

This Day in History

(September 18)

Today is Tuesday; 27th of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Muharram 1440 lunar hijri; and September 18, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1965 solar years ago, on this day in 53 AD, Roman Emperor Trajan was born in an Italian family in Spain in what was then the city of Italica (now on the outskirts of Seville). In 98, he was declared emperor on the death of his patron, Emperor Nerva. He died in 117 at the age of 64 in Selinus in Cilicia in what is now the southeastern coastal region of Turkey, after a reign of 19 years, while fleeing from the counterattacks of Iran's Parthian Empire, following his invasion of Mesopotamia (Iraq) and retreat.

1379 lunar years ago, on this day in 61 AH, following the Omayyad forces' cutting off all access to the River Euphrates the day before in Karbala and exhaustion of water stored in the encampment of Imam Husain (AS) through the valiant efforts of his brother Hazrat Abbas (AS) in procuring this precious elixir of life overnight by virtue of a daring raid on the Euphrates, thirst became acute, especially among the children and womenfolk. The Prophet's grandson ordered the digging of a well some 19 steps from the encampment, and out gushed sweet water from the ground which enabled all to quench their thirst and store some water before the well ran dry. On hearing this news in Kufa, Obaidullah ibn Ziyad, the tyrannical governor of Iraq who was an avowed enemy of the household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) wrote to the commander of his forces, Omar ibn Sa'd, to make sure that Imam Husain (AS) should not have access to any source of water and should be reduced to acute thirst, until he acknowledges the illegal rule of the libertine Yazid over the Muslim ummah.

1111 lunar years ago, on this day in 329 AH, the prominent Iranian physicist, mathematician, and astronomer, Abu Sahl Wayjan ibn Rustam al-Kouhi was born in Mazandaran. He spent most of his life in Baghdad and was leader of the astronomers working at the observatory built by Buwayhid ruler, Sharaf od-Dowla Daylami. For thirty years he studied the stars and their positions. He devoted his attention to Archimedean and Apollonian problems leading to improved equations.

490 solar years ago, on this day in 1528 AD, the Iranian historian, Ghiyas od-Din Mohammad Khwandamir, arrived from his hometown Herat in Khorasan at the court of India's First Mughal Emperor, Zaheer od-Din Mohammad Babar, in Agra. He was the maternal grandson of the famous Iranian historian of the Timurid era, Mir-Khwand, and completed volumes 7th and 8th of his grandfather's monumental universal history "Rawzat as-Safa" (Garden of Purity). Years earlier in his native Herat, Khwandamir had authored his own valuable historical work "Habeb os-Siyar" in several volumes on the instructions of the famous Timurid minister and scholar Ali-Shir Navaei. He died in India and during the reign of the 2nd Mughal Emperor, Humayun Shah, wrote another valuable Persian work titled "Qanoun-e Humayuni" on rules and observances.

464 solar years ago, on this day in 1554 AD, Haydar Ali Mirza, who declared himself the 3rd Shah of the Safavid Empire of Iran, was born. In 1576, immediately after the death of his father Shah Tahmasp I, who ruled for a record 54 years, he ascended the throne in Qazvin, but was soon killed because of dissension among the powerful Qizilbash clans. Although he had the support of the Ustalju and Shaykhavand clans, as well as the Georgians (his mother was a Georgian lady), the Rumlu, Afshar, and the Qajar clans favored his imprisoned brother Ismail Mirza, who twenty years earlier had been incarcerated in the Qahqaheh fortress for plotting to seize the throne from his father. Ismail was brought out and declared the Shah. It was a fatal mistake for which his supporters paid dearly, since Ismail II, known in Iranian history as "murtad" or the apostate, indulged in fratricide and killing of the Qizilbash chiefs, until he was killed himself after only 15-months as ruler and replaced by his ailing brother Khodabandah - the father of Shah Abbas the Great. Haydar's tutor was the great scholar, Mir Mohammad Momin Astarabadi who sensing the gravity of the situation left Iran for the holy cities of Iraq and thence to the Deccan in southern India, where he became Prime Minister of the Qotb-Shahi Dynasty of Iranian origin of Golkandah and helped found the city of Haiderabad.

308 solar years ago, on this day in 1709 AD, the creator of the first dictionary of the English language, Samuel Johnson, was born in England. He made lasting contributions to English literature as a poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer. After nine years of efforts, his work titled "A Dictionary of the English Language" was published in 1755. It had a far-reaching effect on modern English, and until the completion of the "Oxford English Dictionary" 150 years later, Johnson's was viewed as the pre-eminent English dictionary.

279 solar years ago, on this day in 1739 AD, the Ottoman and the Austrian Empires signed a peace treaty according to which Belgrade was returned to the Turks after 22 years of occupation. Turkish Muslims who had first liberated Belgrade in 1521 had built it as an Islamic city, complete with baths, public fountains, libraries, mosques, and bazaars. The city was occupied by the Serbs in 1807 and became capital of Serbia in 1841. The Christians have erased much of the Islamic features of Belgrade.

259 solar years ago, on this day in 1759 AD, Quebec in Canada, surrendered to the British after a battle which saw the deaths of both James Wolfe and Louis Montcalm, the British and French commanders. The people of Quebec still speak French and resist the domination of the English speakers. Separatist tendencies are rife in this Canadian province.

235 solar years ago, on this day in 1783 AD, Swiss mathematician and physicist Leonhard Euler died at the age of 76. He made important discoveries in fields as diverse as infinitesimal calculus and graph theory. He also introduced much of the modern mathematical terminology and notation. He is also renowned for his work in mechanics, fluid dynamics, optics, astronomy, and music theory. Euler is considered to be the preeminent mathematician of the 18th century and one of the greatest mathematicians to have ever lived. At age 28, he blinded one eye by staring at the sun while working to invent a new way of measuring time. He spent most of his adult life in St. Petersburg, Russia, and in Berlin, then the capital of Prussia.

208 solar years ago, on this day in 1810 AD, the first Government Junta took power in Chile. Though supposed to rule only in the absence of the king, it was in fact the first step towards independence from Spain, and is commemorated as such. Spain conquered and colonized Chile in the mid-16th century, replacing Inca rule in northern and central Chile, but failing to conquer the independent Mapuche that inhabited south-central Chile. After declaring its independence from Spain in 1818, Chile emerged in the 1830s as a relatively stable authoritarian republic. Chile is today one of South America's most stable and prosperous nations.

87 solar years ago, on this day in 1931 AD, Manchuria in northeast China was occupied by the Japanese army, which installed the puppet Manchukuo regime. Following its defeat in World War 2, Japan was forced to evacuate the more than a million square km of Chinese territory it had occupied.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1961 AD, UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden died in a plane crash while attempting to negotiate peace in the war-torn Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the age of 56. He served two terms as the UN Chief and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1981 AD, the city of Susangard and its surrounding areas in southwestern Iran, were liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants from Ba'hist occupation. Some 750 Ba'hist occupation soldiers were either killed or injured, while 40 tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed. Several tanks and personnel carriers and a large amount of ammunition and communication equipment were captured by the Iranian soldiers.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, Lebanon's Phalangist Christian militia mercilessly slaughtered at least 600 Palestinians in southern Lebanon during the civil war, as part of the US-Israeli plan to weaken and terrorize Muslims.

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

Italian Festival Awards Iranian Director



Iranian director Morteza-Ali Abbas-Mirzai.

TEHRAN (IFILM) - Morteza-Ali Abbas-Mirzai has won an award for 'Isolation' at the Salento Int'l Film Festival in Italy.

Mirzai has been selected as the best director for his latest film at the Italian event.

Nominated for a Crystal Simorgh for Best Supporting Actor, the film was initially released at the 35th edition of Fajr Film Festival.

'Isolation' directed by Morteza-Ali Abbas-Mirzai follows the story of Zohreh who loses her life in an unexpected accident leaving her husband with difficult choices to make.

The cast of "Isolation" includes actors such as: Jamshid Hashempour (as a guest of honor), Amirali Danaei, Nader Fallah, Alireza Ostadi, Siamak Safari, Behnoosh Bakhtiari, Andishe Fooladvand, Shaghayegh Farahani and Mehran Rajabi.

The Salento International Film Festival is a celebration of films and filmmakers, promotes international independent films, in recognition of the fact that movies are the most powerful form of cultural communication and link between cultures and peoples.

The 15th edition of the festival was held on September 1-9, 2018.

'Run, Rostam, Run' Screened in 3 Int'l Film Festivals

TEHRAN (Dispatches)-Iranian Short animated film 'Run, Rostam, Run', directed by Hossein

Molayemi, has been accepted into three more international festivals in Italy, U.S. and Greece.

"Run, Rostam, Run" is a 2D animated piece depicting the Persian national hero Rostam who must travel to the future to Tehran in order to make up for what he has done to his son. Once he gets to Tehran, he doesn't know whether to choose the legal or illegal way to achieve his objective.



and Out of Bounds Film Festival in Italy.

The animated short film has participated in different festivals, including 10th Tehran International Animation Festival, Annecy International Animation Festival, Rhode Island International Film Festival, La Guarimba Film Festival, Warsaw Film Festival, Gdansk International Animation Festival, 9th Golden Kuker International Animation Festival Sofia, and 3rd Drunken Film Festival Bradgord.

The piece has also won many awards at the events, including Award of Distinction from the 8th edition of Edukino Film Festival in Poland, Mention Award from Rofife Short Film Festival, Best Animation Film from Wular Lake International Short Film Festival, and Special Award from Cinema Perpetuum Mobile ISFF. It has also been nominated for Golden Gazelle competition for best short film at 7th Persian International Film Festival in Sydney.

The flick will be displayed at the non-competition section of Catania Film Fest in Italy, where the best animated movies of 2017 and 2018 are also taking part. The event will be held during September 14-16.

The animated film will also be screened at the 11th Annual Iranian Film Festival - San Francisco on September 23-24, which is the first independent Iranian film festival outside Iran.

AnimaSyros International Animation Festival is the third event in which "Run, Rostam, Run" will take part.

It is the largest festival and market of its kind in Greece. It is annually held in the capital of Cyclades, the neoclassical town of Hermoupolis.

The film recently participated in the LINOLEUM International Contemporary Animation and Media Art Festival in Ukraine

Daily Low-Dose Aspirin May Not Help the Healthy



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - In a clinical trial to determine the effects of daily low-dose aspirin in healthy older adults without previous cardiovascular events, aspirin did not prolong healthy, independent living free of dementia or physical disability.

Risk of dying from a range of causes, including cancer and heart disease, varied and will require further analysis and additional follow-up of study participants. These initial findings from the Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) trial, partially supported by the National Institutes of Health, were published online on September 16, 2018 in three papers in The New England Journal of Medicine.

ASPREE is an international, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial that enrolled 19,114 older people (16,703 in Australia and 2,411 in the United States). The study began in 2010 and enrolled participants aged 70 and older; 65 was the minimum age of entry for African-American and Hispanic individuals in the United States because of their higher risk for dementia and cardiovascular disease. At study enrollment, ASPREE participants could not have dementia or a physical disability and had to be free of medical conditions requiring aspirin use. They were followed for an average of 4.7 years to determine outcomes.

"Clinical guidelines note the benefits of aspirin for preventing heart attacks and strokes in persons with vascular conditions

such as coronary artery disease," said NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, M.D. "The concern has been uncertainty about whether aspirin is beneficial for otherwise healthy older people without those conditions. This study shows why it is so important to conduct this type of research, so that we can gain a fuller picture of aspirin's benefits and risks among healthy older persons."

Picture of the Day



A photography exhibition by Italian photographer and theater director John R. Pepper has begun work in Tehran. You can see the photographs taken from the Lut Desert and learn the stories behind them, titled Un-Empty Deserts, until 1 October.

Courtesy: Honaronline