

## This Day in History

### This Day in History (January 19)

Today is Sunday; 29<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Dey 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 23<sup>rd</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and January 19, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**497 solar years ago**, on this day in 1523 AD, in Switzerland, Huldrych Zwingli published his 67 Articles, the first manifesto of the Zurich Reformation which attacked the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church.

**422 solar years ago**, on this day in 1597 AD, Rajput rebel, Pratap Singh, who along with Afghan mercenaries fought several unsuccessful battles against Mughal Emperor Mohammad Jalal od-Din Akbar of Hindustan (northern subcontinent), died of injuries at the age of 57 in his principality of Mewar. He was succeeded by his son, Amar Singh who after initial rebellion, found it prudent to submit to the authority of the next emperor, Mohammad Noor od-Din Jahangir, and was appointed governor of Mewar.

**391 solar years ago**, on this day in 1629 AD, Shah Abbas I, regarded as the greatest emperor of the Safavid dynasty of Iran, passed away at the age of 58.

**284 solar years ago**, on this day in 1736 AD, the English inventor and engineer, James Watt, was born. He discovered steam power, which led to a revolution in industry, especially in the land and sea transportation network. Steam ships and locomotives were the result of his discoveries.

**222 solar years ago**, on this day in 1798 AD, French philosopher, economist and mathematician, Auguste Comte, was born in Montpellier. Considered Founder of modern Sociology, he also presented significant views in mathematics, philosophy, physics, and astronomy. In the last years of his life he founded a new school of thought known as "Religion of Humanity". He wrote several books including "Philosophical Treatise on Popular Astronomy". He died in 1857 at the age of 65.

**211 solar years ago**, on this day in 1809 AD, American writer, editor, and literary critic, Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston. He is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism in the United States and American literature as a whole, and he was one of the country's earliest practitioners of the short story. Poe is generally considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre and is further credited with contributing to the emerging genre of science fiction. He was the first well-known US writer to try to earn a living through writing alone. He died in 1849.

**134 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1307 AH, the Islamic scholar of Northern India, Seyyed Mohammad Ibrahim, titled "Seyyed ul-Ulema" passed away. To him goes the credit of persuading the British occupiers of Lucknow to vacate the grand Asefi Mosque, the Alamgir Mosque and the magnificent Asefi Imambara (Hussainiyya), which they defiled for 27 years, using it as a gunpowder storage house, following their forcing into exile of the last King of Awadh, Wajed Ali Shah of the Naishapuri Dynasty founded by the Iranian adventurer, Seyyed Mohammad Amin Musavi entitled Sa'adat Khan Burhan ol-Mulk. After return of these religious structures to the Shi'ite Muslims Seyyed ul-Ulema revived the congregational prayers at the two mosques and the mourning ceremonies for the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS) at the Hussainiyya. Soon the Friday and Eid Prayers were revived at the Asefi Mosque. Over a century earlier, it was Seyyed ul-Ulema's famous ancestor, Seyyed Dildar Ali Naqavi Naserabadi, who had led the first exclusive public congregational prayers of Shi'ite Muslims in Lucknow on 13th Rajab 1200 AH, on the birth anniversary of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), followed by establishment of the weekly Friday prayers.

**74 solar years ago**, on this day in 1946 AD, the first ever complaint heard by the newly formed United Nations Security Council was made by Iran and directed against the Soviet Union. Iran officially complained the Soviet interference in its internal affairs and the refusal of Moscow to withdraw Soviet occupation troops from Iranian territory. The very first session of the UN had begun just days earlier, on January 10, 1946, in London. The issue, however, was resolved without UN intervention, when the Soviet Union pulled out its troops from Iran resulting in the collapse of the so-called communist republics, Moscow had set up in Azarbaijan and Kurdistan.

**41 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, the Iranian people through their trust in God and their solidarity staged a huge demonstration against the remnants of the Shah's despotic regime. The protesters demanded the ouster of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiyar and establishment of the Islamic system of government. On this day, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), in his message to the Iranian nation from exile, said: "Insha Allah (God-Willing), I will soon join you, so that with your courageous efforts we would resolve problems, and through the unity of all strata of the nation, we would make every effort in the path toward independence and freedom of Iran."

**41 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1400 AH, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer as-Sadr, and his venerable sister, Amena Haidar, known popularly as Bint al-Hoda, after days of torture in prison were martyred by Saddam, the tyrannical ruler of the Ba'th minority regime of Baghdad. Ayatollah Sadr was a brilliant scholar and studied under such immortal ulema as Grand Ayatollah Mohsin al-Hakeem and Grand Ayatollah Abu'l-Qassem Khoie. At a young age he reached the status of Ijtihad – or independent reasoning based on Holy Qur'an and Prophet's Hadith. His lectures at the Najaf Seminary, during which he used to critically evaluate the western and eastern materialistic schools of thought, were widely attended by youths and academicians. He wrote outstanding works on Islamic economic and philosophy titled "Iqtisadona" (Our Economics) and "Falsafatona" (Our Philosophy). The awareness which he instilled in the Iraqi people, especially political consciousness, greatly alarmed the oppressive Ba'thist regime, in view of his attachment to the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Following victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the jubilation of the Iraqi people for repeating this experience in Iraq, Ayatollah Sadr and his equally learned and socially active sister, were imprisoned, tortured and brutally martyred by Saddam. Grand Ayatollah Baqer as-Sadr authored many valuable books. His religious-political legacy is alive today, since many of the statesmen in the Iraq are either his students or inspired by his thoughts.

**32 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, renowned Iranian musician and physicist Mahdi Barkeshli, passed away at the age of 75 in his hometown Tehran. He recorded some songs in various modes and analyzed them. From the results he concluded that the whole tone and semi tone intervals in Persian music are stable and they are the same Pythagorean intervals. On the basis of his expertise as a physicist, he wrote several articles on music in Persian, French and English. Barkeshli also translated into Persian from Arabic Farabi's famous book "Kitab al-Mosiqi al-Kabeer", and wrote the valuable work "Development of Musical Instruments in Iran".

**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, Palestinian activist of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, was assassinated in Dubai by agents of the illegal Zionist entity, Israel, who had entered the UAE on fake western passports.

**10 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1430 AH, the great Gnostic Grand Ayatollah Shaikh Mohammad Taqi Bahjat passed away in holy Qom at the age of 96 and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Hazrat Fatema Ma'souma (SA). Born in Foumen in Gilan Province, after preliminary studies in his hometown he left for the holy city of Karbala in Iraq at the age of 14 for higher studies. Four years later he moved to holy Najaf, where he attended the classes of prominent ulema, including Ayatollah Murtaza Taleqani, Seyyed Abu'l-Hassan Isfahani, Mirza Mohammad Hussain Naeni, and Seyyed Ali Qadhi Tabatabaei. Ayatollah Bahjat paid special attention to piety, self-cultivation and moral perfection. After 15 years of study in Iraq during which he mastered several branches of Islamic sciences including the philosophy of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, he returned to Iran and settled in holy Qom, where he attended the classes of Grand Ayatollah Hujjat Kuhkamrei and Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Boroujerdi. On attaining Ijtihad, he started teaching theology and jurisprudence for almost 50 years at his house. He composed poems of praise and eulogy of the Infallible Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), especially the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS). He has left behind a large number of compilations, including: "Jama'e al-Masa'el", and "Zakhrat-al-Ebaad".

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

# Iranian Academic Centers Top-Notch Globally



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences.

TEHRAN (FNA) – As many as 65 academic centers, including 22 medical science universities, are among the world's top ones, a senior Iranian official announced.

"The results were attained based on different indices, including citations," Deputy Health Minister for Research and Technology Reza Malekzadeh said on Friday.

He, meantime, said that 354 Iranian researchers are among the world's top one percent and 90 of them are conducting research in the field of medical sciences.

Malekzadeh lauded Iran's scientific progress in 2019 in terms of the number of articles and citations, and said that the country has advanced one position in terms of the number of articles and stood at 15th place while it ranked 14th in terms of citations.

Iran holds a medical research festival every year. The 25th Razi Medical Research Festival has been able to support 600 elites and distinguished researchers as the selected researchers over the past 25 years.

## Animation Dedicates Revenue to Flood-Hit Iranians

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- 'Benjamin' animation has dedicated sales revenue to flood-hit regions in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

The crew of the successful animation has decided to dedicate the income of one day to the people who are challenging flood.

'Benjamin's clumsy yet sweet friend, Asher, screws up. This leads to Benjamin's mother being captured by the king's soldiers. Benjamin decides to embark on a hazardous journey to save his mother. This makes the beginning of Asher and



Benjamin's adventure," reads as the plot summary of 'Benjamin'.

Bahman Sabz Cultural Center, which previously premiered award-winning and widely-respected animations 'The Elephant King' and 'Princess of Rome', has the broadcast rights agreement of 'Benjamin'.

It is also worth mentioning that 'Benjamin' is the recipient of the best animated creation award from the 32nd edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth Awards in Iran.

## Finnish-Iranian Animation Hit Reviewed

TEHRAN (IFILM) --- Variety entertainment website has published an exclusive review on Finnish-Iranian 'Any Day Now' starring Shahab Hosseini.

In talk with Variety, the director, Hamy Ramezan, has said that his Finland-based movie "paints a picture of a family that unfair and faceless forces fail to crush," adding that, "The family's journey continues. Their dignity cannot be deprived."

According to Ramezan, 'Any Day Now' is an attempt "to remind the audience that refugee is not an identity."

Co-written by Ramezan and Antti Rautava, the realistic drama is inspired by the director's own experience as a refugee who fled the Iran-Iraq conflict with his family and landed in Finland in 1990.

"The 13-year-old Ramin Mehdipour, of Iranian origin, is enjoying a perfect summer in a small Finnish town. A few weeks before the new school year, his family gets the news that the Finnish Immigration Service has turned down their application for asylum. While preparing for an appeal, the 13-year-old Ramin Mehdipours get on with their lives, fueled by their exceptionally positive outlook and attitude," reads as a synopsis of the flick.

The father of the family is portrayed by Iranian star Shahab Hosseini who is the winner of the Silver Bear for Best Actor for 'A Separation' and the Best Actor Award in 2016 Cannes Film Festival for his role in 'The Salesman'.

Rising talent Shabnam Ghorbani plays the mother and Finnish actress Laura Birn is Ramin's teacher.

Hamy Ramezan's debut feature 'Any Day Now' has already kicked out the ring, winning the Best Project Award at the Helsinki's Finnish Film Affair.

'Any Day Now' is also slated to be delivered to Cannes in May.

## Internet Use Reduces Study Skills in University Students

ROME (Dispatches) -- Research conducted at Swansea University and the University of Milan has shown that students who use digital technology excessively are less motivated to engage with their studies, and are more anxious about tests.

Two hundred and eighty-five university students, enrolled on a range of health-related degree courses, participated in the study. They were assessed for their use of digital technology, their study skills and motivation, anxiety, and loneliness. The study found a negative relationship between internet addiction and motivation to study. Students reporting more internet addiction also found it harder to organize their



learning productively, and were more anxious about their upcoming tests. The study also found that internet addiction was associated with loneliness, and that this loneliness made study harder.

Professor Phil Reed of Swansea

University said: "These results suggest that students with high levels of internet addiction may be particularly at risk from lower motivations to study, and, hence, lower actual academic performance."

## Picture of the Day



The frozen Ganjnameh Waterfall, in the Iranian province of Hamedan, has attracted groups of ice-climbers from across the country who are enjoying the dangerous beauty of the ice walls in winter. (Courtesy of Mehr News Agency)