

This Day in History

(August 6)

Today is Tuesday; 15th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 4th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 6, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Over 3,300 lunar years ago, on this day, Prophet Moses (AS) triumphed over the magicians assembled by the Pharaoh of Egypt at a public square on a day of feast to try to humiliate him through sorcery and trickery in front of the masses. Before start of the contest, Moses, addressing the magicians and the Pharaoh, renewed the invitation to monotheism, and warned them of the consequences of polytheism. He told them that their acts of sorcery, in comparison to his miracles, are nothing but attempts to forge lies against God. Prophet Moses first invited them to the worship of the One and Only God and called on them to give up the sordid practice of idol-worship. Next, when the magicians asked him as to who would start the contest, he politely told them to begin first. The magicians resorted to their tricks by casting down their special sticks and ropes in such a mesmerizing way as to deceive the people and make them think that lifeless objects have suddenly become animated creatures moving on the ground. On God's command, Moses cast down his rod and it took the form of a huge python which swallowed the tools of magic. When the magicians saw this manifest miracle, they realized that this was not some trick to deceive the eyes but a reality and a divine miracle that turned a lifeless stick into an actual animal. They thus fell down before Moses recognizing him as a Prophet of God, and openly declared their faith in the One and Only God, despite the threats of the Pharaoh to cut off their hands and feet, and nail them on trees. The holy Qur'an has mentioned these facts, and other accounts of Prophet Moses, who is considered as one of the five great Prophets – the other four being: Noah, Abraham, Jesus, and the Last and Greatest of them all, Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny).

1269 solar years ago, on this day in 750 AD, the 13th and last self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, Marwan II, titled "al-Hemar" or the Donkey, was caught and killed in Egypt at the age of 62 after a 6-year rule while fleeing through Syria, following defeat in the Battle of Zab on the banks of the river of the same name in northern Iraq at the hands of the Abbasids on January 25 the same year. Thus ended the Godless rule of the Omayyads established in 66 on the seizure of the Islamic realm by Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan through a dubious treaty imposed upon Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1022 lunar years ago, on this day in 418 AH, the Iranian Shafe'i scholar, Abu Ishaq Isfara'ini, passed away at the age of 80 in Naishapur, where he was a teacher at its famous academy of Islamic sciences, and was buried in his hometown Isfara'ini in Northern Khorasan. His works include "al-Jame' fi Osoul ad-Din" on the Fundamentals of Religion, and "Noor al-Ayn fi Mashhad al-Husain" on the martyrdom in Karbala of the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny). Regarded as an authority by Sunni Muslims, Abu Ishaq Isfara'ini has acknowledged in his works several hadith on the unsurpassed merits of the Ahl al-Bayt including the "Hadith al-Manzela" in which the Prophet likened Imam Ali's position to him like that of Aaron to Prophet Moses.

740 lunar years ago, on this day in 710 AH, General Malik Kafur returned to Delhi from his victorious campaign in the Deccan (southern India) and presented Sultan Ala-ud-Din, the second and greatest king of the short-lived Khalji Turko-Persian Dynasty of Northern India 241 tonnes of gold, 20,000 horses, and 612 elephants laden with treasure, including the famous diamond "Koh-e Noor" (Mountain of Light), excavated at Golkandah. Originally a Hindu from Khambat in Gujarat, western India, he was known as "Hazar-Dinari" (Thousand Dinar – the price paid for him by the Sultan), and on embracing Islam, rapidly rose to become an able general, who brought south India into the fold of the Muslim World, when Islamic faith was fast spreading in all directions – Russia, eastern Europe, West Africa and southeast Asia.

513 solar years ago, on this day in 1506 AD, the army of the Crimean Khanate led by Fateh Giray Khan lost the Battle of Kletsk to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, led by Court Marshall Michael Glinski.

210 solar years ago, on this day in 1809 AD, Alfred Tennyson, British Poet Laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign, was born. He excelled in penning short lyrics, such as "Break, Break, Break", "Tears Idle Tears" and "The Charge of the Light Brigade" – the last one pertaining to the abortive charge of the British Light Brigade in the Battle of Balaklava during the Crimean War. He also wrote some notable blank verse including "Idylls of the King" and "Ulysses".

194 solar years ago, on this day in 1825 AD, Bolivia was liberated from Spanish colonial rule after sixteen years of seaway struggle following the revolution launched in 1809 by the famous South American freedom-fighter, Simon Bolivar. Bolivia covers an area of 1.1 million sq km, and shares borders with Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. In the 2006 general elections, for the first time in its history, Bolivia saw the emergence of a member of the long-suppressed indigenous Amerindian majority population, as president. President Juan Evo Morales, ever since his victory, has been the target of propaganda and ridicule, by the US and West Europe for his independent policies.

138 solar years ago, on this day in 1881 AD, Scottish physician Alexander Fleming, was born. In the company of two other scientists, Florey and Chain, he discovered Penicillin. The three scientists were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945.

74 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, when World War II was almost over, the US, in a blatant act of state terrorism, dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, far away from any warfront. The lethal bomb named "Little Boy" by the sadistic Americans, instantly killed over 90,000 men, women and children, and left almost a hundred thousand others injured.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1962 AD, the island state of Jamaica in the Caribbean Sea, gained independence from British colonial rule. European invaders, starting with the Spanish and followed by the French, in one of the most blatant acts of genocide, exterminated the island's indigenous people. Later, in view of the agriculture potential of Jamaica, especially in sugarcane cultivation, they kidnapped thousands of black people from Africa and forced them to work as slaves.

54 solar years ago, on this day in 1965 AD, Indian troops crossed into Pakistan, and fighting spread to Punjab and the disputed Muslim-populated Himalayan land of Kashmir as Pakistanis crossed into Indian-controlled areas. The 2nd Indo-Pakistani military conflict thus started without a formal declaration of war, which was formally announced belatedly towards the end of August.

42 solar years ago, on this day in the year 1977 AD, in a bid to avert the Iranian people's growing anger, the Pahlavi Shah dismissed his longtime Prime Minister, Amir Abbas Hovaida, who for thirteen years had carried on the US dictated repressive policies against the Muslim people of Iran. A year and a half later, following the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, Hovaida was put on trial, and executed for treason against the Iranian nation.

32 solar years ago, on this day in 1987 AD, Deputy Commander of Islamic Republic of Iran Army's Air Force Major General Abbas Babai, was martyred at the age of 37 while on a sortie during the 8-year Iraqi imposed war. He was a committed and courageous pilot. Born in the city of Qazvin, he joined the army and graduated as a pilot. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he pledged allegiance to Imam Khomeini. When the US through Saddam imposed the 8-year war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, he flew on some of the most difficult missions with great skill and success.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2005 AD, President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a day after taking oath of allegiance as president, made it clear that the European Union's proposal for ending the West's politicizing of Iran's peaceful nuclear programme was "unacceptable" because it did not give the country the right to enrich uranium as per the NPT and IAEA rules. After over a decade of illegal sanctions, assassination of Iranian scientists, and other lawless measures, the US and its two West European accomplices – France and Britain – finally acknowledged in Geneva in 2015 – Iran's inalienable right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes. The US has now breached its own commitments by withdrawing from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action) and re-imposing its illegal economic sanctions.

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

Oldest Visual Arts Event Displays Young Painters' Work



TEHRAN (IFP) -- The 27th edition of "One Hundred Works, One Hundred Artists" exhibition is being held at Tehran's Golestan Gallery.

The summer event is known as the oldest visual arts event in Iran's private sector that features works by 228 artists this year.

According to Leili Golestan, the director and designer of the gallery, 32 works worth over 10,000 USD were sold in the opening day.

A special feature of this edition is that well-known artists have not participated and only a number of

works by young and less-known artists have been presented.

Prices start at 13 dollars and the most expensive painting is 6,000 dollars which is a work by Mohammad Ebrahim Jafari.

At this event any work that is sold is removed from the wall and replaced by another work of art. Therefore, the exhibition is updated every few days and enthusiasts and shoppers can visit and shop again.

"One Hundred Works, One Hundred Artists" will run through August 21 at Golestan Gallery, north of Tehran.

Jeyrani's 'The Agitation' Hits Silver Screens

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Fereydoun Jeyrani's 'The Agitation' is slated to be screened in Iran after 'Oath'.

Also produced by Jeyrani, the film will appear on the silver screen soon.

'Oath' directed by Mohsen Tanabandeh is currently on the screen in Iranian cinemas.

'The Agitation' is about Bardia and Barbod, twin brothers who have always been in competition with each other since childhood.



A still from Fereydoun Jeyrani's 'The Agitation'.

Fereydoun Jeyrani, the film's director said 'The Agitation' is not realistic and social. It is a movie about love and crime...

Both roles are portrayed by Bahram Radan. Ifilm viewers know Radan from the movies 'Down and Out' and 'The Yellow Rose'.

Mahnaz Afshar, Mehran Ahmadi, Nasim Adabi, Ali Milani, Ehsan Haj Mohammadi and Nazanin Solhjou are also among the cast members of the film.

Eating Dark Chocolate May Prevent Depression

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Eating dark chocolate may positively affect mood and relieve depressive symptoms, finds a new study looking at whether different types of chocolate are associated with mood disorders.

Researchers from UCL worked in collaboration with scientists from the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services Canada and assessed data from 13,626 adults from the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Participants' chocolate consumption was assessed against their scores on the Patient Health Questionnaire, which assesses depressive symptoms.

In the cross-sectional study, a range of other factors including height, weight, marital status, ethnicity, education, household income, physical activity, smoking and chronic health problems were also taken into account to ensure the study only measured chocolate's effect on depressive symptoms.

After adjusting for these factors, it was found that individuals who reported eating any dark chocolate in two 24-hour periods had 70 per cent lower odds of reporting clinically relevant depressive symptoms than those who reported not eating chocolate at all. The 25 per cent of chocolate consumers who ate the most chocolate (of any kind, not just dark) were also less likely to report depressive symptoms than those who didn't eat chocolate at all. However researchers found no significant link between any non-dark chocolate consumption and clinically relevant depressive symptoms.

Asia Pacific Cinema Grants Awards at Iran's Independent Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) -- The NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) award will be granted at the 7th Khorshid International Independent Film Festival, slated for October in Tehran.

Under a cooperation agreement between Khorshid International Independent Film Festival and NETPAC, the NETPAC award will be granted at the 7th edition of the Iranian film festival this year to recognize the quality of the best film chosen from the works of new Asia/Pacific directors.

The NETPAC Jury panel will comprise three members, including the founder and director of Khorshid Film Festival, Mehdi Yarmohammadi, and the other two selected by NETPAC secretariat.

The NETPAC award consists of a certificate given to the winner at the awards ceremony, presented by the president of the jury panel. In addition, information on the film and director (including sales and



distribution sources) will be disseminated widely through NETPAC's website, platforms and members worldwide.

Additionally, Mehdi Yarmohammadi and Khorshid International Independent Film Festival have become members of the NETPAC.

NETPAC is the leading platform for the discovery and promotion of Asia Pacific cinema. It was founded in 1990 in New Delhi. Its secretariat is now located in Colombo,

Sri Lanka.

Khorshid International Independent Film Festival, directed by Mehdi Yarmohammadi, is held annually in Tehran. The festival is regarded as a special event for independent experimental cinema in Iran.

The subject of the festival is free, with a focus on "respect for human beings and the world". The 7th edition of the event will be held in October.

Picture of the Day



The Midsummer Celebrations are held annually in many parts of Iran including Zardouyi village in the city of Paveh in Kermanshah province, western Iran. The ceremony starts when temperatures begin to drop with the harvest of garden products. Courtesy: IRNA