

This Day in History

(February 15)

Today is Saturday; 26th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 20th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and February 15, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1449 lunar years ago, on this day, some nine years before Hijra, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was blessed with the radiant daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), whom God Almighty refers in the holy Qur'an as "*Kowsar*" or the Perennial Fountain of Abundant Munificence. The birth of this noblest-ever lady, after her brothers had died in infancy, ensured continuation of the blessed progeny of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind. She was the perfect daughter, the perfect wife for the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali and the perfect mother for sons Imam Hasan and Imam Husain, and daughters Hazrat Zainab and Hazrat Omm Kolsoum (peace upon them). Several ayahs in the holy Qur'an refer to the unsurpassed merits of this Most Virtuous Lady, including the Verse of Purity, and the Verse of Mobahela, on whose revelation, she accompanied her father, husband and two small sons to the historical debate with the Christians of Najran that made the truth of Islam triumph. Her birthday is marked as Mother's Day in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Over the years Muslims in several other countries have begun to hold such gatherings in order to more clearly tread the path of Fatema (SA), the daughter at whose threshold the Prophet used to salute and stand to his feet whenever she entered his presence, so as to give a practical demonstration of the rights and dignity of women in Islam.

1430 solar years ago, on this day in 590 AD, Khosrow II was crowned the 22nd Sassanid Emperor of Persia, following his revolt against his father, Hormizd IV, who was deposed, blinded and killed. Grandson of the wise, just and benevolent ruler, Khosrow I (Anushirvan), he styled himself Perviz (Victorious) but lacked the traits of virtue, as was evident by incidents during his 38-year reign that ended in 628 with his torturous death in prison at the hands of his generals, after he had haughtily torn the letter of invitation to Islam from the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and threatened to attack Hijaz from Iranian-controlled Yemen, following the reversal of his fortunes in the 26-year long Roman-Iranian War.

1314 solar years ago, on this day in 706 AD, General Leontios, who in 695 had usurped the throne of Byzantine (Eastern Roman Empire) by deposing Emperor Justinian II and exiling him to Crimea after slitting his tongue and nose, only to be overthrown in 698 by Apsimarus Tiberius, was executed along with the latter by the restored Justinian.

456 solar years ago, on this day in 1564 AD, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, was born in the city of Pisa where he mastered physics and mathematics. With the usage of lens, invented by the famous Muslim astronomer, Ibn al-Haytham, he developed a telescope for observing stars. With the help of this instrument, and with the aid of the writings of Islamic scientists, he wrote that the surface of the moon has plains and altitudes, while each galaxy is made of small and large stars. He also recorded as his own, the discoveries of Islamic scientists that the Sun is at the centre of the Solar System and other planets, including the Earth, revolve around it. These discoveries were already made several centuries earlier in the Islamic world by the renowned Iranian astronomer, Abu-Rayhan Birouni, who as a follower of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), had proved the circular movement of the spherical Earth around the Sun. Following publication of Galileo's theory on the movement of the Earth and other planets around the Sun, the Catholic Church charged him with blasphemy, forcing him to renounce his views or risk execution. He died in 1642.

310 solar years ago, on this day in 1710 AD, King Louis XV of France was born. He succeeded his great-grandfather Louis XIV at the age of five. Until he reached maturity in 1723, his kingdom was ruled by Philippe II, Duke of Orleans, as regent.

238 solar years ago, on this day in 1782 AD, a naval battle broke out between France and Britain off the coast of India and lasted seven months, as part of the two European colonial powers' rivalry in controlling the Subcontinent and plundering its rich resources. Earlier, France had relinquished its Indian possessions following its defeat in the 13-month long Madras War.

212 solar years ago, on this day in 1808 AD, Russia seized Finland, which since the 12th century had been occupied by Sweden. Following the Russian Revolution in 1917 Finland gained independence.

151 solar years ago, on this day in 1869 AD, the famous Urdu-Persian poet of the Subcontinent, Mirza Asadollah Khan Ghalib, passed away in Delhi at the age of 73.

122 solar years ago, on this day in 1898 AD, as a pretext to start a war with Spain, the USS Maine was deceitfully blown up and sank by US agents in Havana harbour in Cuba, killing more than 260. The resulting 4-year war with Spain saw the US seize Cuba, Guam Island and the Philippines.

121 lunar years ago, on this day in 1320 AH, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) was born in the city of Khomein, on the auspicious birth anniversary of his blessed ancestress, Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). From childhood he was immersed in the study of Islamic sciences, and at the same time was aware and conscious of the political developments around in those days of Iran's subservience to the British and the Russians. When he entered manhood, and was already a scholar of repute in hadith, philosophy and other subjects, he saw the British replace the Qajarid dynasty with an illiterate soldier named Reza Khan, who assumed the surname Pahlavi and unleashed oppression on the people and the ulema through his anti-Islamic policies. Reza Khan forcibly unveiled Iranian women, and banned men from wearing the traditional Iranian dress by imposing upon them European style of clothing. In 1941, Seyyed Ruhollah Musavi Khomeini saw the British replace Reza Khan with his son, Mohammad Reza on the Peacock Throne, and this new self-styled king was even more submissive to his masters. In the early 1950s, the oil nationalization movement took shape and the Shah fled but was restored to power in the August 1953 CIA coup by the Americans, his new masters. In 1963, the Imam openly spoke against the anti-Islamic policies of the corrupt Pahlavi regime, for which he was imprisoned and then exiled - initially to Turkey and thereafter to Iraq, where he spent 14 years in holy Najaf, beside the shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), grooming a large number of scholars. His guidelines generated the Islamic Revolution, and in February 1979, after a brief three-month stay in Paris, he returned to Iran to found the Islamic Republic. He thus delivered the country, not just from domestic despotism but foreign hegemony. It was his astute guidance that saved Islamic Iran from the intricate plots of the Great Satan (the US) including the 8-year war imposed by the American stooge Saddam. Imam Khomeini, who led the worldwide Islamic revival, was a prominent Mujtahid and a Gnostic of the highest order, who wrote several books. His concept of "*Wilayat-e Faqih*" or Governance of the Supreme Jurist in the absence of the Infallible Imam is indeed unique and the keys to the steadfastness and success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of heavy odds. His speeches and messages are gathered in the 21-volume "*Sahifa-e Noor*" or Scripture of Light. He also has a diwan of Persian poetry.

78 solar years ago, on this day in 1942 AD, during World War II, Singapore fell to the Japanese with the surrender of General Arthur Percival, along with some 80,000 Indian, British and Australian troops - the largest surrender of British-led military forces in history.

58 solar years ago, on this day in 1962 AD, Iranian dramatist and playwright, Seyyed Ali Nasr, considered one of the founders of theatre in Iran, passed away in Tehran at the age of 70. He taught the history of art at the university level and wrote several books including the 6-volume "*Science of Arts*", and "*History of Iran*". He also translated into Persian "*History of Greece*" and "*History of France*".

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, faced with the people's stiff resistance, Soviet forces were forced to withdraw from Afghanistan after almost ten years of occupation.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, Fadhel al-Matrook attained martyrdom in the Persian Gulf island of Bahrain. While, participating in the funeral procession of Ali Abdul-Hadi Mushaima, who was martyred the day before, he succumbed to his wounds in hospital after being shot at close range that caused internal bleeding and punctured his lungs. The Bahraini people are campaigning for restoration of their denied birthrights in a peaceful manner since the past seven years, but the US-supported Aal-e Khalifa minority regime, has answered them with bullets, artillery fire, razing of mosques, burning of copies of the holy Qur'an, desecration of Hussainiyahs, and torture and killing of the unarmed activists.

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

Fajr International Music Festival Gets Underway



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The Fajr International Music Festival has kicked off.

The 35th edition of the Iranian music event opened on Thursday February 13, in Tehran.

Like the Fajr film and theater festivals, the music festival did not have inauguration ceremony.

A total of 90 performances are to be done at this year's edition of the festival.

The Fajr International Music

Festival is Iran's most prestigious Music Festival founded in 1986, several years after the formation of the film and theatre festivals in the artistic sphere of Iran.

Since then, the music festival has enjoyed strong performances by many famous national and international artists.

A number of eminent Iranian pop bands and singers have performed at the 34th edition of the Fajr International Music Festival.

Big Win For 'A Stranger at Home' at Fajr Theater Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) -- Iranian director Seyyed Mohammad Mosavat's play "A Stranger at Home" has scooped the main awards, including the grand prize, at the 38th Fajr International Theater Festival (FITF).

The play also brought Mosavat the awards for best director and playwright during the closing ceremony of the festival held at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Monday.

Actor Navid Mohammadzadeh received the special jury award for his role in the play, and cast member Romina Momeni was

named best actress for her role in the production.

Accepting the award Mohammadzadeh said that although he has won over 30 awards in cinema, this award is more valuable for him.

"I've always said that I am a child of theater, thank you for approving my remarks tonight," he added.

Alireza Akbarian also received the best sound designer award for his collaboration in the performance.

"A Stranger at Home" is about

a man who doubts his wife's love and loyalty. He connects his wife with a fake identity on the Internet. Little by little, the woman falls in love with this fake new character.

Behfar Kayedi won the best music award for "All Children of Macbeth" directed by Mojtaba Rostamifar, while Fatima Hezbavi and Iman Nakhlestani received the awards for best makeup artist and best lighting designer respectively for their collaboration in the play.

The play also brought Rostamifar the awards for best choreography and best set designer as well as a

special mention for directing.

Amir Jadidi was picked as best actor for his role in "Kingfish" directed by Reza Baharvand.

Meqedi Shamirian won the award for best costume designer for his collaboration in "Hey Othello, Only Pet Crabs Nest in Bed Sheets" directed by Ebrahim Poshtekuhi and "Marlon Brando" by Mehran Ranjbar.

The international section of the 38th Fajr International Theater Festival, which opened in Tehran on January 30, was non-competitive this year.

Study Says Babies Mimic Songs

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Researchers -- and parents -- have long known that babies learn to speak by mimicking the words they hear. But a new study carried out by The Ohio State University School of Music shows that babies also might try to imitate the singing they hear in songs.

As part of the study, scientists captured audio of a 15-month-old boy making sounds similar to the beginning of the song "Happy Birthday," hours after he heard the song played on a toy. An analysis of the sounds showed the boy hitting the first six notes of "Happy Birthday" almost spot-on, in G major.

The study is among the first to measure an infant's attempt to recreate music by following him for an entire day.

For the study, Lucia Benetti, a doctoral student at The Ohio State University School of Music and lead author of the study recorded one infant, a 15-month-old boy named James, through one 16-hour period. James wore a small, light recording device throughout the day, which captured every sound he heard and made. Benetti and her adviser, Eugenia Costa-Giomi, a professor of music education at Ohio State, then analyzed that audio data using software designed to measure language -- things like the number of adult words the baby heard and tried to say. Benetti also listened to the recording and transcribed the



music he heard and the music he made, searching for patterns or places where the child seemed to mimic what he heard happening around him.

The study shows that it's possible for babies to learn melodies from the music they hear around them, Benetti said. She said future work could examine a larger group of babies, with more data, to see whether James' response was typical.

Picture of the Day



The heavy snowfall in Gilan, with a height of up to 1.5 meters in some areas, created serious problems for the residents of at least 52 cities of the province. Rescue teams were sent to Tehran-Rasht Freeway to help people who were stranded in the snow-blanketed roads for more than a day.

(Courtesy of Mehr news Agency)