

This Day in History

(April 16)

Today is Tuesday; 27th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 10th of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1440 lunar hijri; and April 16, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

3476 solar years ago, on this day in 1457 BC the Battle of Megiddo between Pharaoh Thutmose III of Egypt and a large Canaanite coalition under the King of Kadesh, occurred in Palestine. It is believed to be the first battle recorded in relative detail, and included the first recorded use of the composite bow and the first body count.

2484 solar years ago, on this day in 465 BC, Ardashir I, or Artaxerxes I Longimanus as the Greeks called him, formally declared Takht-e Jamshid as capital of the Achaemenian Empire.

1428 lunar years ago, on this day in 12 AH, the Arab Muslim army under command of Qa'qa Ibn Amr at-Tamimi defeated a combined force of Iranians and Christian Arabs led by the Sassanid general, Rouzbeh, in the Battle of al-Hussaid in Iraq that resulted in many Arabs and Iranians of Iraq embracing the truth of Islam.

1018 lunar years ago, on this day in 422 AH, Arabic poet Abdullah Abdul-Baqi, passed away in Baghdad. He was a scholar as well, and an expert in Hadith and Islamic sciences.

686 lunar years ago, on this day in 754 AH, renowned Islamic scholar Seyyed Amid od-Din Abu'l-Fawaris ibn Mohammad ibn Ali al-A'arj, passed away. He was the son of the nephew of the celebrated scholar Allamah Hilli, and an expert in jurisprudence, theology, exegesis of the holy Qur'an, Hadith, and Arabic literature. He wrote several books on various Islamic sciences, including "Sharh Tahzib al-Osoul" and "Kanz al-Fawa'ed".

641 solar years ago, on this day in 1378 AD, Mujahid Shah, the 3rd ruler of the Bahmani Sultanate of the Deccan (southern India) was assassinated at the age of 22 in his capital Gulbarga after a rule of only three years, by his jealous uncle, Daud Shah, who in turn was killed a month later on the orders of his niece Rouh Parwar Agha (sister of the deceased Mujahid Shah) and replaced by her younger brother, Mohammad Shah II. The court language of the Bahmanis, who traced their origin to the pre-Islamic Iranian hero Bahman, was Persian, and they promoted Iranian culture, art and architecture.

340 lunar years ago, on this day in 1100 AH, Tartar Muslim commander of Crimea, Spem Giray, who was an ally of the Ottoman Empire, defeated a huge Russian army of 300,000 soldiers in what is now Ukraine. The Tartars, who for several centuries were a major power in the northern Black Sea region, were later conquered by the Russians, brutally suppressed and deported to other lands.

287 solar years ago, on this day in 1732 AD, Shah Tahmasp II, the 10th and the last ruler of the Safavid Empire of Iran, was deposed and replaced by his infant son, Abbas III, by his powerful general, Nader Quli Khan Afshar, who four years later would dethrone the boy and crown himself Nader Shah.

175 solar years ago, on this day in 1844 AD, the French author and poet, Anatole France, was born in Paris. He has left behind numerous works. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1914 and died in 1924.

168 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, Marie Tussaud, French-English sculptor, who founded the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in London, died. Today the Madame Tussaud Wax Museum is a major tourist attraction of London.

160 solar years ago, on this day in 1859 AD, French writer Alexis de Tocqueville died in Cannes at the age of 54. His collected writings filled 17 volumes and included "Democracy in America" and "The Old Regime and the French Revolution".

135 lunar years ago, on this day in 1305 AH, literary scholar Seyyed Ismail ibn Radhi ibn Ismail al-Hussaini ash-Shirazi, passed away in Iraq.

130 solar years ago, on this day in 1889 AD, British comedian and filmmaker, Charles Spencer Chaplin, known as Charlie Chaplin, was born in London. His most famous films include "The Gold Rush"; "City Lights"; and "The Great Dictator". The last named was his first sound film comedy on German Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler.

111 lunar years ago, on this day in 1329 AH, Azarbaijani philosopher and renowned poet of the Caucasus region, Mirza Ali Akbar Zain ol-Abedin Taherzadeh, known by his penname Saber, was born in the city of Shervan in what is now the Republic of Azerbaijan, which before the Russian occupation in the first half of 19th century was an integral part of Iran. Many of Saber's poems are in admiration of the Prophet and the Infallible Imams.

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, terrorist outfits set up by the illegal Zionist migrants to Palestine, martyred 90 Palestinians and injured hundreds of others, while the British forces were evacuating this Muslim land by mischievously giving its control to the Zionists to set up the illegal entity called Israel. The result of these coordinated measures by the British and Zionists against Palestinians was the mass murder of a large number of Muslims and their homelessness that culminated in the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland and the illegitimate birth of Israel on May 14, 1948.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, Palestinian activist Abu Jihad Khalil al-Wazir, one of the founders of the Fatah Movement, was murdered by Israeli assassins in Tunisia at the age of 53. They left the chief strategist of the Palestinian Liberation Organization with 170 bullets in his body. When Palestinians reacted angrily in their usurped homeland, at least 14 were shot and killed by Israeli troops in Gaza and West Bank. In 2012 Israel admitted it killed Abu Jihad.

22 solar years ago, on this day in 1997 AD, the explosion of a gas capsule led to a massive fire in Mena, 10 km from the holy city of Mecca, resulting in the death of 343 Hajj pilgrims and injury to 1290 others. Some 70,000 tents were burnt. This incident was the second major fire in Mena after the fire of December 1975 which killed thousands of Hajj pilgrims and scorched several thousand others. Such deadly incidents have led to setting up of fire-proof tents in Mena.

18 solar years ago, on this day in 2001 AD, India and Bangladesh began a 5-day border conflict, which failed to resolve the disputes about their unmarked international border.

17 solar years ago, on this day in 2002 AD, Dutch government resigned in response to a damning report on the 1995 slaying of over 7,000 Bosnian Muslims by Serbs in Srebrenica, who were under the ostensible protection of Dutch troops.

15 solar years ago, on this day in 2004 AD, senior Iranian diplomat, Khalil Na'eemi, was martyred by terrorists in Baghdad, Iraq. He had served with distinction in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the foreign ministry in Iran, as a staunch follower of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA).

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, Iranian officials said experts have determined the US and the illegal Zionist entity were behind a mysterious computer worm known as Stuxnet intended to harm Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime of Bahrain detained human rights lawyer Mohammed at-Tajer, and at least two doctors as part of a crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in the Persian Gulf island state, which is in the throes of a popular uprising to end dictatorial rule. Tareq al-Fursani, a gold medalist in several Asian championships, was also arrested this day at his home in a village east of the capital Manama.

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

Prizes Go to Iranian Titles at India's Shahu Film Festival



TEHRAN (MNA) - Two Iranian short films, "Frouzan" by Mirabbas Kosravinezhad and "Oblivion" by Fatemeh Mohammadi, have won awards at the 2nd Shahu International Film Festival in India. Directed by Mirabbas Kosravinezhad,

"Oblivion" won the Special Jury Award at the second edition of Shahu International Film Festival in India. Another Iranian short, "Oblivion" directed by Fatemeh Mohammadi, won the Second Best Film award at the Indian festival.

"Foruzan" narrates the story of a young woman whose husband has recently passed away. She lives with her two young children in a village, and protects a herd of sheep against the attack of thieves at night.

"Oblivion" narrates the story of a woman who tries everything she can to make her husband's life worth living despite Alzheimer's.

The 2nd Shahu International Film Festival was held from 5th to 8th April 2019 in Pune, India.

Iran's 'Are You Volleyball?!' Wins 100 Awards

TEHRAN (IFILM) - Directed by Mohammad Bakhshi, "Are You Volleyball?!" has won the Best Film Award and People's Choice Award of the Ascona Film Festival in Switzerland.

"Are You Volleyball?!" has been presented in 300 international festivals and has so far succeeded to win 100 awards. Harvesting all that awards, Mohammad Bakhshi's work now is the most honored short film in the history of Iranian cinema.

"Are You Volleyball?!" grabbed the Best Movie and Best Screenplay awards of the U.S.



Law and Society Association. The short also was screened at the Nelson Mandela Festival for the 100th birthday of Mandela.

International Committee of the Red Cross screened the short for presidents and officials of different countries on the occasion of the anniversary of Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The film features a group of Arabic-speaking asylum seekers who try to make their way to the border in 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.

Researchers Mass Produce DNA, RNA Extraction Kits

TEHRAN (IFP) - A group of Iranian scientists has managed to produce DNA and RNA extraction kits to make the country self-sufficient in making such kits.

Researchers at Topaz Gene knowledge-based company worked on the project considering the high cost of importing DNA and RNA extraction kits and biological enzymes, materials and devices such as buffer solutions for genetic biotechnology laboratories.

The quality of these products is totally based on high-quality American kits.

The products are widely used in genetic laboratories for livestock and agriculture, biotechnology, and molecular biology, and are the most essential and most used materials in these laboratories.

Iranian scientists have in recent years made great progress in molecular genetics, especially in extraction of DNA, minimizing the time of costly laboratory tests and paving the way for further diagnoses.

Over the recent years, biotechnology has witnessed a tremendous progress in a short span of time. Diagnosing various genetic diseases even before birth, determining kinship relations and identifying criminals through genetic tests are among the main developments achieved so far. But the list is much longer.

There are many knowledge-based companies in Iran involved in molecular genetics, biotechnology and other areas related to life sciences. At present, scientists can precisely diagnose pathogenic mutation through modern knowledge of biotechnology and identify various causes of genetic diseases. The new knowledge serves as a good opportunity to diagnose vectors or genetic diseases before birth.

Some of the main developments in this area include identifying defective genes, diagnosing diseases

before birth, various types of genetic diseases, pregnancy syndrome, males' sterility and determining relativity connections through genetic sciences.

Today, determining the racial authenticity of animals like horses is also deemed significant. At present, the process is carried out through scientific methods.

Blood preservation cards which provide users with a chance to keep their blood and DNA for a long time, various types of cards for preserving saliva and amniotic fluid are the main products in this area.



Picture of the Day



A group of movie stars and filmmakers recently gathered in a movie theatre in central Tehran to raise funds for the victims of the recent floods across the country, joining other Iranians from all walks of life who have donated over \$7.5 million to the Iranian Red Crescent Society so far.

Courtesy: ILNA