

# This Day in History

(February 2)

Today is Sunday; 13<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 7<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Sani 1441 lunar hijri; and February 2, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1155 solar years ago**, on this day in 865 AD, The Battle of Morcuera in Spain saw the Muslims led by Muhammad I, the Emir of Cordoba, defeat the Christian forces of Castile and Asturias under Rodrigo of Castile. The historian Ahmad Ibn Mohammad Ibn al-Edhari has given a detailed account of the battle in "*al-Bayan al-Mughrib fi Akhbar Mulouk al-Andalus wa'l-Maghreb*" (or 'Amazing Story of the History of the Kings of Spain and Western North Africa'). This book is regarded by modern researchers as containing valuable information not found elsewhere, including excerpts from older works now lost, and has been translated into European languages.

**916 lunar years ago**, on this day in 525 AH, the Iranian mystic, jurist, and Persian poet, Abdullah bin Mohammad Mayaneji, known popularly as "Ain ul-Qozzat Hamedani", was hanged in the western Iranian city of Hamedan at the relatively young age of 33. His important works are "*Tamhidaat*" (Preludes) and "*Zubdat al-Haqaeq fi Kashf al-Khalaeq*" (Essence of Truth).

**812 solar years ago**, on this day in 1208 AD, notorious anti-Muslim King James I of Aragon was born. He occupied the prosperous Spanish Muslim Ta'efa of Valencia (Arabic Balansiya), through treachery, granting asylum to its deposed ruler, the apostate Zayd Abu Zayd, who adopted the Christian name Vicente Bellvis, married a Christian woman, and betrayed the Muslims. The Siege of Burriana in 1233 and the Battle of the Puig in 1237 launched by James were resisted by Zayyan ibn Mardanih of Valencia, who was overpowered in 1238, thereby ending over five centuries of glorious Muslim rule over this region on Spain's eastern coast. James next attacked and occupied the Muslim-ruled Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean, exterminating the local Spanish Muslim population and settling Christian Catalans in their place.

**751 lunar years ago**, on this day in 690 AH, the 8<sup>th</sup> Mamluk Sultan of Egypt, al-Ashraf Khalil ibn al-Mansour Qalawoon, succeeded in expelling remnants of the European Crusader invaders from Palestine by ending their last stronghold in Akka – or Acre as it is also called – when the Christians broke the truce to indiscriminately slaughter Muslims.

**562 solar years ago**, on this day in 1448 AD, the hadith scholar, poet, and historian, Shahab od-Din Ahmad ibn Ali Ibn Hajar Asqalani, passed away at the age of 76 in his hometown Cairo, and his funeral was attended by an estimated 50,000 people including the Mamluk Sultan. He had memorized the Holy Qur'an at the age of ten and thereafter traveled to different lands to acquire different sciences. A prolific writer, he compiled some 150 books and treatises on various topics including the God-given merits of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny).

**526 solar years ago**, on this day in 1494 AD, Italian navigator Christopher Columbus, who was commissioned by Christian Spain to explore the Atlantic Ocean and with the help of Spanish Muslim seafarers reached the Caribbean islands near the Americas, attacked the peaceful natives, took many of them captives and enslaved them, thus starting the sordid practice of slavery in the New World, where soon hundreds of thousands of black-skinned Africans were forcibly brought to work as slaves.

**484 solar years ago**, on this day in 1536 AD, the Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded on the western shore of the estuary of Río de la Plata, by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain, who killed and drove away the Querandies tribal people from their lands, despite the fact that they had provided the Spanish invaders with food and provisions.

**172 solar years ago**, on this day in 1848 AD, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was imposed on Mexico by the expansionist US, thereby ending the war and forcing it to cede a huge portion of what is today the American West and Southwest, including California and New Mexico.

**138 solar years ago**, on this day in 1882 AD, Irish novelist and poet, James Augustine Aloysius Joyce, was born in the Dublin suburb of Rathgar. He is best known for "*Ulysses*", which he wrote in 1922 – a landmark work in which the episodes of the ancient Greek historian Homer's "*Odyssey*" are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles. Other well-known works are the short-story collection "*Dubliners*" and the novels "*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*" and "*Finnegans Wake*".

**115 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1325 AH, the Iranian religious scholar Mirza Yahya bin Mirza Mohammad Shafee' Isfahani passed away at the age of 75. He was a student of the famous Ayatollah Sheikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli. He wrote a large number of books, including "Tafzil al-A'imma ala'l-Malaeka" on the superiority of the Infallible Imams of the household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) over the angels and the other prophets.

**113 solar years ago**, on this day in 1907 AD, Russian scientist and chemist, Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev, died in Saint Petersburg, at the age of 73. An important outcome of his researches was regulation of the Periodic Table, which enlisted the existing chemical elements on Earth. This table is still used by the world's chemists.

**80 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1360 AH, the prominent Islamic scholar and poet, Ayatollah Mirza Abu-Abdullah Shaikh al-Islam Zanjan, passed away at the age of 51 in his hometown Zanjan. He authored several books including "*Tarikh al-Qur'an*", commentary in Arabic on the famous Iranian polymath Khwaja Naseer od-Din Tusi's "*Baqaa an-Nafs ba'd Fana al-Jasad*" (Immortality of the Soul after Perishing of the Body), "*Farhang-e Iran Pish az-Islam*" (Iran's Pre-Islamic Culture), "*Azamath-e Husain ibn Ali*" (Greatness of Imam Husain) and "*Life and Works of the Great Iranian Philosopher Mullah Sadr od-Din Shirazi*" – written in Arabic and published in Egypt and Syria.

**74 solar years ago**, on this day in 1946 AD, a press conference was held at the US University of Pennsylvania for what is considered the first computer, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC). The machine took up an entire room, weighed 30 tons and used more than 18,000 vacuum tubes to perform functions such as counting to 5,000 in one second. ENIAC was designed by the US Army during World War II to make artillery calculations. It paved the way for modern computer.

**50 solar years ago**, on this day in 1970 AD, British mathematician, and philosopher, Bertrand Russell, died at the age of 98. He was from Wales, and in 1910 with Alfred Whitehead, he co-authored "*Principia Mathematica*". Russell is regarded as one of the important logicians of the 20th century.

**41 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, the US and its surrogate, the illegal Zionist entity, expressed discontent at the historical remarks against Washington's meddlesome policies in Iran at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery the day before by the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Israel was aghast at Imam Khomeini's return to Iran from 15 years of exile, in view of his firm support for the cause of the oppressed Palestinian people. Meanwhile, masses of enthusiastic people flocked to the place of residence of the Imam at Alawi High School in Tehran to catch his glimpse and if possible, to meet him. The Beloved Leader delivered a keynote public speech, saying that monarchic rule was against wisdom and human rights, and that every nation has the right to take its destiny into its own hands.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, Dr. Mohammad Reza Baba Mokhayyar, Father of Veterinary Medicine in Iran, passed away at the age of 71. Born in Ardabil, northwestern Iran, after graduation in veterinary sciences from Tehran University, he left for France where he did his post-graduation in Oceanology from Paris University. On his return to Iran, he became Professor of Fishery Diseases at Tehran University. Among works written by him mention could be made of "*Pisciculture and Fish Diseases*", "*Fishes of the Persian Gulf*", and "*Agriculture and Natural Resources*".

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

# Critics, Screenwriters Choose 'The Warden'



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Nima Javidi's 'The Warden' has bagged awards at the Iran critics and screenwriters gala.

Nima Javidi, the writer and director of the flick, received the Best Director award at the event. The gala also picked him as the recipient of the Best Screenplay award.

'The Warden' was also selected as the Best Film. Majid Motallebi, the producer of the feature, received the award.

The film that counts as Javidi's second directorial experience after his most acclaimed flick 'Melbourne' narrates the story of a warden who has big hopes of promotion on his head. He has recently been assigned a mission to evacuate the prison and move

the inmates into another facility.

Should he be able to accomplish his task to the fullest, he will be rewarded. A prisoner, however, has gone missing which might bring the warden shame and bring down his dreams of promotion.

Iranian mega-star Navid Mohammadzadeh and Parinaz Izadyar play the lead roles in the movie. Atila Pesyani, Setareh Pesyani, Mani Haqiqi and Habib Rezaee are also among the cast members.

Directed by Jafar Goudarzi, the 13th Iran film critics and screenwriters gala was held January 30, 2020 in Tehran.

# Indie FEST Hosts Iran's 'Cradle of Silence'

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short 'Cradle of Silence', directed by Mostafa Mehraban, has been accepted into the competition program of the 11th edition of IndieFEST Film Awards in the United States.

The film is about Rasoul, who has to deliver a cradle to his martyred friend's widow. With Rasoul returning from the southern war zone to the northern part of the country, his wife Laya plans on going back to the war zone with him.

The cradle becomes an excuse for Rasoul to reject his wife's request.

IndieFEST, currently in its 11th year, discovers and honors the achievements of filmmakers who produce high-quality films and new media. IndieFEST aims at helping independent filmmakers gain the credibility and publicity they justly deserve, according to the event's organizers.

The 11th edition of the festival will be held on February 4, 2020 in California, U.S.



# Cycling to Work Helps to Live Longer

WELLINGTON (Dispatches) -- People who cycle to work have a lower risk of dying, a New Zealand study has found.

The study, by researchers from the University of Otago, Wellington, the University of Melbourne and the University of Auckland, has just been published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

Lead researcher Dr Caroline Shaw, from the Department of Public Health at the University of Otago, Wellington, says people who cycled to work had a 13 per cent reduction in mortality during the study, likely as a result of the health benefits of physical activity. There was no reduction in mortality for those who walked or took public transport to work.

Dr Shaw says the study, which analyzed data from 3.5 million New Zealanders, is one of the largest ever cohort studies to examine the association between mode of travel to work and mortality outcomes.

Dr Shaw says increasing 'active transport' is being promoted as a way of addressing health and environmental issues, but the association between different modes of transport, such as cycling, walking and public



transport, and health outcomes has remained unclear.

Dr Shaw says the findings lend support for initiatives to increase the number of people commuting to work by bike.

While the study found no association between walking or taking public transport to work and a reduction in mortality, Dr Shaw says there are other reasons to promote these modes of transport.

# Picture of the Day



The 13th edition of the Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters, with participation of Iranian actors and cinema elites, was held in Parsian Enghelab Hotel in Tehran. (Courtesy: Mehr News Agency)