

This Day in History

(August 8)

Today is Thursday; 17th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 6th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 8, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1902 solar years ago, on this day in 117 AD, Roman Emperor Trajan died in 117 at the age of 64 in Selinus in Cilicia in what is now the southeastern coastal region of Turkey, after a 19-year reign, while fleeing the counterattacks of Iran's Parthian Empire, following his invasion of Mesopotamia (Iraq) and retreat.

1292 lunar years ago, on this day in 158 AH, the tyrant Mansour ad-Dawaniqi, the second self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died of gluttony at the age of 63 after a 22-year reign. Born to a morally-lose African slave-girl of Mohammad (great-grandson of the Prophet's uncle Abbas), he was named Abdullah at birth, and the reason he was called "**Dawaniqi**" was because of his stinginess. Persecuted during the days of the Godless Ommayad regime, he shot into prominence when his brother, Abu'l-Abbas as-Saffah, (the Blood-Shedder), deceitfully hijacked the caliphate by making the Muslims, especially of Khorasan, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, and other places, believe that rule of the Islamic state was being returned to the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt. In 136 AH, following the death of his brother, he assumed power and unleashed terror on the people, immediately killing Behzadaan pour Vandaaad, known as Abu Muslim Khorasani, the Iranian general whose victories had brought the Abbasids to power. Mansour, who in the Omayyad era, had sworn allegiance to Mohammad Nafs-Zakiyya, a great grandson of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) elder grandson, Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), cold-bloodedly martyred many descendants of the Prophet, through wars, imprisonment, and poisoning. His most prominent victim was Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir. He founded the city of Baghdad by using Iranian architects and Zoroastrian astrologers, and was the first person to destroy the holy shrine of the Chief of Martyrs, the Prophet's younger grandson Imam Husain (AS), in Karbala.

1011 solar years ago, on this day in 1008 AD, Chief Minister of the Omayyad Emirate of Córdoba, Muslim Spain, Mohammad bin Abdullah ibn Abi Aamer al-Mansur, died at the age of 64. Known as Almanzor to the Christians, he was the de facto ruler.

1182 lunar years ago, on this day in 258 AH, the prominent hadith scholar of Iranian stock, Abu Ali Mohammad bin Hammam bin Sohail al-Iskafi, was born in the town of Iskaf, between Basra and Kufa in Iraq, following a request by his father to the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Askari (AS), to pray to God for a son for him. He grew up into a devout follower of the Ahl al-Bayt or Blessed Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He groomed many scholars and authored several books including "**al-Anwaar fi Tarikh al-Aimmat al-Athaar**" (History of the Infallible Imams), and "**Kitab at-Tamhees**", which is among the primary sources of the famous encyclopedia "**Behaar al-Anwaar**" compiled by the celebrated Allamah Mohammad Baqer Majlisi during the Safavid era. Mohammad bin Hammam al-Iskafi passed away in 336 AH at the age of 78.

431 solar years ago, on this day in 1588 AD, Battle of Gravelines in the English Channel delivered a disastrous blow to the Spanish Armada's attempt to invade England, overthrow Queen Elizabeth and install a Catholic dynasty favourable to Spain's King Philip. In the day's fighting 600 Spaniards were killed and 800 badly injured, as English fire ships caused havoc, destroying many enemy vessels. During the naval campaign, which was marred by storms in the English Channel, the Spanish lost a third of the 130 ships of the Armada

371 solar years ago, on this day in 1648 AD, on the ouster of Sultan Ibrahim the Mad by the Jan-Nisari corps, his 6-year old son was placed on the throne in Istanbul as Mohammad IV, the 19th Ottoman sultan and the 10th self-styled Turkish caliph. Ten days later, Ibrahim was strangled to death on the fatwa of the Chief Mufti.

94 solar years ago, on this day in 1925 AD, Bosnian Muslim politician and author, Alija Izetbegovic, was born in the town of Bosanski Shamac in a distinguished aristocratic but impoverished family that was originally from Belgrade where his ancestors lived for hundreds of years in the service of the Ottoman Empire. After independence he was elected as president of Bosnia. He played a vital role in defending the Bosnian people, throughout the attacks of Serbian army and Bosnian Serbs against Muslims. After the termination of war, he was elected twice to Bosnian presidential council. He voluntarily stepped down from power in 2000. He was also an Islamic thinker and author, writing a number of books, including "**Islam between East and West**", and "**Islamic Declaration**".

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1942 AD, the Quit India Movement was launched in India against the British rule in response to Mohandas Gandhi's call for swaraj or complete independence.

74 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, the Soviet Leader, Joseph Stalin, declared war on Japan which had occupied Manchuria in northeastern China. The attack came on the heels of the criminal US atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima, enabling Russia to take control of North Korea and the Kurile Islands. These Islands are still the point of friction between Japan and Russia.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1963 AD, the Great Train Robbery occurred in England, when a gang of 15 robbers stole £2.6 million (equivalent of £48 million today) in bank notes. The train was travelling between Glasgow and London. Although most of the gang was arrested and the ringleaders sentenced to 30 years in jail, the bulk of the stolen money was never recovered.

52 solar years ago, on this day in 1967 AD, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It now includes five more countries - Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Brunei and Cambodia. It is a major pole of world economy.

33 lunar years ago, on this day in 1407 AH, hundreds of Hajj pilgrims from Iran and other countries, while observing the divine ritual of disavowal of disbelievers, were martyred by Saudi forces, on the orders of Interior Minister, Nayef Ibn Abdul-Aziz. The Hajj pilgrims observe this ritual every year on the basis of the opening ayahs of Surah Towbah of the Holy Qur'an, where God commands the believers to declare their disavowal of disbelievers (**Bara'at min al-Mushrikin**).

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1990, Ba'thist dictator, Saddam, following his invasion of Kuwait on August 2, announced its annexation to Iraq, resulting in the Persian Gulf War and the ouster of Iraqi forces over six months later. Ironically, the US ambassador to Iraq, April Gilespe, had given Saddam the green signal to occupy Kuwait.

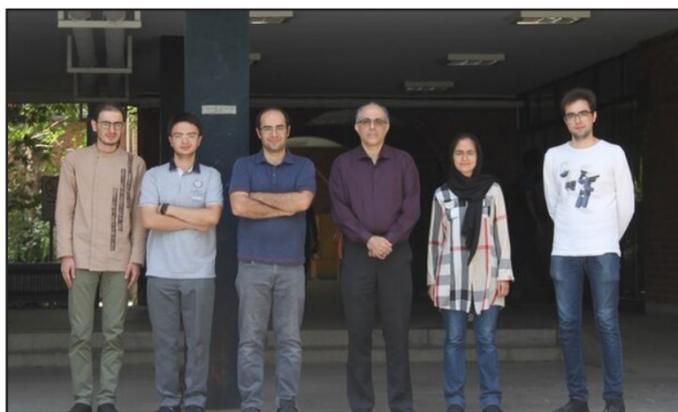
27 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, the Source of Emulation, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abul-Qasem Musavi Khoyi, passed away at the age of 93 in Kufa, a year and some five months after the brutally crushed popular uprising of the Iraqi people against the repressive Ba'th minority regime, during which he was forcibly taken to Baghdad and made to appear on TV with the bloodthirsty dictator, Saddam.

21 solar years ago, on this day in 1998 AD, the terrorist Taliban militia on occupying the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif violated the diplomatic immunity of the Iranian Consulate and martyred eight Iranian diplomats and the IRNA reporter, Mahmoud Saremi.

20 solar years ago, on this day in 1999 AD, the Iranian poet and academic, Gholam-Ali Ra'di Azarakhshi, passed away at the age of 90 in Tehran. His poem "**Kargah va Kargar**" (The workplace and the worker), is a powerful rendition of the adverse working conditions of carpet-weavers in his birthplace, Tabriz. His critical stand on the cultural influence of the West and the submission of Persian poetry to modernization is well reflected in his noted poem "**Morgh-e Toufan**".

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

Iranian Math Students Win 4 Medals in Bulgaria



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian math students won four medals at the 26th International Mathematics Competition for

University Students (IMC 2019) which was held in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

Iranian math geniuses from Sharif University of Technology won 4 colorful medals at IMC 2019 among 70 student teams.

The Iranian team consisted of Fateme Sadat Sajadi and Amin Fathpour, who won a gold medal, Ali Daei Naby and Mohammad Reza Aminian, each received a silver medal, at the international competitions.

This year's competition was organized by University College London and hosted by the American University in Bulgaria. It took place in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, from the 28th of July to the 3rd of August, 2019. The competition is planned for students completing their first, second, third or fourth year of university education with a maximum age of participants being 23 years of age at the time of the competition.

Special Prize Goes to 'Beloved' at Slovenian Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian documentary 'Beloved' was awarded the Special Prize at Slovenia's Kranjska Gora International Film Festival (KGIF).

Directed by Yaser Talebi, the award was granted on behalf of the jury panel to the film's producer Elaheh Nobakht at the festival's award ceremony Monday afternoon.

The documentary depicts the life of an 80-year old woman who lives a unique life in the countryside of Iran's Alborz Mountains.

Despite the hardships she has faced throughout the years, she still remains tough and strong while maintain-



A still from the documentary 'Beloved'.

ing her motherly persona of being kind and loving to her loved ones.

The Special Prize from the KGIF is the sixth award that 'Beloved' has received from

an international film festival.

Other international recognitions for the documentary include first place by the audience at the 26th Hot Docs Canadian International Doc-

umentary Festival, Best Photography at the 14th Sole Luna Doc Film Festival in Italy, Best Feature Documentary at the 15th Kazan International Muslim Film Festival in Russia, Special Mention at China's 25th Shanghai TV Festival, and a nomination at the 33rd Parnu International Documentary and Anthropology Film Festival in Estonia.

The KGIF is a ten-day annual film festival offering international and local documentary and fiction films from various genres.

The fourth edition of the festival came to a close Monday evening

Children, Youth Film Festival Hosts 27 Countries

TEHRAN (FNA) -- Director of 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Alireza Tabesh, said several foreign guests from 27 countries would attend this international prestigious cinematic event.

Tabesh made the remarks in press conference attended by several reporters and the festival's top officials.

He also emphasized the importance of the quality of films which have been submitted to the festival's secretariat, adding that the festival favors production of films for the quality rather than quantity.

"In this edition of the festival, we have established a video library section and invited the regional and international distributors to the event," he added.

In the course of the festival, for the first time in the country, the economic profiling of films will be presented to the filmmakers on their way to the national competition.

"The industries adjacent to the cinema industry are of fundamental importance in the boom in film production" he said.

Paying Special attention to animation and short animation films works leading to the National Competition Section, having a close look at non-cinematic short and feature films and launching new web series section are all indications that the festival in this era has a particular look that goes beyond just cinema," he added.

He also said that 235 movies were submitted to the international sections of the festival secretariat of which 100 features, 45 animated features, 40 animated

short, and 50 short fiction were reviewed by the International Selection Board and eventually 42 films were selected including 12 feature, 10 animated feature, 11 animated short and 9 short fiction films.

Asked about the number of international films and the impact of sanctions on the films' presence in the festival, he said: "The festival is a symbol of public diplomacy, especially when our enemies are trying to tarnish the real image of our country."



Picture of the Day



A new stage adaptation of American composer Richard Rodgers' musical The Sound of Music is currently on stage at Tehran's Vahdat Hall. Hadi Ghozat is the director of the play, which runs until August 22. A choir composed of 80 vocalists, 50 musicians and 20 actor-singers under the baton of conductor Nassir Heidarian are collaborating on the project. Courtesy: Honaronline