

This Day in History

(November 18)

Today is Sunday, 27th of the Iranian month of Aban 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 10th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and November 18, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1485 lunar years ago, on this day, 45 years before Hijra, Abdul-Mutalib, the paternal grandfather of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), passed away in Mecca, when the grandson was only 8 years old. He was leader of the Quraysh tribe descended from Prophet Ishmael, and was known for his eloquence and virtues as a firm monotheist following the creed of his ancestor, Prophet Abraham (AS). He was in charge of the custodianship of the Holy Ka'ba which he had received through his father, Hashem, and his illustrious forbears. He was the guardian of his grandson, the future Prophet, following the death of the latter's parents, Abdullah and Amena bint Wahb (SA). Eight years before Abdul-Mutalib's death, the Ethiopian Christian governor of Yemen, Abraha, had marched on Mecca riding an elephant with the intention of destroying the holy Ka'ba. Abraha's army seized Abdul-Mutalib's herd of camels on assumption that this will make him plead for the safety of the Ka'ba. Abdul-Mutalib, however, only asked for the release of his camel herd, and when Abraha asked him why he does not plead for the Ka'ba, he replied: I am the owner of these camels, and the Ka'ba has its own owner (God); He will take care of its safety. Soon Abraha, his elephant and his army were miraculously attacked by a flock of birds pelting them with pebbles, which routed the formidable forces and reduced them to chewed straw as the holy Qur'an records in "Surah al-Feel". The Prophet was born in the same year of this divine miracle. On his grandfather's death, his guardianship was taken over by his loving uncle, Abu Taleb, the consanguineous brother of his father Abdullah.

1468 lunar years ago, on this day, 28 years before Hijra, the marriage of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and Hazrat Khadija (SA) took place in Mecca. Known as "Maleekat al-Arab" (Queen of Arabia), because of her proverbial wealth that she had accumulated through trade caravans, Khadija (SA) was a pure, monotheistic and chaste lady (Tahera). Impressed by the honesty and truthfulness of her trade manager, her distant relative the future Prophet, who did not possess any material wealth, she proposed marriage to him. The two made an excellent husband-and-wife pair. Fifteen years later, when God formally ordained Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) as the Last and Greatest Messenger to mankind, she immediately believed in the mission of her husband and thereafter spent all her wealth for feeding and sheltering the persecuted Muslim community of Mecca, to the extent that when she passed away, nothing was left of her wealth or any inheritance for her only surviving daughter, the noblest lady of all time, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). For over 25 long years, as the "Omm al-Momineen" (Mother of Believers), Hazrat Khadija (SA) was the one and only wife of the Prophet, and as long as she lived he never took another spouse. Even in the last ten years of his life in Medina when out of social necessity and to break the absurd customs of the days of ignorance, the middle aged Prophet had to marry several wives, he always used to cherish the memory of Khadija (SA), his firm support and the mother of his progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt.

1111 lunar years ago, on this day in 329 AH, Raazi-Billah, the 20th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died. A cultured person, well versed in literature and poetry, he returned the vast orchard of Fadak to the Prophet's descendants. Fadak was the personal property of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and was situated north of Medina near Khaybar. The Prophet had given it in his lifetime to his only daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), who used its revenues for the upkeep of the poor and destitute Muslims. After the Prophet passed away, the new regime in Medina seized Fadak by coining a spurious hadith that Prophets do not leave inheritance and whatever they leave is the property of the Ummah, despite the Prophet's daughter's memorable defence of her rights by citing the ayahs of the holy Qur'an which speak of Prophet Solomon inheriting Prophet David, and Prophet Yahya inheriting Prophet Zachariah.

1073 lunar years ago, on this day in 367 AH, the prominent jurist, hadith expert and theologian, Abu'l-Qasim Ja'far ibn Mohammad, popular as Ibn Qulawayh al-Qomi, passed away in Baghdad, and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

975 lunar years ago, on this day in 465 AH, Alp Arslan the second and most powerful ruler of the Iran-based Seljuq empire that encompassed Iraq, Afghanistan, parts of Turkey, Syria, Caucasus and Central Asia, died at the age of 42 after a 9-year reign, during which at the Battle of Manzikert he decisively defeated and captured Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes of Byzantine. His real name was Mohammad bin Dawoud Chaghri and his title Alp Arslan means Brave Lion in Turkish. He was assisted in running his administration by the able Iranian vizier, Nizam ol-Molk Tusi.

597 solar years ago, on this day in 1421 AD, a seawall at the Zuiderzee dike in the Netherlands breaks, flooding 72 villages and killing about 10,000 people. This event will be known as St Elizabeth's flood.

417 solar years ago, on this day in 1601 AD, Tiryaki Hassan Pasha, provincial governor of Ottoman Empire, decisively defeated Habsburg forces commanded by Ferdinand the Archduke of Austria during the Siege of Nagykanyizsa.

351 solar years ago, on this day in 1667 AD, The Treaty of Bongaja was forced upon Sultan Hassan od-Din of Gowa in what is now Indonesia by the invading forces of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), following the defeat of the Muslim army at Makassar on Sulawesi Island, mainly due to the siding of the animist warlord Arung Palakka with the Christians.

231 solar years ago, on this day in 1787 AD, the French painter, inventor, and physicist, Louis Daguerre, was born. His most important invention was the camera in the year 1839. He managed to take the first clear photo with this camera. Interestingly, nearly concurrent with Daguerre, his compatriot, Joseph Nicephore Niepce, had also succeeded in inventing the camera. Daguerre died in 1851.

179 solar years ago, on this day in 1839 AD, the second phase of the Algerian people's anti-colonial struggles against France started under the leadership of Seyyed Abdul-Qader bin Mohieddin al-Hassani, al-Jaza'eri, who claimed descent from Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Abdul-Qader, who returned to Algeria, a few months before the Turks lost it to the French invaders in 1930, had during his 5-year journey abroad, met with, and was highly impressed by Imam Shamil of Daghestan - the leader of the struggle against Russian expansion in the Caucasus which recently had been seized by the Czar from the Qajarid rulers of Iran.

115 solar years ago, on this day in 1903 AD, Panama Canal Treaty was concluded between the Republic of Panama and the US, on the basis of which, the strategic Canal was permanently leased to the US for a mere \$10 million in cash and an annual payment of \$250,000.

101 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, Irish thinker and playwright, George Bernard Shaw, refused to accept the money for his Nobel Prize, saying, "I can forgive Alfred Nobel for inventing dynamite, but only a fiend in human form could have invented the Nobel Prize."

72 solar years ago, on this day in 1946 AD, Head of the Islamic seminary of holy Mashhad, Ayatollah Shaikh Morteza Ashtiyani, passed away at the age of 83 and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Imam Reza (AS) - the 8th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

62 solar years ago, on this day in 1956 AD, Morocco became independent from the colonial rule of France, which had seized this Muslim country in 1921. Morocco covers an area of 458,730 sq km, and is located in northwestern Africa and the coastlines of Atlantic Ocean. Muslims constitute 99% of its population.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1962, Danish scientist and physicist, Niels Bohr, died at the age of 82. He conducted atomic researches for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1945.

55 solar years ago, on this day in 1963 AD, Colonel Abdus-Salaam Aref, with the help of the Ba'th Party, seized power in Iraq, by staging a coup and killing General Abdul-Karim Qasem.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, Iraqi parties in exile met in Tehran to form the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) to free their homeland from the tyrannical rule of the Ba'th minority regime of Saddam. SAIRI was active in political and military circles against the Ba'thists during the 8-year war the US had imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran through Saddam.

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

Best Animation Award Goes to 'Empty View' at Strasburg Festival



A still from the "Empty Views".

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian short animated piece "Empty View" directed by Ali Zare Ghanatnowi,

has won Best Animation award at the 1st Strasburg Film Festival in Virginia, United States.

Directed by Ali Zare Ghanatnowi, "Empty View" has snatched the Best Animation

award at the 1st edition of Strasburg Film Festival in the United States.

"Empty View" is the heartfelt story of a mother waiting for her son to come back home from war.

The festival has praised Zare's animation for its "unique and charming visual style" and sound design, adding that "Empty View" is a "testament to the unique power of animation to bring life to the artificial. With enough care and talent poured into every second, a film created entirely by hand can feel as real, if not more so, than reality captured on a camera."

The animated piece has recently won two awards at the third Best Short Fest in Canada, and the third Great Message International Film Festival in India.

The first edition of Strasburg Film Festival was held on 9-11 November 2018 in Virginia, U.S.

Low-Carb Diets to Burn More Calories

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - A study now finds that eating fewer carbohydrates increases the number of calories burned. The findings suggest that low-carb diets can help people maintain weight loss, making obesity treatment more effective.

The study led by Boston Children's Hospital, in partnership with Framingham State University, known as the Framingham State Food Study, or (FS)2, tightly controlled what people ate by providing them with fully prepared food-service meals for a 20-week period. Researchers carefully tracked participants' weight and measured insulin secretion, metabolic hormones and total energy expenditure (calories burned).

After careful telephone screening of 1,685 potential participants, Ebbeling, Ludwig and colleagues enrolled 234 overweight adults (age 18 to 65, body mass index of 25 or higher) to an initial weight-loss diet for about 10 weeks. Of these, 164 achieved the goal of losing 10 to 14 percent of body weight and went on to the study's maintenance phase.

These participants were then randomized to follow high-, moderate- or low-carbohydrate diets for an additional 20 weeks -- with carbs comprising 60, 40 and 20 percent of total calories, respectively. Carbs provided to all three groups were of high quality, conforming to guidelines for minimizing sugar and using whole rather than highly processed grains.

In all three groups, total calorie intake was adjusted to maintain weight loss, so participants' weight did not change notably. During this phase, the goal was to compare energy expenditure -- how the different groups burned calories at the same weight. Energy expenditure was measured by a gold-standard method using doubly labeled water.

Roshd International Festival Screens 80 Films on Opening Day



TEHRAN (IFILM) - The 48th annual Roshd International Film Festival was kicked off on Friday

with over 80 films, animations, and documentaries screened from around the world.

The diverse lineup featured documentaries, animations and short and long films from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, UK, and the U.S.

Launched in 1963, the Roshd International Film Festival is the first and oldest global film event in Iran.

The main objective of the event is to collect the latest in educational material and also to find an innovative way for training and educating children and adolescents in the country.

Films from 28 countries and five continents are set to compete in the international competition section.

The 48th edition of the festival is to wrap up on November 23, 2018, at Felestin Cinema in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Picture of the Day



Consideration is the title of a new design art exhibition by a group of contemporary artists in Tehran Conservatory of Music Boys. The program wraps up November 27.

Courtesy : Honaronline