

This Day in History

(December 6)

Today is Thursday; 15th of the Iranian month of Azar 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 28th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and December 6, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1256 solar years ago, on this day in 762 AD, Mohammad "Nafs Zakiyya" (Pure Soul), the great grandson of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred at the age of 53 near the holy city of Medina during a battle against forces sent by Mansur Dawaniqi, the second self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. His father was Abdullah al-Mahadh – a son of the survivors of the tragedy of Karbala, Hassan al-Muthanna and Fatema, the daughter of the Prophet's younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS). Known for his commanding oratory skills, amiable demeanor, and impressive build, years earlier during the rule of the Godless Omayyad regime, the persecuted Abbasid brothers – Ibrahim al-Imam, Abu'l-Abbas Saffah and Mansour Dawaniqi – had sworn allegiance to him at the famous gathering of the Hashemite clan at Abwa. On the fall of the Omayyads, the Abbasid brothers deserted him, broke their promise to return rule of the Islamic state to the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, and established their own dubious rule. For years, Nafs Zakiyya disguised himself and traveled incognito, so as not to arouse suspicion from the regime, and was eventually able to raise a sizable army to take over the city of Medina. He took over Mecca and Yemen in 145 AH. Before that he had sent his son, Abdullah, to Sindh (in present day Pakistan) to mobilize support. Meanwhile, his brother Ibrahim, in coordinated action, launched his uprising in Basra and within two months had liberated the whole of southern Iraq and Iran from the Abbasids, thereby cornering Mansour in his capital Hiraah in central Iraq (Baghdad was not yet built). While Ibrahim advanced towards Kufa, and Mansour was on the verge of defeat, Nafs Zakiyya was deserted by most of his army and was martyred in combat. This emboldened the Abbasids and in the decisive battle near Kufa, an arrow pierced Ibrahim's neck and he was immediately unhorsed and decapitated by the wretch, Hamid bin Qahataba, who sent the head to Mansour's nephew Isa bin Musa – the cowardly killer of Nafs Zakiyya in the Hijaz. It is worth noting that Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), as the 6th Infallible Heir of the Prophet, sensed the plot, stayed away from the political tussle and even spurned the offer of caliphate by burning the sealed letter sent by a victorious commander of the anti-Omayyad uprising, since his right was God-given and beyond the power of politicians. Imam Sadeq (AS) was martyred through poisoning in 148 by Mansour, who is notorious for shedding the blood of the Prophet's progeny, especially the offspring of Imam Hasan (AS).

1033 lunar years ago, on this day in 407 AH, the able prime minister of the Buwaihidi dynasty of Iran and Iraq, Abu Ghaleb Mohammad ibn Ali Waseti, titled Fakhr ol-Molk, was martyred in Ahwaz. He was the Minister of Emir Baha od-Dowla Daylami, and was a very virtuous and pious person, known for his charity and devotion to the genuine teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

833 solar years ago, on this day in 1185 AD, Afonso Henrique, who rebelled against over five-and-a-half centuries of Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula and occupied the emirates of Lisbon and Badajoz, by renaming them as Portugal and styling himself King Afonso I, died after a 46-year rule. His success against Muslim was due to a chanced victory in the Battle of Ourique over Ali ibn Yusuf of the al-Murabetun Dynasty.

778 solar years ago, on this day in 1240 AD, Mongol armies of Batu Khan invaded the principality of Rus, occupied Kiev and destroyed it. For several centuries the Russians and Ukrainians acknowledged the Mongols and their Muslim Tatar successors as overlords.

280 lunar years ago, on this day in 1160 AH, the great scholar Seyyed Ali Tabatabaie was born in holy Kazemian in Iraq. He wrote several books including commentaries on the "Mafatih" of Faiz Kashani, and the "Mukhtasir an-Nafe'" of Muhaqqiq Awwal. His famous work was "Riyadh al-Masa'el", and for this reason, he is also known as "Saheb-e Riyadh".

240 solar years ago, on this day in 1778 AD, French chemist and physicist, Joseph Gay-Lussac, was born. The invention of a type of alcoholometer, and densimeter, and identification of chlorine as an element, are some of his achievements. His most important scientific activities are laws on expansion of gases, which have been named after him. He died in 1850.

216 solar years ago, on this day in 1802 AD, Paul-Emile Botta, was born in Italy to historian Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo Botta. The family moved to Paris, where he grew up and became a scientist. He was assigned as French consul to Mosul in Iraq, where his interest in archaeology led to the discovery in 1843 of the palace of the Assyrian king Sargon II (721 to 705 BC) at Dur Sharrukin (modern Khorsabad).

195 solar years ago, on this day in 1823 AD, Friedrich Max Muller, the German-born philologist and Orientalist, who lived and studied in Britain for most of his life, was born in Dessau.

150 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, August Schleicher, German linguist and academic, died at the age of 47. His famous work was "A Compendium of the Comparative Grammar of the Indo-European Languages", in which he attempted to reconstruct the Proto-Indo-European language. He was fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, Sanskrit and Persian.

101 solar years ago, on this day in 1917 AD, Finland emerged independent with a republican system following the fall of the Russian monarchy. Throughout history this land was divided between Sweden and Russia. Finland covers an area of over 338,000 sq km. It shares borders with Russia, Sweden, and Norway.

96 solar years ago, on this day in 1922 AD, The Irish Free State was established as a Dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations under the Anglo-Irish Treaty signed by British and Irish representatives exactly twelve months beforehand.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, the scholar, Mirza Mohammad Taher Tonekabouni, passed away at the age of 78 in Tehran and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of the famous theologian, Shaikh Sadouq in Rayy. Born in Kelardasht, Mazandaran Province, he completed higher religious studies in Tehran and joined the Madrasa-e Sepah-Salar as lecturer. He entered in politics as a supporter of the Constitutional Movement, and was elected to the 1st and later the 4th Majlis. An expert in philosophy, he was referred to as "Khatema al-Falasefa" (Seal of Philosophers).

62 solar years ago, on this day in 1956 AD, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, leader of India's so-called "Untouchable Caste", economist, and the main architect of the national constitution, died at the age of 65.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1978 AD, the eminent scholar and educationist, Dr. Eisa Seddiq who was entrusted by the government to establish the University of Tehran in 1934, passed away at the age of 84.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, Brigadier General, Ahmad Keshvari, attained martyrdom at the age of 27 while on an airborne mission during the 8-year war imposed on Iran by the US through Saddam.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, classical Iranian musician, Manouchehr Jahanbeglou, passed away at the age of 62. After learning music under prominent Iranian maestros, he left for Austria for completion of his studies, and obtained a PhD. On return to Iran, he researched and taught music. He has left behind a large number of books in this domain.

26 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, to the shock of the civilized world, the historic Babri Mosque in Faizabad, India, was desecrated and razed to the ground by anarchic elements. The mosque built in 1528 by Mir Baqi Tashqandi, the Persian minister of Zaheer ud-din Mohammad Babar, the Founder of the Mughal Empire in the Subcontinent, was an architectural masterpiece topped by three domes and exquisite Persian and Arabic inscriptions.

13 solar years ago, on this day in 2005 AD, an Iranian Air Force C-130 military transport aircraft crashed into a ten-floor apartment building in a residential area of Tehran, killing all 84 on board and 44 more on the ground. Most of the passengers on board were journalists heading to the port city of Bandar Abbas to cover the sea games in the Persian Gulf waters.

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

India All Lights Festival Hosts Iran Cinema



TEHRAN (IFILM)- The 2018 edition of the All Lights India International Film Festival (ALIIFF) has been screening 12 titles from Iran.

The Indian event pays tribute to the late-great Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami by screening his films "Taste of Cherry", "The Wind Will Carry Us" and "Certified Copy".

It was opened with screening of Vahid Jalilvand's acclaimed drama "No Date, No Signature".

"Amir" by Nima Eqlima is competing in the international section of the festival and "Kupal" by Kazem Mollaei has gone on screen at the Debut Film Makers Competition section.

Iranian representatives at the

children's film competition section of the event have been "Pale White" by Gholamreza Jafari and "Blows with the Wind" by Hazhir Asadi.

In addition a special section dedicated to Iranian cinema has been reviewing "Forbidden" by Hassan Yektapanah, "Lollipop" by Hossein Farahbakhsh, "Privacy" by Ahmad Moazzami and "Time to Love" by Alireza Raeisian.

Iranian actor Amir Aqaei, film director and producer Hassan Nazer, and actress Rana Azadivar are judging at different jury panels of the 2018 ALIIFF.

The 2018 edition of the ALIIFF has been slated for December 1-4 in Hyderabad, India.

Iranian Actress Back on Stage With

'Seven Cities of Love'

TEHRAN.(HONARONLINE) – After being absent for several years in a row, Merila Zarei is set to return to the stage with new opera "Seven Cities of Love". She will play the role of Iblis (Devil) in the new opera.

Other prominent players on board include Mohammad-Reza Foroutan, Hanieh Tavassoli, Pantea Bahram, Abolfazl Poorarab, Andisheh Fouladvand, Nasim Adabi and Mohammadali Sareban. Mohammad Abdizadeh will direct the opera.

Singers Roozbeh Nematollahi, Salar Aghili and Roozbeh Bemani are part of the ensemble as well. Conducted by Shardad Rohani, the Tehran Symphony Orchestra will perform live too. Tickets

are available for sale from the website of Iran Concert as of 4 December.

A graduate of Azad University of Tehran, during her studies Zarei became interested in acting through Ezatollah Entezami's acting courses. Her first movie was "Patak" by Ali Asghar Shadravan in 1994. She received the Crystal Simorgh for the best actress in a supporting role for "The Friday's Soldiers" (2005, Masoud Kimiai), from the 23rd Fajr International Film Festival. She is also the winner of best actress of 32nd Fajr International Film Festival.

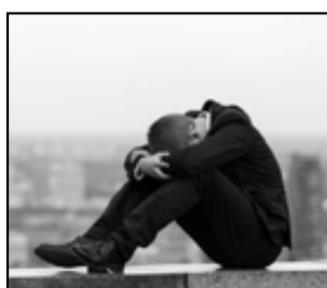
"Seven Cities of Love": a heart-based series of events inspired by a masterpiece of Persian poetry



Iranian actress Merila Zarei.

and one of the most beautiful Sufi tales ever told, The Conference of the Birds, is by the 12th century Iranian poet Attar.

Brain Stimulation Relieves Depression Symptoms



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Researchers have found an effective target in the brain for electrical stimulation to improve mood in people suffering from depression.

As reported in the journal Current Biology, stimulation of a brain region called the lateral orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) reliably produced acute improvement in mood in patients who suffered from depression at the start of the study.

Those effects were not seen in patients without mood symptoms, suggesting that the brain stimulation works to normalize activity in mood-related neural circuitry, the researchers of the University of California, San Francisco say.

The researchers focused their attention and the electrical stimulation on the OFC. The OFC is a key hub for mood-related circuitry. But it's also widely regarded as one of the least well-understood brain regions. They used the implanted

electrodes to stimulate OFC and other brain regions while collecting verbal mood reports and questionnaire scores. Those studies found that unilateral stimulation of the lateral OFC produced acute, dose-dependent mood-

state improvement in subjects with moderate-to-severe baseline depression. The changes in brain activity the researchers observed after stimulation closely resembled those seen when people are in a good mood.

The findings show that mood can be immediately improved by electrical stimulation of a relatively small area of brain, the researchers say. They also add to evidence that mood disorders are the result of dysfunction in brain circuits.

Picture of the Day



Iranian director Hossein Parsaei has staged a big-budget musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece "Les Misérables" in the Royal Hall of Espinas Palace Hotel in the Iranian capital Tehran. Courtesy: IRNA