

This Day in History

(December 9)

Today is Sunday; 18th of the Iranian month of Azar 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Rabi-as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and December 9, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1288 solar years ago, on this day in 730 AD, in the Battle of Marj as-Sabalan on the outskirts of Ardabil in northwestern Iran, the army of Hisham ibn Abdul-Malik, the 10th self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, was annihilated by Khazar Turkic nomads led by Barjik, the son of the Khaqan. The Omayyad commander, Jarrah Ibn Abdullah al-Hakami, was among the 20,000 Arab forces killed along with their Iranian allies including the Zoroastrian Dehqan of Azarbaijan, Mardan Shah. The Khazars then mercilessly plundered Ardabil and other towns and cities, carrying off immense loot as well as over 40,000 men, women and children as captives.

1270 solar years ago, on this day in 748 AD, Nasr Ibn Sayyar, the last Omayyad governor of Khorasan, who as an anti-Islamic Arab nationalist terrorized the people of northeastern Iran and Central Asia for decades, died at the age of 85 in Saveh (southwest of Tehran) while fleeing, after a string of defeats suffered by his Syrian-North Arabian army at the hands of the Arab-Iranian Muslim revolutionaries determined to overthrow the Omayyads and replace them with members of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) family. The uprising was hijacked by the Abbasids, who seized the caliphate and once again deprived the Ahl al-Bayt of their political rights. Nasr ibn Sayyar earned lasting damnation for killing the Prophet's venerable descendent, Yahya ibn Zaid - Imam Zain al-Abidin's (AS) grandson - whom he martyred in battle in Jowzajan (in today's Afghanistan) and sent the head to the Omayyad court in Damascus. Nasr's policy, like that of other Omayyad governors in Spain, France, the Caucasus, and Sindh, was to prevent the masses from becoming Muslims, since this would deprive the self-styled caliphs in Damascus of the revenues they reaped by levying heavy taxes on non-Muslims.

726 solar years ago, on this day in 1292 AD, the world-acclaimed Persian poet of Iran, Shaikh Moshleh od-Din Sa'di, passed away in his hometown Shiraz. He composed his two famous masterpieces, "*Bustan*" (the Orchard) and "*Golestan*" (Rose Garden). The poems in "*Bustan*" speak of such topics as justice, love, kindness, modesty, contentment, education, repentance, and prayers. The next year he completed "*Golestan*", which is in prose, and also contains his Arabic and Persian poems, in addition to moral and social anecdotes in 8 chapters.

565 lunar years ago, on this day in 875 AH, the Iranian poet, Mohammad ibn Hossam Khosefi, passed away. Born in the vicinity of the eastern Iranian city of Birjand, he led a simple life. His books include a Diwan of odes in praise of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). His famous book is "*Khavaran-Nameh*" on the heroic feats of Imam Ali (AS), the Prophet's 1st Infallible Heir.

410 solar years ago, on this day in 1608 AD, English poet and polemical pamphleteer, John Milton, was born in London. Among his important works are "*Paradise Lost*", and "*Paradise Regained*" which are epic poems.

374 lunar years ago, on this day in 1066 AH, Moghal prince, Aurangzeb, in violation of a peace treaty, treacherously invaded the Qotb-Shahi kingdom of Iranian origin of the Deccan (southern India) and occupied Haiderabad, forcing Abdullah Qotb Shah to seek refuge in the impregnable fortress of Golkandah. Moghal Emperor Shahjahan intervened to end the siege and withdraw forces from Haiderabad by imposing heavy terms which included giving one of the daughters of Abdullah Qotb Shah in marriage to Aurangzeb's son Sultan Muhammad, with territory and a crore of rupees as dowry. The Qotb-Shahis, who were strong allies of the Safavid Emperors of Iran, became virtual tributary of the Moghals. Prince Aurangzeb's attack was in revenge for his repeated defeats at the hands of Iranians a few years earlier at Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan.

276 solar years ago, on this day in 1742 AD, the Swedish chemist and one of the pioneers of modern chemistry, Carl Wilhelm Scheele, was born in Stockholm. After years of experiments he discovered gas chlorine, which is an important chemical element and has numerous applications in the industrial sector. He also discovered magnesium and glycerin. Scheele died in 1786.

260 solar years ago, on this day in 1758 AD, the 13-month long Madras War between Britain and France started in southern India, following the French attack on Fort St. George on the Bay of Bengal. The 3,000 French forces were heavily outnumbered by the 22,000-strong British-led troops of local sepoys (corruption of the Persian word "*sipahi*" for soldier). The surrender of the French in January 1761, paved the way for the rise of the British in India, where infighting among the various Muslim successor states of the Mughal Empire, enabled them to establish their rule as the paramount colonial power.

162 solar years ago, on this day in 1856 AD, the Iranian city of Bushehr on the Persian Gulf was seized by the invading British forces after long battles lasting several years with the local Iranian defenders. The British plan was to stop Iran from liberating the Khorasani city of Herat from joint Afghan-British occupation. The British, taking advantage of the weakness of the Qajarid dynasty, soon spread their control over all of southern Iran. This situation lasted till 1913, when Iranian resistance started and continued during World War I under the leadership of Raees Ali Delvari, forcing Britain to move its diplomatic, commercial, and military headquarters to the Persian Gulf island of Bahrain, which had been earlier seized from Iran.

118 lunar years ago, on this day 1322 AH, the Iranian religious scholar Mullah Ali bin Fathollah Nahavandi passed away in holy Najaf and was laid to rest in the sacred Wadi as-Salaam Cemetery. A student of the celebrated Ayatollah Shaikh Morteza Ansari, he authored the books "*Tashrih al-Osoul as-Sagheer*" and "*Muqaddamat-al-Wajeb*".

101 solar years ago, on this day in 1917 AD during World War I, the British forces, made up of Arab and Indian contingents under Field Marshal Edmund Allenby, defeated the Ottoman troops in Palestine, and occupied the Islamic holy city of Bayt al-Moqaddas, which houses the former qibla (or focal point of prayers) of Muslims.

78 solar years ago, on this day in 1940 AD, during World War II, Operation Compass was launched by British and Indian troops against Italian forces near Sidi Barrani on the borders of Egypt and Italian-occupied Libya. It was the first large Allied military operation of the Western Desert Campaign (1940-1943) and lasted till complete victory in February 1941, resulting in the capture of Cyrenaica till El Agheila on the Gulf of Sirte. A total of over 138,000 Italian and Libyan soldiers surrendered, along with hundreds of tanks, and more than 1,000 heavy artillery pieces and aircraft.

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1947 AD, in western Java up to 430 Indonesian Muslim men were rounded up and shot by Dutch colonial troops in the village of Rawagedeh. The Dutch called the incident a "police action" to quell an uprising. In 1995, the Dutch government admitted that summary executions had taken place in Rawagedeh (now known as Balongsari), but said prosecutions were no longer possible. In September, 2011, a court ordered the government to compensate the widows of Indonesian villagers, to apologize for the killings and to give each of the 10 plaintiffs \$27,000. The money was never properly distributed among the families of the victims.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1987 AD, the first Intefadha or Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people against the usurper entity, Israel, started in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Muslims were inspired by the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and were disillusioned by the nationalist and socialist parties like the PLO, which in collaboration with the US and Europe entered into the infamous Oslo Accord with Israel, in a vain bid to offset the Islamic movement.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, the UN, in a report, declared the Iraqi Ba'th minority regime as aggressor of the 8-year war-imposed on Iran on September 22, 1980 on the orders of the US. UN Secretary General, Ecuador's Javier Perez de Cuellar also emphasized in his report that based on UN Charter, and international rules and regulations, Saddam should accept responsibility for his unjustified aggression.

25 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, Source of Emulation, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, passed away.

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

Australia Festival Awards 4 Iran Films



A still from the film "Are you Volleyball?".

TEHRAN (IFILM) - The 3rd edition of Changing Face International Film Festival in Australia has dedicated 4 awards to Iran films.

"Are You Volleyball?!" by Mohammad Bakhshi won award for Best Cinematography in the Best Short Drama category of the event.

"The Fox" by Sadegh Javadi Nikjeh had also taken part in the Best Short Animation section of the festival and succeeded to grab 3 awards for Best Animation, Best Director and Best Sound Editing.

"The Fox" is about a young and lively fox that is caught by a hunter when experiencing its first

love. The hunter puts a bell around the fox's neck and returns it to the woods. The bell prevents the fox from hunting and living its normal life in the woods and it soon realizes that its only way to survive is to be tamed and go back to the hunter.

The animated piece is a winner of the World Festival of Animated Film in the Bulgarian city of Varna and also of the 7th Cebu Int'l Film Festival in the Philippines.

"Are You Volleyball?!" features a group of Arabic-speaking asylum seekers who try to make their way to the border of an English speaking country.

They get into a conflict with border guards every day up until a deaf-mute child becomes a catalyst for better communication between the two sides.

The short film has received

more than 60 awards in Iran and at international festivals in less than a year.

The film has so far won awards such as Best Film Prize at the Al-Nahj Film Festival in Iraq, Best Film and Best Screenplay award at the Short Film Competition section at the US Forum on Law Culture & Society, Best Film at the BCN Sports Film Festival in Spain, Best Editor award at the Bucharest ShortCut Cinefest in Romania, Best Short Film Award at the Unknown Film Festival in Russia, and Best Short Film Award at the Changing Face International Film Festival in Australia.

Changing Face International Film Festival in Australia runs the competition line on a monthly basis and the selected films of every month will vie at the annual competition of the event.

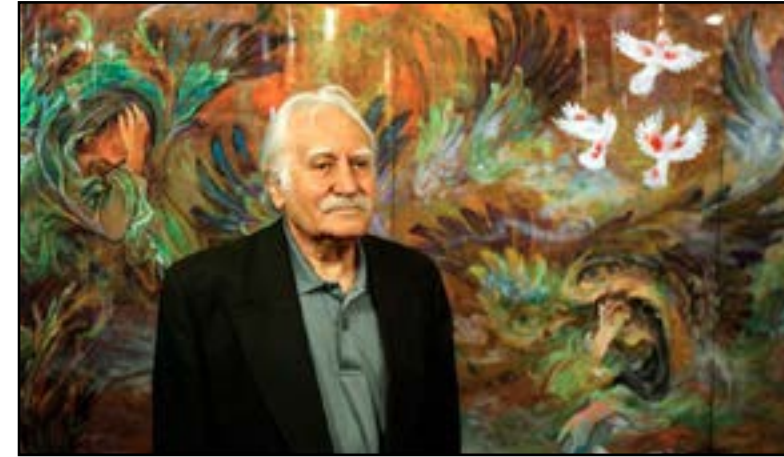
Farshchian University Promotes Islamic-Iranian Arts

TEHRAN (IFP) - A new university, named after legendary master of Persian painting and miniature Mahmoud Farshchian, has been opened in Iran with the main goal of protecting and globalizing traditional Islamic-Iranian arts.

Ten years ago, concerns about the future of Islamic and Iranian arts and the aesthetic identities of national arts in Iran prompted Farshchian - as one of the leading artists in Iran with high sensitivity to the survival of Iranian arts - to raise the idea of establishing the university to protect the country's artistic heritage.

He believed the university needed to be established in order to compensate for inefficient academic centres which have pushed the original Iranian arts to extinction.

"Unlike other universities, the new



Legendary master of Persian painting and miniature Mahmoud Farshchian.

academic centre is set to establish a new record by relying mainly on traditional and post-traditional methods," said Bahman Namvar Motlaq, the dean of Farshchian University, who has been picked up

by Farshchian as his representative to follow up the arrangements to launch the new university.

He went on to say that the university is aimed at training original, indigenous and wise

artists like Farshchian. "We want to train new masters to protect our aesthetic identities against distinction."

According to Namvar, the project to establish the university had been halted for 20 years due to bloated bureaucracy. "But fortunately, with the help of Azad University, we did it and the dream of Master Farshchian finally came true."

He also said the new centre, which is expected to preserve Iran's traditional arts, will admit students at the PhD level in the near future.

In the first years, the university will admit students only in three majors of miniature, calligraphy and pottery, he noted.

Born in 1930, Farshchian is an Iranian contemporary painter who has had a leading role in the development of traditional Iranian arts.

Iran Short Films Honored at Serbia Festival

TEHRAN(MNA) - Three Iranian short films, including "I You We 2" by Ali Erfan Farhadi and "A Gift for a Gloomy Day" by Behzad Khodaveisi have won awards at the 9th MikroFAF festival of short films in Serbia.

MikroFAF, according to the event's website, is the annual international festival of short films devoted to promotion and development of the independent and DIY film production. This competitive festival spotlights a different theme every year, and this year's festival was titled Caged Edition.

During the award ceremony held on 19th October in the Museum of Yugoslav Cinematheque, three Iranian filmmakers were picked out of 78 titles in competition to receive awards in various categories.

According to the festival, many of the winning titles dealt with the subjects of non-freedom and limitations, war or political cages, psychological slavery or artistic blocks.

The Jury gave the MIKROPOLIS AWARD for the best foreign do-it-yourself film to Ali Erfan Farhadi's film "I You We 2" for its "atypical directorial expression in an attempt to raise the awareness about the ecologically correct behavior. Auto-critical, funny and effective."

The MIKROPOLIS AWARD for the best independent film was given to Behzad Khodaveisi's film "A Gift for a Gloomy Day" for its "contemporaneous existentialist

story with an effective, unexpected and humorous twist, as well as the successful incorporation of the comical element of surprise into the dark state of the protagonist."

Besides the awards given by the festival Jury, this year's edition of MikroFAF included the unofficial awards by the Knjigioskop blog, a platform devoted to children's and

youth literature. Knjigioskop gave its awards for the best film made by a teenager to the animated film "The Look" by Iranian filmmaker Shayan Naghibi.

Picture of the Day



Southern Iranian Island of Kish is hosting the 2nd edition of international robotics competition "Robocup Asia-Pacific (RCAP)" from Dec. 5-10. Some 220 teams from 14 countries, namely Russia, Australia, Japan, China, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey, Afghanistan, and UAE are attending the event.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency