting himself. He believed that art and painting are not separate from poetry and literature.

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

# Tehran’s Azadi Tower Holds Traditional Doll Exhibition



Photo by IRNA

TEHRAN (IFP)-A doll exhibition is being held in the iconic Azadi Tower, showcasing a large collection of traditional and old dolls gathered from across Iran for the first time.

The dolls, some of which are said to be almost 150 years old, have been collected from local museums and institutions in Iran.

Nematollah Payan, the head of Azadi Tower told IRIB News that the exhibition hosts over 150 dolls.

Some of the dolls put on display are registered on the list of National Intangible Cultural Heritage list, including “Dotuk” from Southern Khorasan Province, “Dahtuduk” from Qeshm Island, “Leili Bazbazak” from Khuzestan Province, Taktom” from Ardabil, “Ghurchugh” from Turkmen Sahra, and “Bibi Lak” from Iranian Zoroastrians.

The exhibition, titled “Dolls through the Ages”, was opened on March 24 and will run until late September.

## Vista Gallery Showing Art, Science of Environment

TEHRAN. (HONARONLINE)

- Vista Gallery is playing host to a group art exposition titled Habitat that pays attention to the subject matter of environment from a

scientific and research point of view.

Curator Setareh Hosseini says the exhibition seeks to highlight the natural environment which is home to human species and others: The only difference is that the exhibition is using research and science to delve into this important matter as a valuable resource for future study of science-society-nature relations.

According to Hosseini, introducing the group of works devoted to the theme of art and environment, this exhibition reflects on changing perceptions of the term environment in relation to artistic practices.

The works on display aim to explore new research frontiers between visual art and the material environment. The works arise from personal experiences and views of artists. They present case studies of artworks addressing specific sites, spaces, places and landscapes in a variety of media, including photography, painting, sculpture and installation.

The event further considers



relations between artistic approaches to the environment and other forms of knowledge and practice. The works address cultural questions of weather and climate, dwelling and movement, and reflect on the way the environment is experienced and imagined, and on the place of art in the material world.

In conclusion, Hosseini said many artists around the world are paying attention to the subject matter of environment and its protection. They reflect through art on issues such as water shortage,

global warming, animal extinction and air pollution. The ongoing exhibiting is designed to do just that.

Artworks on display are by Parisa Aslankhani, Mahnaz Pesykhani, Ebrahim Hassanzadeh Dizaj, Leila Refahi, Maryam Zargar, Reyhaneh Savari, Maryam Tolouei, Saba Arabshahi, Mohammad Ali Adili, Mina Abdous, Esmat Alirezai, Parvaneh Ghesmati Motlagh, Leila Goudarzi and Ali Nourpour.

Vista Gallery is located at No. 1, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St. Motahari Avenue, Tehran.

## Moghaddam Awarded Asia Best Actress



Negar Moghaddam named best actress of 2018 Asian New Talent Award for her role in “Dressage”.

TEHRAN (IFILM)-Iran’s Negar Moghaddam has been named best actress of 2018 Asian New Talent Award for her role in “Dressage”.

The actress gained the title Friday for the 2018 Asian New Talent Award at the ongoing 21st Shanghai International Film Festival.

The flick follows Golsa, an alienated teenage daughter of middle-class family who indulges her with opportunities the parents didn’t ever have, failing to notice moral needs of their daughter.

Golsa mingles with a group of wealthier kids. On a reckless adventure, they try to rob a small grocery shop. They leave trace of what they did in footage captured by the security camera of the shop.

The film has managed to receive special mention from the Generation section of the 68th edition of Berlin International Film Festival.

Shanghai International Film Festival 2018 currently underway in China runs till June 25.

## Picture of the Day



Baam-e Tehran in the north of the Iranian capital recently hosted the largest gathering of Iranian Yoga practitioners to mark the International Yoga Day.

Courtesy: ISNA