

## This Day in History

### This Day in History (July 11)

Today is Thursday; 20<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Tir 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 8<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zilqā'dah 1440 lunar hijri; and July 11, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1865 solar years ago**, on this day in 154 AD, Bardaisan, the Gnostic, scientist, scholar, astrologer, philosopher, and poet of Iranian-Babylonian origin, was born in the upper Mesopotamian city of Edessa, which was historically part of Syria, but is now in Turkey. His chief work, *"The Dialogue of Destiny"*, or *"The Book of the Laws of the Countries"*, is the oldest known original composition in Syriac literature. He also composed 150 hymns like the Psalms of Prophet David. His thoughts later influenced the Iranian Mani who founded the religion of Manichaeism by incorporating some of the teachings of Prophet Jesus (AS).

**1061 lunar years ago**, on this day in 379 AH, the Iranian Islamic astronomer, mathematician, and historian of science, Abu Hamed Ahmad Ibn Mohammed as-Saghani al-Asturlabi, passed away in Baghdad. He worked on the trisection of the angle. He wrote some of the earliest comments on the history of science. These included comparison between the "ancients" that is, the Babylonians, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks and Indians, and the "modern scholars", that is, the Muslim scientists of his time.

**1055 lunar years ago**, on this day in 385 AH, the Shafei hadith scholar Ali Ibn Omar Dar Qutni, passed away in his hometown Baghdad. After basic studies in Baghdad, Kufa, Waset and Basra, he traveled to Egypt and Greater Syria, in search of hadith. He was an authority on poetry and literature as well. Among his works, mention can be made of the book known as *"Sunan Dar Qutni"*, in which he has collected the hadith through different sources, and has mentioned some of the merits of the Infallible Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**845 solar years ago**, on this day in 1174 AD, Amalric, the ruler of the usurper Latin kingdom of Jerusalem (established in Bayt al-Moqaddas and Palestine by European invaders), died after a 11-year reign during which he attempted several unsuccessful attacks on Fatimid Egypt, by forming alliances with some of the local Syrian and Turkic Amirs, who were ready to betray fellow Muslims for paltry gains – like the present day Arab regimes which are serving Zionist interests.

**775 solar years ago**, on this day in 1244 AD, the Turkish slave-soldiers from the ancient Iranian land of Khwarezm in Central Asia, who were in the service of the Turkic Mamluk or Slave-Dynasty of Egypt liberated the Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas or Jerusalem from the Crusader European occupiers. By August 23 the Khwarezmian Turks had taken complete control of the city and its surroundings and razed the edifices erected by the Christian usurpers.

**752 lunar years ago**, on this day in 688 AH, Iranian philosopher, Sufi writer, and Persian poet, Fakhr od-Din Ibrahim bin Bozorgmehr Iraqi, passed away in Damascus at the age of 80, and was laid to rest beside the tomb of the famous Spanish Muslim Gnostic, Sheikh Mohy od-Din ibn al-Arabi. His writings include *"Lama'at"* (Divine Flashes). His Diwan has been published in Iran under the title of *"Kulliyat-e Iraqi"*. Another of his works is *"Ushshaq-Namah"* written during his stay in Multan and dedicated to the vizier Shams od-Din Juwayni.

**223 solar years ago**, on this day in 1796 AD, the United States took possession of Detroit and the adjoining lands from Britain under terms of the Jay Treaty that avoided another war.

**114 solar years ago**, on this day in 1905 AD, the famous Egyptian jurist and reformist religious scholar, Shaikh Mohammad Abduh, passed away in Alexandria, at the age of 56. A product of al-Azhar where he studied logic, philosophy and mysticism, when the great Iranian pan Islamist scholar, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi, arrived in Egypt, Abduh became his student and was deeply influenced by him. On being appointed editor-in-chief of *"al-Waqa'e al-Misriyya"*, the official newspaper of the country, he dedicated to reforming all aspects of Egyptian society. In his articles he criticized corruption, superstition, and the luxurious lives of the rich. He was exiled from Egypt in 1882 for six years, which he spent in Lebanon and Paris, where he joined Seyyed Jamal od-Din in publishing the Islamic revolutionary journal *"al-Urwat-al-Wusqa"* which promoted anti-colonial views. Abduh also visited Germany and Britain and during his exile dedicated his efforts toward furthering respect and friendship amongst Muslims and Christians. He returned to Egypt in 1888, became a consultative member of the Court of Appeal in 1890, and in 1899 was appointed Mufti of Egypt – a position he held until he died. He embarked on reforming the education system at al-Azhar having come to the conclusion that Muslims suffer from ignorance about their own religion because of the despotism of unjust rulers. He was a prolific writer, and among his works is a commentary on *"Nahj al-Balagha"*, the famous collection of the sermons, letters, and maxims of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) – a book, reintroduced to the Egyptians, seven centuries after the end of Fatimid rule.

**98 solar years ago**, on this day in 1921 AD, the Red Army captured Mongolia from the White Army and established the Mongolian People's Republic.

**87 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1353 AH, the prominent jurist Mullah Mohammad Hussain Fesharaki, passed away in his hometown Isfahan at the age of 87.

**59 solar years ago**, on this day in 1960 AD, the West African countries of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger, gained independence from several decades of French colonial rule. All three countries have Muslim majority populations.

**49 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1391 AH, Ayatollah Mirza Ahmad Najafi Khorasani Kifayi, passed away in holy Mashhad at the age of 91 and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Imam Reza (AS) beside the grave of his elder brother Mirza Mahdi Ayatollahzadeh.

**44 solar years ago**, on this day in 1975 AD, Chinese archeologists announced the uncovering of a 3-acre burial mound concealing 6000 clay statues of warriors and their regalia dating from 221 to 206 BC. The "Terracotta Army" was uncovered near the ancient capital of Xian. The 7,000 life-size clay soldiers and horses were buried in pits in battle formation facing east to guard the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. The figures were modeled after the emperor's army, and each face is different. The buried wonder was found in 1974 in the course of digging a well.

**28 solar years ago**, on this day in 1991 AD, a Nigerian Airlines jet carrying Muslim Hajj pilgrims to Mecca, crashed at the Jeddah international airport in what is called Saudi Arabia, resulting in the death of all 261 people on board. The plane was a Canadian-chartered DC-8.

**24 solar years ago**, on this day in 1995 AD, during the Bosnian War, more than 8,000 Muslim residents of the city of Srebrenica were slaughtered by Serbs. This outrageous catastrophe was the biggest massacre in Europe since World War II. Although the UN Security Council had announced Srebrenica a safe haven in the year 1993 and the UN forces were stationed in this city, the Serb militias occupied the city and cold-bloodedly slaughtered the people. Amid this carnage, the Dutch peacekeeping forces stationed in the region took no measures to save the lives of Muslim civilians. The indifference of European states toward this human catastrophe was questionable. All the three fact-finding committees which were formed after termination of the war held the European Union and the UN responsible for the massacre of Muslims in Srebrenica.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2006 AD, two hundred nine people were killed in a series of bomb attacks in Mumbai, India, and over seven hundred others injured. The blasts took place over a period of 11 minutes on the Suburban Railway in Mumbai, the nation's financial capital. The bombs were set off in pressure cookers on trains. Although a variety of terrorist outfits claimed responsibility for the bomb blasts, the identity of the culprits has not been fully established, despite the Indian government's blaming of Pakistan's spying agency and indiscriminate arrest of Muslims that led to nationwide protests that the community was being deliberately targeted.

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

# Artists Forum Screens 'Roy Andersson' Films



World-renowned Swedish film director Roy Andersson.

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran will be hosting a three-day event screening films by world-renowned Swedish film director Roy Andersson. The film event, slated for 13 and 15 July at the Iranian Art-

ists Forum, includes a screening program and lectures by Mohammadreza Aslani, Majid Akhgar, and Mehdi Moghimnejad.

The program will screen the best of Roy Andersson's films, including 'Songs from the Second Floor' (2000), 'A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence' (2014), 'You, the Living' (2007), and a short film 'World of Glory' (1991).

Andersson's style has been characterized by "long takes, absurdist comedy, stiff caricaturing of Swedish culture

and Felliniesque grotesque."

His 2014 film 'A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence' won the Golden Lion award at 71st Venice International Film Festival, making Andersson the only Swedish director to win the award in the history of the festival.

Four of Andersson's films have been officially submitted for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film as Swedish entries.

Taking part at the event, 'Three Days with Roy Andersson' is free of charge for the interested public.

## Iranian Short 'Slaughter' Competes in Italy

TEHRAN (IFILM)--Iranian short 'Slaughter' has been selected to compete at the 2019 edition of Periferia dell'impero Film Festival in Italy.

Co-directed by Saman Hosseinpour and Ako Zand-Karimi, the short narrates the story of a family living in a small village with a cow as their only passion. In order to make it through a tough winter, the family is forced to sell the cow. Unhappy with the family's decision, the son decides to set the cow free.



The short which is the winner of the Best Cinematography at

Philippines's 2019 Asian Cinematography Awards has been

screened at numerous international film festivals, including the ninth FOKUS film festival in Denmark, the 12th International Glasgow Short Film Festival in Scotland, and the 12th Kustendorf Film and Music Festival in Serbia.

At the dell'impero festival, 'Slaughter' will compete with 17 international films from Italy, Spain, Australia, and the UK.

The ninth edition of Periferia dell'impero is slated for July 12-14.

## Air Pollution Speeds Up Aging of Lungs

LONDON (Dispatches) -- A study of more than 300,000 people has found that exposure to outdoor air pollution is linked to decreased lung function and an increased risk of developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

COPD is a long-term condition linked to reduced lung function that causes inflammation in the lungs and a narrowing of the airways, making breathing difficult. According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project COPD is the third leading cause of death worldwide, and the number of global COPD deaths are expected to increase over the next ten years.

Lung function normally declines as we age, but the new research published today (9 July, 2019) in the European Respiratory Journal [1] suggests that air pollution may contribute to the ageing process and adds to the evidence that breathing in polluted air harms the lungs.

Anna Hansell is Professor of Environmental Epidemiology in the Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability at the University of Leicester, UK, and was part of the research team. She said:

"There are surprisingly few studies that look at how air pollution affects lung health. To try and address this, we assessed more than 300,000 people using data from the UK Biobank study to examine whether air pollution exposure was linked to changes in lung function, and whether it affected participants' risk of developing COPD."



## Picture of the Day



The 14th Handicrafts Exhibition is underway in Arak in Markazi province from 8 to 12 July, 2019, showcasing the best of the province's handicrafts to visitors.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency