

This Day in History

(February 8)

Today is Saturday; 19th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 13th of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1441 lunar hijri; and February 8, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1372 lunar years ago, on this day in 69 AH, the pious lady, Hazrat Omm al-Baneen (SA), the mother of the valiant standard-bearer of Karbala, Hazrat Abbas (AS), passed away in Medina, and was laid to rest in the Baqie Cemetery, next to Safiyyah and Atekah, the paternal aunts of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Her real name was Fatema, the daughter of Huzaam of the al-Kulabiyya Clan noted for its courage and loyalty. Imam Ali (AS) married her several years after the passing away of his beloved wife, the Prophet's Immaculate daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA).The reason she is called Omm al-Baneen is because she bore several sons, four to be exact, and all of whom were martyred in Karbala. After the heartrending tragedy of Karbala, she accomplished her political and social mission by keeping alive the heroic epic of Ashura in the best way possible, including elegies that are considered masterpieces of Arabic literature.

1138 solar years ago, on this day in 882 AD, Mohammad ibn Tughj al-Ikshid, the Founder of the Ikshidid Dynasty of Egypt, was born in Baghdad in a Turkic family. His grandfather Juff ibn Yitakin was from the Farghana Valley region of Central Asia, where he was bought as a slave-soldier to serve the Abbasid regime in Samarra, Iraq.

1011 lunar years ago, on this day in 430 AH, the prominent Muslim scientist and polymath, Abu Ali Hassan Ibn al-Haytham, known to medieval Europe by his Latinized name of Alhazen, passed away in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, at the age of 76. Among his works, mention could be made of the *“Configuration of the World”, “On the Formation of Eclipse”, “On the Milky Way”, “The Model of the Motions of Each of the Seven Planets”, and “Treatise on the Influence of Melodies on the Souls of Animals”*. Among his prominent students were Sorkhab, an Iranian scientist from Semnan and Mubashir ibn Fatek, an Egyptian.

770 solar years ago, on this day in 1250 AD, the Seventh Crusade of a strong European Christian force led by Louis IX, King of France, after invading Egypt in June 1249 and occupying the port city of Damietta, clashed at al-Mansurah with the Ayyubid forces led by Amir Fakhr od-Din Yusuf, and the Turkic Mamluk (slave) generals, Farres od-Din Aktai and Baibars al-Bunduqdari, resulting in a resounding victory three days later for the Muslim defenders. The goals of the Crusaders were to destroy the Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt and Syria and capture Bayt al-Moqaddas. Encouraged by the news of the death of the Ayyubid Sultan as-Salih Ayyub the Crusaders began their march towards Cairo. Shajar ad-Durr, the Turkic widow of the dead Kurdish Sultan of Egypt concealed the news for a while until Turanshah, the son and heir of the deceased, would come and lead the army. The rest is history. The invaders suffered a resounding defeat as some thirty thousand French and other European soldiers fell on the battlefield while thousands more were taken prisoners, along with King Louis who was captured in the nearby village of Moniat Abdullah (now Meniat an-Nasr), while trying to escape. He was chained and confined in the house of Ibrahim Ibn Loqman, while his brothers, Charles d'Anjou and Alphonse de Poitiers, were made prisoners, and carried to the same house with other French nobles. A camp was set up outside the town to shelter the rest of the prisoners. Louis was ransomed for 400,000 dinars. After pledging not to return to Egypt, the French king surrendered Damietta and left with his brothers and 12,000 war prisoners whom the Egyptian Muslims agreed to release. The Battle of Mansurah became a source of inspiration for Muslim writers and poets. One poem ended with the following verses: “If they (the Franks) decide to return to take revenge or to commit a wicked deed, tell them: The house of Ibn Loqman is intact, the chains still there as well as the eunuch Sobih”.

755 solar years ago, on this day in 1265 AD, Hulagu Khan, the founder of the Ilkhanid Mongol Dynasty of Iran-Iraq, and parts of Syria, Turkey, Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, died at the age of 47 after a rule of 9 years that saw his bloodthirsty Buddhist armies massacre over a million Muslims in Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

333 solar years ago, on this day in 1687 AD, Moghal Emperor, Aurangzeb, after occupying the city of Haiderabad, laid siege to the impregnable Golkandah fortress, the capital of the Qutb Shahi Sultanate of Iranian origin. For over seven months the siege dragged on, with the Moghals being exhausted as a result of casualties suffered from the regular sorties launched by the defenders. The crafty Aurangzeb (who had imprisoned his own father and killed his brothers and nephews) bribed an Afghan commander named Abdullah Khan Panni to open in the night a door of the fortress, through which the Moghals entered and overcame the surprised defenders. It was through treachery that the 170-year long rule of the Qutb Shahis of Qara Qoyonlu origin from Hamedan in western Iran, ended in the Deccan. The last sultan, Abu'l-Hassan Tana Shah, was taken prisoner and confined to Daulatabad Fort until death. The Qutb Shahi sultans, who maintained cordial relations with Iran and considered the Safavids as emperors, were great patrons of Persian art, architecture, literature, medicine, astronomy and religious sciences. Many prominent Iranians from all walks of life settled in Haiderabad and richly contributed to the flowering of civilization.

295 solar years ago, on this day in 1725 AD, Peter the Great, the 5th ruler of the Romanov Dynasty who expanded the Tsardom of Russia into the Russian Empire, and crowned himself the first emperor, died at the age of 53.

192 solar years ago, on this day in 1828 AD, Jules Verne, French author and poet, best known for his adventure novels and his profound influence on the literary genre of science fiction, was born in the Atlantic seaport of Nantes. His collaboration with the publisher Pierre-Jules Hetzel led to the creation of the Voyages Extraordinaires, a widely popular series of 54 adventure novels including *“Journey to the Center of the Earth”, “Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea”, and “Around the World in Eighty Days”*. He died in 1905.

116 solar years ago, on this day in 1904 AD, Russo-Japanese war broke out on the refusal of the militarized Meiji regime in Tokyo to negotiate with the declining power of the Tsars in Moscow. The major theatres of operations were the Japanese occupied Chinese territories of southern Manchuria, specifically the area around the Liaodong Peninsula and Mukden; and the seas around Korea, Japan, and the Yellow Sea.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1963 AD, Colonel Abdus-Salaam A'ref, with the help of Ba'thist army officers, seized power in Iraq as president, after bombarding the residence of President Abdul-Karim Qasim and killing him. Three years later in 1966, he was killed in a plane crash while returning to Baghdad from Basra, where in a speech broadcast on radio he had indulged in blasphemous demagoguery by questioning the famous sermon of the Prophet's First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) concerning the fickleness of faith of the Iraqi people.

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, millions of people all over Iran staged rallies in support of the provisional government announced by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Later in the day, air force officers, clad in their uniforms, assembled before the Imam to pledge allegiance. Imam Khomeini said in a famous statement: “Till now you had been in the service of the wayward, but have now returned to the way of the holy Qur'an. May the holy Qur'an be your Guardian and Protector, and hopefully, with your support the people of Iran will succeed in forming the government of Islamic justice.” The remnants of the Shah's regime were frightened at this development. In view of the importance of this event, every year, air force personnel assemble this day before the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to renew their allegiance to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution. The day is designated Air Force Day.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Iranian newspaper *“Hamshahri”* announced that it would hold a competition for cartoons on the alleged Holocaust to test whether the West extends the principle of freedom of expression to this doubtful incidence, as it did to the insulting caricatures it attributed to the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

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

Fajr Festival Viewers Give Warm Welcome to ‘The Undercover’



A still from the Iranian movie ‘The Undercover’.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian movie ‘The Undercover’ has been well received by the audience at Fajr Film festival.The viewers of the 38th Fajr Filmfest have welcomed the film directed by Amir-Abbas Rabiei. The political-period drama produced by Habib Valinejad, is now on the screen at the Fajr Film Festival. Mehdi Nosrati, Tomaj Danesh-Behzadi, Majid Potki, Milad Afvaj, Emad Darvishi and

Shahab Bahrami star in the film. Established in 1982, Fajr Film Festival is an event that celebrates cultural exchange, displays creative achievements of highly acclaimed cineastes and pays tribute to local and international films. Since its establishment, Fajr Film Festival has played a vital role in the development of the Iranian Cinema. The 38th edition of the event is slated for February 1-11, 2020.

Beloit Festival Screens Iranian Short Film ‘Cleaner’

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short film ‘Cleaner’ directed by Mohammadreza Mayghani will take part at the 15th Beloit International Film Festival in the U.S. The film will be competing with other titles at the 15th edition of Beloit International Film Festival in Wisconsin, United States. ‘Cleaner’ is about a public toilet cleaner who is concerned about her pregnancy test on a normal day of her work. It had previously taken part at several other international film



festivals, including 7th Richard Harris International Film Festival in Ireland, and 6th Annual Highland Park Independent Film Festival in the U.S. Featuring upwards of 100 independent and international films, as well as a dozen special events, the Beloit festival provides free admission to everything for all visiting filmmakers, according to the event's organizers. The 15th Beloit International Film Festival begins February 21 and runs through March 1, 2020.

Tehran, Kabul to Boost Academic Cooperation

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iran and Afghanistan will further increase academic exchanges in the field of medical sciences, after universities from the two neighboring countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The Chancellor of Qom University of Medical Sciences Mohammad Reza Qadir met and held talks with the Chancellor of

Khatam Al-Nabieen University Vahid Binesh on Tuesday in Qom where the two sides signed an MoU and discussed the ways to expand scientific and academic cooperation during the meeting. “Iran and Afghanistan can have extensive ties in expanding scientific exchanges, therefore, we are ready to fully cooperate with Qom University of Medical

Sciences”, said Binesh. The Deputy of Khatam Al-Nabieen University Mousavi said, “We welcome the cooperation and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Qom University of Medical Sciences and strive to expand this scientific cooperation.” “Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two

universities is an important step in the development and advancement of scientific fields and we are also ready for further collaboration,” said Qadir, for his part. At the end of the meeting, an MoU on scientific cooperation was signed between Qom University of Medical Sciences and Khatam Al-Nabieen University in Afghanistan.

Sleep Duration Affects Children’s Mental Health

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Depression, anxiety, impulsive behavior and poor cognitive performance in children is affected by the amount of sleep they have, researchers have found. Sleep states are active processes that support reorganization of brain circuitry. This makes sleep especially important for children, whose brains are developing and reorganizing rapidly. In the paper ‘Sleep duration, brain structure, and psychiatric and cognitive problems in children,’ 11,000 children aged 9-11 from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development dataset had the relationship between sleep duration and brain structure examined by researchers Professor Jianfeng Feng, Professor Edmund Rolls, Dr. Wei Cheng and colleagues from the University of Warwick’s Department of Computer Science and Fudan University. Measures of depression, anxiety, impulsive behavior and poor cognitive performance in the children were associated with shorter sleep duration. Moreover, the depressive problems were associated with short sleep duration one year later. Lower brain volume of brain areas involved the orbitofrontal cortex, prefrontal and temporal cortex, precuneus,

and supramarginal gyrus was found to be associated with the shorter sleep duration by using big data analysis approach. “The recommended amount of sleep for children 6 to 12

years of age is 9-12 hours. However, sleep disturbances are common among children and adolescents around the world due to the increasing demand on their time from

school, increased screen time use, and sports and social activities, Professor Jianfeng Feng, from the University of Warwick’s Department of Computer Science commented.

Picture of the Day



The Aria Gallery in Tehran is hosting a group exhibition by 5 Iranian artists until 10 February. Courtesy of Honaronline