

This Day in History

(February 27)

Today is Thursday; 8th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 03rd of the Islamic month of Rajab 1441 lunar hijri; and February 27, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1748 solar years ago, on this day in 272 AD, Constantine I, who imposed the Pauline Creed on the Roman Empire, was born in Dardania in the Balkans. Acclaimed as emperor by the army on his father's death in 306, Constantine emerged victorious in civil wars against the emperors Maxentius and Licinius to become sole ruler of both the west and the east by 324. Constantine has earned lasting notoriety for persecuting Arianism and the purely monotheistic followers of Prophet Jesus. The form of Christianity he imposed is actually the innovation of Paul the Hellenized Jew, who was a fierce opponent of Prophet Jesus, but after him, claimed to be his follower in order to distort the monotheistic message of the Messiah, by coining the weird concept of Trinity that was more closer to the Roman pantheon of deities.

1640 solar years ago, on this day in 380 AD, the Edict of Thessalonica was issued by Roman Emperor Theodosius I, with co-emperors Gratian and Valentinian II, forcing all Roman citizens to convert to the Trinitarian form of Christianity, or else be branded as heretics subject to punishment. This weird concept of 'godfather', 'godson' and the 'holy ghost' – an invention of Paul the Hellenized Jew who was a staunch opponent of Prophet Jesus and after him feigned to be his follower – was designed to suit the polytheist beliefs of European pagans, in opposition to the monotheist message of the Virgin-born Messiah.

1187 lunar years ago, on this day in 254 AH, Imam Ali an-Naqi al-Hadi (AS), the 10th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in Samarra at the age of 42, as a result of a fatal dose of poisoning administered by Mo'taz, the 13th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. His period of Imamate was 34 years during which he groomed a large number of scholars in various branches of knowledge, and institutionalized the system "*Wikala*" (representation), which would efficiently serve the followers of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt during the "*Ghaybat as-Sughra*" or Minor Occultation of his grandson, the 12th Imam, who will reappear in the end times as "Qa'em al-Mahdi" to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice by weeding out oppression.

1053 lunar years ago, on this day in 388 AH, the Islamic-Iranian mathematician and astronomer, Abu'l-Wafa Mohammad ibn Mohammad ibn Yahya al-Bouzzjani, passed away in Baghdad at the age of 60. His "*Kitab al-Majisti*" (Almajest) covers numerous topics in the fields of plane and spherical trigonometry, planetary theory, and solutions to determine the direction of Qibla – the focal point of the daily ritual prayers for Muslims worldwide. The crater "*Abu'l-Wafa*" on the Moon is named after him. Bouzzjani wrote several books that have not survived, including "*Tarikh-e Ilm al-Hesab*" (The History of Calculus).

546 lunar years ago, on this day in 895 AH, Ahmad Nizam ul-Mulk Bahri defeated Sultan Mahmud Shah II of the Bahmani kingdom of the Deccan in south-central India, to establish the Nizam-Shahi kingdom of Ahmadnagar and took the title of Ahmad Nizam Shah. He was son of Hassan Nizam ul-Mulk Bahri, a Kanarese Brahmin who embraced the truth of Islam and was appointed governor of the northern parts of the Bahmani kingdom of Iranian origin. Two years later Ahmad Nizam Shah died, but the dynasty he founded continued to rule with fluctuating fortunes for over 125 years, until its annexation by the Mughal Empire of the northern Subcontinent. The second king, Burhan Nizam Shah, became a follower of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), due to the influence of the Iranian migrant religious scholar, Seyyed Shah Taher Hus-saini. The Nizam-Shahis, like the other two Shi'ite Muslim sultanates of the Deccan, the Adil-Shahis of Bijapur and the Qutb-Shahis of Golkandah-Haiderabad, maintained cordial relations with Iran's Safavid Emperors, exchanging ambassadors, hosting Iranians of various walks of life, and patronizing Persian literature, art, and architecture.

511 solar years ago, on this day in 1509 AD, nine years after the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese explorer, Pedro Alvarez Cabral, Portugal formally established its hegemony on this large swathe of South America. Until the independence of Brazil in the year 1822, France and Holland on several occasions tried to seize this territory but failed.

329 solar years ago, on this day in 1691 AD, English publisher, Edward Cave, who founded "*The Gentleman's Magazine*" in 1731, was born in Newton near Rugby in Warwickshire. The famous lexicographer Samuel Johnson's first regular employment as a writer was with "*The Gentleman's Magazine*".

213 solar years ago, on this day in 1807 AD, American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was born in Portland, Maine. His famous poems include "*The Children's Hour*", "*Evangeline*" and "*What is time?*" He died in 1882.

176 solar years ago, on this day in 1844 AD, Dominica, which the Haitian revolutionary leader, Toussaint Louverture, had seized from the Spanish in 1801, declared its independence.

141 solar years ago, on this day in 1879, AD, saccharin, the artificial sweetener, was accidentally discovered by Constantin Fahlberg, while he was researching coal tar compounds for Ira Remsen at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. With hands unwashed since leaving his laboratory work, during meal he accidentally discovered its intensely sweet taste when his fingers touched his lips. He subsequently obtained patents on its synthesis, and with his uncle, Dr. Adolf List, started a factory to produce and market it. Fahlberg became wealthy by taking the outcome of a laboratory experiment and pursuing a commercial path for it.

118 solar years ago, on this day in 1902 AD US novelist John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California. His works are: "*The Grapes of Wrath*" and "*Of Mice and Men*".

88 solar years ago, on this day in 1932 AD, neutron was discovered by Dr. James Chadwick at Cambridge University of Britain.

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1976 AD, the Spanish occupied territory of Western Sahara, declared its independence under auspices of the Polisario Front as the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1987 AD, Hussain Kharrazi, one of the brilliant young commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), achieved martyrdom in the "*Karbala 5*" Operations against the invading Ba'thist forces in the southwestern theatre of the war imposed on Iran by the US through Saddam. He was commander of the Imam Husain (AS) 14 Battalion. On start of the imposed war and fall of the port city of Khorramshahr, he was dispatched to the battlefronts, where he proved to be an astute strategist during the "*Thamen al-Aimma*", "*Fath al-Mobin*", "*Bayt al-Moqaddas*", "*Khaibar*", "*Badr*", "*Wa'l-Fajr 8*", and "*Karbala 4*" and "*5*" Operations.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1997 AD, a 6.1 earthquake at Ardebil in northwest Iran struck at 4:27 p.m. local time. The quake damaged 110 villages and killed some 3,000 people. A second 5.1 quake followed in 2 days.

18 solar years ago, on this day in 2002 AD, anarchists torched a train, the Sabarmati Express, in Godhra in Gujarat state of India, while it was returning from Ayodhya in the state of Uttar Pradesh, where the Hindus were campaigning for building a temple on the ruins of the criminally destroyed Babri Mosque, and then blamed on the Muslims the incident in which 59 Hindus were reportedly killed, in order to ignite flames of communal violence. Hindu anarchists went rampaging throughout Gujarat state and in the following days slaughtered some 3,000 Muslim men, women and children, as the state government of Chief Minister Narendra Modi – currently the prime minister of India – not just mutely watched the massacre, but its police and security forces helped the anarchist mobs.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, former Turkish premier, Najm od-Din Erbakan, passed away at the age of 84.

3 solar years ago, on this day in 2016 AD, prominent Iranian Film director, Farajollah Salahshour, passed away at the age of 63. Born in Qazvin, he directed several popular historical and religious films such as "*Prophet Job*", "*Prophet Joseph*", and "*Men of Angelos*" – the last named a serial on the Qur'anic account of the Seven Sleepers of the Cave, who because of their firm faith in monotheism had fled to the mountains to escape persecution from the pagan Romans.

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

Iranian-Afghan Production Goes to Czech Republic



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian-Afghan documentary 'The Forbidden Strings' has been set to vie at the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in the Czech Republic.

Directed by Afghan filmmaker Hassan Nouri, the film will be screened at the 22nd edition of the Czech event.

The screening slot designated to the documentary is on March 8 and the assigned venue is Evald Chamber Cinema in the city of Prague.

The film narrates the story of four afghan descent young people who live in Iran. They work during the day time and rehearse their music at nights.

They have the burning passion for performing in front of audience so after about six months of rehearsing they find

an opportunity to go on stage in Afghanistan.

Their trip back to the motherland that they have never seen is not easy and the country is not safe for them.

'The Forbidden String' which is a joint production of Iran, Afghanistan and Qatar has been produced by Iranian film producer Afsaneh Salari.

The One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival is an annual event in Prague and 36 cities of the Czech Republic.

The latest edition of the event is slated for March 5-14, 2020.

Smartphone Made Films Compete at San Diego Mobile Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Two Iranian short films shot with smartphones, 'Finish Line' by Saeed Mayahy and 'Elsinor' by Ehsan Majooni, have been selected as part of the competition program of the 9th International Mobile Film Festival in the U.S.

26 short films between 1 and 5 minutes in length have been officially selected to screen at the 9th edition of the International Mobile Film Festival in San Diego. Among the selected titles are two from Iran: 'Finish Line' by Saeed Mayahy and 'Elsinor' by Ehsan Majooni.



'Finish Line', shot with an iPhone 7, is the story of a woman athlete who is trying to get back in the fields after her accident.

'Elsinor' was shot with an iPhone 6s and depicts events during a

wedding.

The International Mobile Film Festival in San Diego is exclusively created for films and videos shot with only mobile phones for the big screen.

According to the organizers, the quality of this year's films includes aesthetics, visual effects, story, and the overall inspirational factor most mobile films possess. The films are entertaining, moving and evoke an emotional reaction across a spectrum from delightful to thrilling.

The event is scheduled for April 24-26, 2020.

Sleep Helps Teens Deal With Social Stress

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- A new Michigan State University study found that a good night's sleep does adolescents good -- beyond helping them stay awake in class. Adequate sleep can help teens navigate challenging social situations.

The study, which focused on ninth grade students, found that adequate sleep allowed students to cope with discrimination and challenges associated with ethnic or racial bias. It also helps them problem-solve more effectively and seek peer support when faced with hardships.

"Findings of this study have important implications," said Yijie Wang, assistant professor of human development and family studies at MSU. "Understanding how sleep helps adolescents negotiate social challenges may consequently elucidate how promoting sleep may improve adolescent adjustment during high school and beyond."

Compared to adults and children, high school students are particularly at risk for insufficient sleep due to early school times, busy schedules and increased social stressors. The transition to high school also introduces more diversity to their social environment and relationships.

Via this study, Wang and co-author Tiffany Yip of Fordham University wanted to pinpoint the effect sleep has on coping with discrimination. They found that if a teen has a good night of sleep, they are able to cope with harsh experiences -- like discrimination -- better.

'Coup 53' to Represent Iran at Geneva Forum on Human Rights

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian documentary 'Coup 53' is set to attend the 18th International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) in Geneva, Switzerland, bringing to three the number of films representing Iran in the event.

Directed by Taghi Amirani, the film is about the 1953 US-led coup against the government of then democratically-elected Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq.

Earlier reports said that the documentary 'Sunless Shadows' and feature film 'Yalda' will also represent Iran in the Swiss event.

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights is "the leading international event dedicated to film and human rights", according to the event's website.

The 18th FIFDH will be held in Switzerland on March 6-15.

Picture of the Day



Zand House or Haj Ali Khan Zand House is a 130-year-old late Qajar (1785–1925) era mansion located in the old texture of Qom, central Iran. (Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency)