

This Day in History

(October 11)

Today is Thursday, 19th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Safar 1440 lunar hijri; and October 11, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1403 lunar years ago, on this day in 37 AH, the Siffin War was started by the Omayyad rebel, Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, as a result of his refusal to step down, following his dismissal from the governorship of the Province of Syria by the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali Ibn Abi Taleb (AS) the First Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The war that lasted four months was fought in the region called Siffin, besides the River Euphrates in what is now the Raqqa District in Syria, a short distance from the city of Aleppo. In the final battle of the Siffin War, when Mu'awiyah was on the verge of defeat, his comrade-in-crimes, Amr Ibn al-Aas, ordered the Omayyad troops to raise on spear-points, what he claimed to be copies of the holy Qur'an, in order to deceive the people and sue for peace. Despite the warnings of Imam Ali (AS), many among his forces were deceived and refused to continue the battle against the demoralized enemy troops. These gullible people forced the Imam to enter into arbitration with Mu'awiyah, and when the result turned out against their nefarious desires, they openly rebelled against the Prophet's rightful successor. These misled people called Khwarej or renegades are considered outside the pale of Islam. It is an irony of Islamic history that Mu'awiyah, who had reluctantly accepted Islam to save his life at the fall of Mecca to Muslims two years before the passing away of the Prophet; was made governor of the newly conquered Christian majority province of Syria. Here, through propaganda and forging of hadith, he built a strong base against the Ahl al-Bayt. After the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), he seized the caliphate from Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) through deceit, thus laying the groundwork for the Godless Omayyad Dynasty that terrorized Muslims for 91 years.

1379 lunar years ago, on this day in 61 AH, some 20 days after the heartrending tragedy of Karbala and the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS), the captive children and womenfolk of the Blessed Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), along with the heads of martyrs, mounted on spear-points, were brought to Damascus in fetters to the court of the Godless Yazid Ibn Mu'awiyah – the self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime. The Omayyads decorated the bazaars and streets to mock at the Prophet's noble family members. They celebrated the occasion as a day of festivity. Nonetheless, despite the severe sufferings, the noble captives, including Hazrat Ruqayya (SA), the less-than-four-year daughter of Imam Husain (AS), bore themselves with dignity. Yazid rejoiced, saying he had avenged the blood of his infidel ancestors, killed in the battles they had imposed on the Prophet at Badr and Ohad. The Imam's sister, Hazrat Zainab (SA) and the Imam's son and successor, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), delivered memorable sermons at Yazid's court and the Great Mosque, to expose Omayyad blasphemy against the Prophet's grandson and Ahl al-Bayt. The conscience of the Syrian people was thus aroused, alarming Yazid and making him release the noble captives.

932 solar years ago, on this day in 1086 AD, Chinese historian and statesman Sima Guang, died at the age of 67. Perhaps the greatest of China's historians, he wrote in several volumes the monumental "Zizhi Tongjian" which detailed in chronological order events in Chinese history from 403 BC to 959 AD. He was also a lexicographer and spent decades compiling in 1066 "Leipian" ("Classified dictionary).

880 solar years ago, on this day in 1138 AD, a devastating earthquake, the third deadliest in recorded history, struck the city of Aleppo and its environs in Syria, killing over two hundred thousand people, during the rule of the Turkish warlord, Emad od-Din Zengi. The worst hit area was Harem, where the Christian Crusaders from Europe had built a large citadel, which was destroyed along with the church. The nearby fort of Atharib, which was in the hands of Muslims, was also destroyed.

446 solar years ago, on this day in 1572 AD, Sulaiman Khan Karrani, the Afghan Sultan of Bengal, or what is now the Indian province of the same name along with Bangladesh, died after a reign of six years.

384 solar years ago, on this day in 1634 AD, the Burchardi Flood, also known as the "Second Grote Mandrenke", killed around 15,000 people in North Friesland, Denmark and Germany. It was a storm tide that struck the North Sea coast of North Frisia and Dithmarschen on the night between 11 and 12 October. Overrunning dikes, it shattered the coastline and caused catastrophic material damage. Much of the island of Strand was washed away, forming the islands Nordstrand, Pellworm and several Halligen.

119 solar years ago, on this day in 1899 AD, a bloody battle broke out between the British intruders and the Boers or Dutch settlers of South Africa. The Boers were defeated and South Africa became a British colony, until it gained independence in 1931.

103 solar years ago, on this day in 1915 AD, the French biologist and entomologist, Jean Henri Fabre, died at the age 92. He was the first scientist to conduct comprehensive research on the mechanism of instinctive reactions among animals, especially birds, for maintenance of their lives, gathering valuable data in this domain.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, Iranian poet and researcher, Abdul-Karim Amiri Firouzkoobi, passed away at the age of 75. Born in a village near the northern city of Firouzkoobi, he started writing poetry since his youth, while acquiring Islamic sciences. His poems have a religious theme and he composed poetry in the different genres including odes and lyrics. He has left behind a 2-volume Diwan. Among his other works, is a comprehensive introduction to the Diwan of the renowned poet, Sa'eb Tabrizi.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, the exegete of Holy Qur'an, and university lecturer, Ayatollah Mirza Khalil Kamarai, passed away. He has left behind several compilations in Persian and Arabic, including a complete exegesis of Holy Qur'an, and the book: "Onsor-e Shuja'at" (Element of Valour) on the exemplary life of Imam Husain (AS) and the Immortal Martyrs of Karbala.

28 solar years ago, on this day 1990 AD, the Assembly for Proximity among Islamic Schools of Jurisprudence was established in Tehran on the orders of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in order to focus on the commonalities between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims for promoting the solidarity of the Ummah and preventing discord and misunderstandings. Earlier, in the 1950s a similar body was set up by Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Boroujerdi who sent a delegation of scholars to Egypt's al-Azhar for exploring common views and points, resulting in the acceptance of the Ja'fari School of Jurisprudence as one of the legal systems that Muslims could follow. Presently, the Assembly for Proximity among Islamic Schools is quite active in the fields of various Islamic sciences shared by Muslims of all denominations.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, the activities of the Soviet Union's security organization, known as KGB, ended awhile before the collapse of Soviet Union. KGB was founded in 1954 to counter the operations of the CIA and other western spy agencies. Its duties included suppression of opponents of the Communist Party, as well as espionage and counterespionage operations inside and outside the Soviet Union. KGB was the most effective leverage of the communist party's strength. With the dissolution of KGB, its duties were divided between two Russian intelligence organizations.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, Callixte Mbarushimana, a Rwandan leader of the FDLR rebel group and a former UN employee, was arrested in Paris on charges of leading rebels who committed mass rapes and killings in Congo in 2009. The International Criminal Court charged him with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including killings, rape, persecution based on gender and extensive destruction of property committed by the FDLR during most of 2009. He was extradited to the ICC on 25 January 2011, but was released on 23 December 2011 as the ICC, under political pressure, found there was insufficient evidence for prosecuting him.

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



Forty Years of Iranian Cinema to Be Reviewed

TEHRAN (IFILM) - The Film Museum of Iran has set to review Iranian cinema by screening a lineup of movies produced during the 40 past years.

The Film Museum has organized the screening program in collaboration with the National Film Archive of Iran and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

The museum has announced that the event will be held to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Movies by some late and veteran Iranian filmmakers such as Abbas Kiarostami, Shapour Qarib, Dariush Mehrjoui, Rasoul Mollaqlolipour, Nasser Taqvaei, Rasoul Sadr-Ameli, and Fereydoun Jeyrani are in the lineup.

The list goes on with films by

Asghar Farhadi, Mani Haqiqi, Ebrahim Hatamikia, Kioumars Pourahmad, Masoud Jafari-Jozani, Masoud Kimiaee, Ahmad Amini, Varouzh Karim-Masihi, and Kianoush Ayyari.

The program, including movies from 1979 to 2019, will begin on October 18 and interested filmgoers can watch a selection of their films every Thursday during autumn and winter 2018-2019.

Iran Develops Smart Tree to Reduce Air Pollution

TEHRAN (IFP)- Researchers in Iran have designed and developed an artificial smart tree capable of absorbing large amounts of CO2 in order to clean the air and reduce air pollution.

The air-cleaning apparatus functions like an artificial tree. It is capable of removing pollutants from the air in indoor places such as homes, offices and hospitals. In later stages, researchers are to design, develop and used similar devices to purify air in open-air environments such as highways, roads, streets, smart townships, etc.

In the current plan, pollutants are spotted using smart methods and are removed from the air using special filters. Several filters are used in this system, considerably obviating the need to replace filters. All you have to do is to



wash the filters to remove dirt and soot.

The system is turned on automatically based on the pollutant levels in the air, cleans the air and is turned off.

The most important advantage of the apparatus is its high capability in absorbing air pollutants. The device can reduce CO2 levels by up to 90%, suspended particles by up to 99% and other pollutants by

around 80%.

Another feature of the apparatus is that it is economical. It has been made at a cost of IRR 100,000,000 and is able to reduce more pollutant levels than that by similar devices made in other countries.

When it comes to mass production, the smart air-cleaning apparatus is expected to have an end cost half of what originally predicted.

The device can show the level of pollutants on cell phones online, and can show the air quality index (AQI) in three colours: green, yellow and red. The apparatus can also show the status of the air pollution.

The whole process of production of the device took place using solar panels. The remaining power saved is used for lighting.

Four Iranian Books in White Raven Catalog

TEHRAN (IBNA)- Four Iranian books were enlisted in the catalog of the White Raven Biennial at Munich International Youth Library.

According to IBNA correspondent, the catalog of the 2018 White Raven Biennial is one of the most important issues released by Munich International Youth Library. Like previous years, the catalog will be unveiled at Frankfurt Book Fair scheduled for October 10-14.

The Munich International Youth Library is the world's largest library for international children's

and youth literature. Founded in 1949 by Jella Lepman, it has grown to become the internationally recognized center for children's and youth literature.

The Iranian books which have been enlisted in the catalog are:

'Caution! The Birds Are Having Breakfast'; a collection of poems for young adults by Hossein Tavalaee, illustrated by Noushin Khaefi Eshkezari, 2017;

'On the Foundations of Being' by Arman Arian (a rewriting of ancient

Persian literature), 2017;

'Good Night Tarna' by Jamal al-Din Akrami, a novel for young adults, 2017;

'Boxer', writer and illustrator Hassasn Mousavi, an illustrated book, 2017.

Iranian Director's Photo Collection to Compete in New York

TEHRAN (MNA) - The photo collection of Iranian director and photographer Fatemeh Fadaei-Darestani, dubbed 'Sea', has been accepted into the photography section New York International Films Infest Festival (NYIFIF).

Fatemeh Fadaei-Darestani has also directed two animations 'We' and 'Game'.

Her animated piece 'We' has won best award at Best Shorts Film Festival in California.

New York City International Films Infest Festival (NYCIFIF) will be held over on October 2018 at the world-renowned destination of New York City.

Picture of the Day



Eugene Flandin, a French painter and orientalist, and famous for his unique works in historical and artistic fields, has drawn paintings and unique designs of the architectural works of Iran and the Middle East. The following picture is one of Eugene Flanden's drawings and its modern equivalent. Marble Throne of Golestan Palace.

Courtesy: IFP