

This Day in History

(July 19)

Today is Thursday; 28th of the Iranian month of Tir 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 5th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1439 lunar hijri, and July 19, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Some 4,500 lunar years ago, on this day, by the command of God Almighty, Prophet Abraham, along with his firstborn son, Ishmael, started rebuilding the holy Ka'ba in Mecca, a millennium and one-hundred-and-eighty seven (1187) years after it was destroyed by the great deluge of the days of Prophet Noah. Built by Adam at the dawn of creation as the Symbolic House of the Unseen but Omnipresent God, the cube-shaped edifice had been reduced to red-hued hillock by the roaring waters. The Hajar al-Aswad (Sacred Black Stone) was recovered from nearby Mount Abu Qubais, and installed in one of the corners of the Ka'ba by father and son. Ayah 127 of Surah Baqarah of the holy Qur'an says: "As Abraham raised the foundations of the House with Ishmael, [they prayed]: 'Our Lord, accept it from us! Indeed You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.'"

1307 solar years ago, on this day in 711 AD, the Muslim forces, led by Tareq Ibn Ziyad won a decisive victory in the Battle of Guadalete by completely routing the Visigoth Christian army of King Roderick and thereby rapidly conquering much of southern Spain.

1208 solar years ago, on this day in 810 AD, the famous Iranian Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Mohammad bin Ismail bin Ibrahim bin Bardizbah bin Bazzabeh Bukhari, was born in the Iranian city of Bukhara in what is now Uzbekistan, in a family which before conversion to Islam was either Zoroastrian or Jewish. He started collecting hadith from anyone who could relate. In his late teens, along with his brother and mother, he travelled to Mecca for pilgrimage. After visiting the centres of learning, exchanging information on hadith from over 1,000 persons, and recording more than 600,000 narrations, he returned to his hometown after a 16-year absence. Here he compiled his "al-Jame' as-Sahih", which is revered as "Sahih Bukhari" by Sunni Muslims, and contains 7,275 hadith selected as per his inclination. Although he has acknowledged some of the unparalleled merits of the Ahl al-Bayt, he did not visit the rightful heirs of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) or met their disciples for precise information on authentic hadith. It is claimed that it was fear of the wrath of the Abbasid regime that made him omit any hadith related from such an outstanding authority as the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), but he felt no inhibitions to include in his so-called "Sahih" narrations from dubious persons - even avowed enemies of the Prophet's Household. In 250 AH he settled in Naishapur in Khorasan, following his expulsion from Bukhara for issuing a weird fatwa against the letter and spirit of the shari'ah that persons drinking the milk of the same cow, goat or donkey, are foster siblings and hence ineligible for marriage with each other. He died at the age of 62 while on a visit to Khartank, a village near Samarqand.

1020 solar years ago, on this day in 998 AD, the Byzantine army was defeated in the Battle of Apamea in northwestern Syria by the Fatemid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim caliphate of Egypt-Syria, and the leading Greek general, Damian Dalassenos was killed.

775 lunar years ago, on this day in 664 AH, the theologian, hadith scholar, historian, and literary figure, Ali Ibn Musa Razi od-Din, popularly known as "Seyyed Ibn Tawous" passed away at the age of 75. The House of Aal-e Tawous was originally from Medina tracing its descent from Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He belonged to a most famous religious and scholarly family in the Iraqi city of Hillah. Among his important compilations is titled "al-Luhouf", on the heartrending events of the tragedy of Karbala, and is considered one of the authentic accounts of the martyrdom of the Prophet's younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS). His other important book is: "al-Malahem wa'l-Fitan", on the events to occur in the end times, prior to and concurrent with the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (AS), the 12th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He is also the author of the famous Prayer Manual "Iqbal al-A'maal".

550 lunar years ago, on this day in 889 AH, Mahmud Shah I (Begara), the most prominent Sultan of Gujarat, captured the Rajput stronghold of Champaner, completely rebuilt it, and renamed it Mohammadbabad. He transferred his capital to this city from Ahmadabad - built by his great-grandfather and founder of the Muzaffarid Dynasty, Ahmad Shah I. It was during his time that the famous naval Battle of Diu was fought off the coast of India, resulting in a shattering defeat for the European invaders by the joint fleets of Gujarat, Egypt and the Ottomans. Persian literature flourished at his court.

685 solar years ago, on this day in 1333 AD, the Battle of Halidon Hill was fought during the Second War of Scottish Independence. Scottish forces under Archibald Douglas were heavily defeated by the English forces of King Edward III on unfavourable terrain.

201 solar years ago, on this day in 1817 AD, Georg Anton Schäffer, a German in the service of the Russian-American Company, failed in his attempt to conquer the Kingdom of Hawaii in the Pacific, was forced to admit defeat and leave Kauai, thanks to the resistance of the lightly natives. The monarchy of the Hawaii islands was overthrown by resident American and European capitalists and landholders in 1893 and declared republic. On August 12, 1898, the expansionist US annexed it.

154 solar years ago, on this day in 1864 AD, in the Third Battle of Nanking, the Qing Dynasty of China finally defeated the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom set up in 1851 in southeastern China by the self-proclaimed Christian rebel, Hong Xiuquan, who claimed to be the 'second son' of god and younger brother of Prophet Jesus (PuH). The Chinese government was supported by the British and French forces, who extracted concessions from the Qing Dynasty for their aid.

125 solar years ago, on this day in 1893 AD, the Russian poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky, was born. His poems served the communist revolution of the Soviet Union in the year 1917 as he believed that literature should be based on the language of masses of people and should focus on their hardships. This type of poetry became popularly known as journalistic poems. He died in 1930.

124 solar years ago, on this day in 1894 AD, Sir Khwaja Nazem od-Din, one of the notable Bengali Founding Fathers of Pakistan was born in Dhaka in what is now Bangladesh, into the family of the Nawabs of Dhaka of Kashmiri origin. On the birth of Pakistan, he became a career statesman from what was then East Pakistan. Following the death of Governor-General Mohammad Ali Jinnah, he served as the second Governor-General of Pakistan from 1948 until the assassination of Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan in 1951.

81 solar years ago, on this day in 1937 AD, George Safford Parker, the American inventor of the fountain pen "Parker", died at the age of 73.

64 solar years ago, on this day in 1954 AD, renowned Islamic scholar and literary figure of Iraq, Ayatollah Mohammad Hussain Kashef al-Gheta, passed away. Among his books, mention can be made of a diwan of poems and the book "as-Siyasat al-Husainiyyah" on the philosophy behind the epoch-making uprising of the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, the revolution of the people of Nicaragua triumphed against the US-backed repressive regime of Anastasio Somoza Garcia, who fled the country on the collapse of his 12-year dictatorial rule that had led to the killing of 40,000 people and the homelessness of 200,000 others. The US, instead of respecting the will of the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinistas - as the revolutionaries were known - funded anti-revolutionary elements to cause subversion and terrorize the masses, but eventually failed. Nicaragua covers an area of 130700 square km, and its capital is Managua. It is situated in Central American and has coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, sharing borders with Honduras and Costa Rica.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, two supertankers collided off Tobago and spilled 260,000 tons of oil. It was the worst oil spill to date with 88 million gallons spewed.

32 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, the Iranian researcher, Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Modarris Razavi, passed away at the age of 91. He studied religious sciences, literature and modern humanities. On establishment of Tehran University, he became head of the college of rational and traditional sciences, as well as the college of literature and humanities. He researched and edited several classical Persian works such as "Tarikh-e Bukhara" and "Mojmal at-Tawarikh".

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, Iran shot down an unmanned US spy plane that was trying to gather information on the underground Fordo uranium enrichment site.

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



'Gozare Omr' by Ehsan Jazini.

Iranian Photographers Awarded at Varna Photo Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Two Iranian photographers were awarded at the 4th International Salon of Print and Digital Art Photography Varna 2018.

Kambiz Ramezanzadeh won Salon Bronze for his photo titled 'Life Like'.

Also 'Gozare Omr' [which can be translated as 'pace of life'] shot by Ehsan Jazini received IUP honorary Selected works of this festival will be exhibited on June 28 at Varna City Art Gallery.

The festival was held in six different categories under the supervision of The

International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP).

Works of other Iranian photographers including Ehsan Mortazavi, Navid Sajjadi, Alireza Rajaie, Davoud Fazaeli, Mohammad Javad Sadri, Abdolhamid Marufi, Mohammad Mojarad, Mehdi Zabol Abbasi and Erfan Aghababaie, were accepted to vie at the event but couldn't receive any other award.

Photographers could send their works up to May 16 and judging was carried out between May 29 to 31. Final notification were issued June 14.

Australia's Persian Festival to Screen Iranian Films

TEHRAN (IFILM)-The 7th edition of the Persian International Film Festival has scheduled to screen a lineup of Iranian films in Sydney and Melbourne.

This edition of the annual event will be held at Sydney's Palace Norton Street and Melbourne's Palace Kino.

Founded in 2011, it is a one of a

kind festival that showcases films by Persian-speaking filmmakers of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and through screenings, master classes and cultural events it celebrates this rich cinematic culture in and with Australian communities.

According to its official website, the festival also aims to be a leader in

shifting views and misconceptions in Australia by creating spaces for new Persian-Australians voices and by being a forum for dialogue between and amongst the diverse communities.

The event will present its Golden Gazelle in three main categories of Best Feature Film, Best Short Film and Best Documentary.

The previous edition of the Australian festival screened a number of Iranian films, including 'Parting' by Navid Mahmoudi, 'Under the Smokey Roof' by Pouran Derkshandeh, and 'Breath' by Narges Abyar.

The 7th edition of the Persian International Film Festival is slated for August 30-September 9, 2018.

Ford Company Buys Ahmad Vakili's Painting



TEHRAN. (HONARONLINE) - One of the chief executives of the American car making company Ford has bought a new painting by Iranian contemporary artist Ahmad Vakili.

Ford Motor Company is an American multinational automaker headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. It was founded by Henry Ford and incorporated in 1903.

Speaking to Honaronline, Homa Taraji, the owner of Tara Gallery in Los Angeles, said most of the gallery's paintings are available for view on our website. They can be bought online from anywhere in the world.

She added that Diana Ehrstin, one of the Ford CEOs, bought Vakili's painting to hang from the wall of her office.

Also speaking to Honaronline, Vakili said he did this particular painting during a trip to Iran: During this particular period, most of my works were casual. I don't like to draw nature within the confines of my office. I always work outdoors and in the wild. This painting is about a wheat field in Lorestan province. It was created in 2013.

On working with Tara Gallery he said: It's easy to work with Taraji because she is a kind and hardworking lady. It's so hard to have this kind of collaboration with other galleries these days, particularly when it comes to the financial side of the job. I'm fortunate to have found the Tara Gallery in LA.

Iranian Medicine Foundation Begins Work

TEHRAN (IFP)-The Iranian Medicine Foundation has started its work with the aim of developing and upgrading people's lifestyle and promoting self-care across the country.

Head of the foundation Mohammad-Reza Shams Ardekani said the foundation has entered service with reliance on the enormous potential of Iranian medicine, which has been practiced for years.

"All across the world, the Iranian medicine has been practiced as a school in the domain of health" he told reporters at a press conference held to mark the beginning of the foundation's work.

He further weighed in on the activities of the foundation, saying, "This NGO is supposed to be recognized as a health umbrella



for universities and people, and a bridge among different countries on the international stage."

Shams Ardekani said the foundation's most important objective will be to maintain and upgrade the level of people's health.

"The foundation intends to

bring together all individuals authorized to conduct activities in this domain, and create more potential in the areas needed by people," he said.

The top manager said the Iranian medicine is synonymous with traditional medicine, and the two have the same meaning.

Picture of the Day



Live Dolls is the title of a new painting exhibition by Manouchehr Soltani. The event in Vista Art Gallery wraps up on 23 July.

Courtesy: Honaronline