

## This Day in History

(December 10)

Today is Monday; 19<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Azar 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Islamic month of Rabi as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and December 10, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1144 lunar years ago**, on this day in 296 AH, Abdullah ibn Mu'taz was murdered at the age of 48 after a reign of a single day and night as caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. He was a son of Mu'taz, the 13th self-styled caliph, who during his brief 3-year reign – before being deposed, brutally beaten and murdered by the Turkic guards – martyred Imam Ali an-Naqi (AS), the 10th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Like the rest of the clan, Abdullah ibn Mu'taz was also notorious for his enmity towards the Prophet's blessed Ahl al-Bayt. He wrote an ode in praise of what he viewed as merits of the tyrannical and immoral Abbasids over the rest of the Bani Hashem. These superficial verses on the forged merits of the Abbasid usurpers were given a fitting answer in a brilliant piece of versified eulogy by the poet and scholar Ali ibn Mohammad at-Tannoukhi, who points to the God-endowed merits of the Ahl al-Bayt, whose virtues are praised in the holy Qur'an and Hadith.

**820 solar years ago**, on this day in 1198 AD, the famous Spanish Muslim philosopher and polymath, Mohammad Ibn Ahmad Ibn Rushd, known to Medieval Europe as "Averroes", passed away at the age of 72, while on a visit to Marakesh, from where his body was brought back to Spain and buried in his birthplace Cordoba. His well-known book in this field is "*Kitab al-Kulliyat fi'l-Tibb*", whose Latin translation known as "*Colliget*" aroused much interest in medieval Europe. Ibn Rushd's most important original philosophical work is "*Tahafut al-Tahafut*" (Incoherence of the Incoherence), which is a refutation of the Iranian Shafei theologian, Ghazali's "*Tahafut al-Falasefa*" (Incoherence of the Philosophers).

**508 solar years ago**, on this day in 1510 AD, Portuguese invaders, led by Afonso de Albuquerque and a fleet of pirates under command of the local mercenary Timmayya (Timoji), seized the port city of Goa on the western coast of India from the Bijapur Dynasty of the Deccan, founded by the Iranian adventurer from Saveh, Yusuf Adel Khan. Earlier Goa was part of the Bahmani Empire founded in 1347 by the general of Iranian stock, Ala od-Din Hassan Bahman Shah. The Portuguese carried out large scale massacres of both Muslims and Hindus in Goa and the Konkani coast, and forced the survivors to become Christians. Several Iranian Muslim families in Goa, especially ladies, were abducted and carried off to Portugal. For 450 years the Portuguese ruled Goa until its annexation by India in 1961.

**188 solar years ago**, on this day in 1830 AD, American poet, Emily Dickinson, was born in Amherst, Massachusetts. She led a rather secluded life. After studying at Amherst Academy and then for one year at the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, she lived with her family and never married. Although she wrote poetry constantly, she never seriously pursued publishing her work. Only about 10 poems were published in her lifetime, and those were submitted for publication without her permission. After her death in 1886, more than 1,700 of her poems, which she had bound together in bundles, were discovered and published.

**141 solar years ago**, on this day in 1877 AD, after a 5-month siege and heroic defence of the city of Plaven, in what is now northern Bulgaria, by the Ottoman forces during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, the greatly outnumbered Muslim garrison of 25,000 surrendered to the 100,000 strong joint Russian and Romanian force. As a result, Bulgharistan, which for almost five centuries was an Ottoman vilayat, was declared as an independent princely state in March 1878 by the Russians. The Bulgars are an ethnic Turkic people of the Eurasian steppes who were Christianized.

**122 solar years ago**, on this day in 1896 AD, Swedish chemist, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, died at the age of 63. Following years of research and experiments, in 1867 he invented dynamite for quarrying minerals and building roads in mountainous terrains. He was dismayed when his invention was diverted by European regimes for sabotage and killing of fellow humans. For this reason, he initiated the awarding of a prize every year for a person who strives most for global peace and security. After him the Trust decided to give Nobel Prize every year in the field of physics, chemistry, medicine, and literature as well, in addition to peace.

**117 solar years ago**, on this day in 1901 AD, the Nobel Prize Awards were distributed for the first time in Stockholm, Sweden, in accordance with the will of inventor Alfred Nobel. The day was the 5th anniversary of Nobel's death.

**87 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1353 AH, the prominent scholar, Ayatollah Seyyed Musa Zarabadi Qazvini, passed away at the age of 59. Born in Qazvin, after higher religious studies in Tehran, he returned to his hometown where he led the people's movement against despotism and strongly criticized the deviation of the Constitutional Movement from its goals. He authored several books including "*Risala-e E'yaqadaat*".

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1948 AD, the International Human Rights Declaration was ratified by the UN General Assembly. It is made up of an introduction and thirty articles, with Article 1 referring to the equality of all mankind. The realities, however, are different. The big powers have a selective and dualistic approach to human rights, which are practically used as tools by the West to impose political and economic pressures on independent countries.

**65 solar years ago**, on this day in 1953 AD, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Indian-born Sunni Muslim scholar and translator of the holy Qur'an into English, passed away in London, and was buried at the Muslim cemetery at Brookwood, Surrey, near Woking. His best-known work is "*The Holy Qur'an: Text, Translation and Commentary*", published in 1938 in Lahore.

**55 solar years ago**, on this day in 1963 AD, Zanzibar gained independence from Britain as a constitutional monarchy under Sultan Jamshid bin Abdullah. Consisting of a number of islands off the east coast of Africa, Zanzibar, a series of parliamentary elections resulted in the Arab-Omani minority retaining the hold on power it had inherited from Zanzibar's former existence as an overseas territory of the Sultanate of Oman. Frustrated by under-representation in Parliament despite winning 54% of the vote in the 1963 election, the Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) allied itself with the left-wing Umma Party, and early on the morning of 12 January 1964 mobilised around 600-800 revolutionaries. Having overrun the island state's police force and appropriated their weaponry, the insurgents proceeded to Zanzibar Town where they overthrew the Sultan and his government. Reprisals against Arab and South Asian civilians on the island followed; the resulting death toll is disputed, with estimates ranging from several hundred to 20,000. Moderate ASP leader Obeid Karume became the new president and head of state, and positions of power were granted to Umma party members. In April the same year, the Afro-Shirazi Party joined Zanzibar with Tanganyika to form the Federal Republic of Tanzania. It is worth recalling that a thousand years ago, Islam had been brought to east Africa by Iranians from Shiraz, whose descendants are still found in Zanzibar, Tanzania, and Kenya.

**54 solar years ago**, on this day in 1964 AD, the exegete of the holy Qur'an, Seyyed Hussain Ithna Ash'ari E'temadi, passed away in his hometown Rayy, south of Tehran, at the age of 66 and was buried in the mausoleum of Seyyed Abdul-Azim al-Hassani. An expert in literature, he completed his religious studies in holy Qom, and on return to Rayy, led the daily ritual prayers in the mausoleum of Seyyed Abdul-Azim. He breathed his last due to a heart attack while preaching from the pulpit. His famous work is the exegesis of the holy Qur'an titled "*Tafsir Ithna Ash'ari*".

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1978 AD, the Nobel Peace Prize was scandalized in violation of the will of Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, by awarding it jointly to notorious terrorist Menachem Begin (premier of the illegal Zionist entity), and Egyptian president Anwar Saadat, for his treason against the Palestinian cause by signing the disgraceful Camp David Accord under US auspices.

**34 solar years ago**, on this day in 1984 AD, by the order of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), the High Council of Cultural Revolution was formed, made up of the heads of three branches of the government (Executive, Legislature, Judiciary), prominent ulama and cultural figures for giving direction to the country's higher educational system and cultural centres.

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2012 AD, Iran announced that it has decoded all of the data from a RQ-170 Sentinel craft, an advanced CIA spy drone captured in eastern Iran earlier this month.

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

# Majidi Receives Lifetime Achievement Award in India



Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi with the Lifetime Achievement award presented by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Noted Iranian director Majid Majidi gains lifetime achievement award at the 23rd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK).

Majidi was honored at the opening ceremony of the film event on Friday.

The director whose latest flick "Beyond the Clouds" was produced in India has made a number of acclaimed movies such as "Muhammad, the Messenger of God", "Children of Heaven" and "The Color of Paradise".

He served as the president of the jury of the official competition of the festival.

The 23rd edition of the IFFK runs December 13.

Born in 1959 and internationally appreciated film producer, director and screenwriter, Majidi started acting in amateur theater groups when he was 14.

He graduated from the Art University in Dramatic Arts and then joined the Islamic Art and Idea Center of Islamic Development Organization.

He starred in some movies such as "Justification", "Two Sightless Eyes" and "Boycott" in the 1980s.

After appearing in his last movie in 1989, Majidi quit acting and directed a few short films.

His first feature film 'Badook' in 1991 won him a Crystal Simorgh at the Fajr International Film Festival.

Among Majidi's international awards Grand Prix des Amériques and Prize of the Ecumenical Jury - Special Mention from Montréal World Film Festival, The Best Director Award and the Best Screenplay Award from Gijón International Film Festival, Films from the South Award from Oslo Films Festival, and Douglas Sirk Award from Hamburg Film Festival for "Baran" can be mentioned.

He has also directed movie "Muhammad: The Messenger of God" in 2015 "and "Beyond the Clouds" in 2017 which enjoy domestic and international cast and crew.

## Iran Climbs 20 Steps in Development of E-Government

TEHRAN(MNA) – Dean of Management Faculty of University of Tehran Ahmad Sahraei said that Iran has moved up 20 steps in the global ranking of the development of electronic government, standing in the 130th place.

Development of electronic government is one of the main strategies of fighting corruption and in this regard, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the responsible body for fighting

corruption," he added.

"Open Data" is one of the main strategies of dealing with corruption, he said, adding, corruption cannot be uprooted in absence of the electronic government.

In "open data", information in various areas is easily accessible to the public, and nothing is kept a secret, he added.

Accordingly, data such as government expenditure, government budget, results of

elections, etc. will be made available to the public.

Sahraei further maintained that the Iranian government has moved towards the open data in the past years and has made considerable progress in this area.

## Afghan Writer Honored at Al-e Ahmad Literary Award

TEHRAN (IBNA)- The juries of Iranian Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award honored Afghan writer Ahmad Modaghegh for his novel 'Russian Songs' today.

According to IBNA correspondent, the Secretariat of the 11th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award took the decision earlier, taking consideration of the potentials of non-Iranian personal writers.

The executive secretary of the award Mahdi Ghazli: "We are going to strengthen the cultural relations between Persian language people in different countries and we praised Modaghegh whose book has been published by the Iranian publisher, Shahrestan-e Adab."

"Last year we also established a special section which reviewed a decade of fiction literature in Tajikistan, although in the last day



of the event, Tajik government did not agree with the participation of Tajik writers at the award ceremony and we could not host them," he added.

The 11th Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award wrapped up today in the Hall of Pen of Iran's National Library with naming the bests of the event.

## 'Kupal' Competes at Anchorage Film Festival



A still from "Kupal".

TEHRAN(MNA) – Iranian feature "Kupal" directed by Kazem Mollaie has made it into the screening program of 18th Anchorage International Film Festival in Alaska.

"Kupal" narrates the story of a hunter and taxidermist who goes through an unfortunate incident by trapping himself in his basement with little food and no water, having to survive by using creative and desperate means. The storyline of Kupal and the tagline is, 'you can't be alone in this world!'

The movie is part of the screening program of 18th edition of Anchorage International Film Festival, underway in Alaska's largest city from Nov. 30 to Dec. 9.

The Anchorage International Film Festival, founded in 2001, is committed to independent filmmaking. AIFF's mission, according to the event's website, is to bring "filmmakers from all parts of the country and world to Alaska...to connect with people they might not otherwise meet, and engage audiences in workshops, screenings, and plenty of celebratory parties."

"Kupal" has recently won the Special Jury Prize at the 7th edition of Cebu International Film Festival in the Philippines, and the best cinematography award at 4th BangkokThai International Film Festival (BANGIFF).

## Picture of the Day



Nobar Bath is another glorious architectural masterpiece of Qajar time, designed and constructed by Balakaazem, a local traditional architect in 1875. The cozy bath was also named "Hamam-e-Vazir" meaning "the minister's bath".

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency