

## This Day in History

### This Day in History (August 17)

Today is Saturday; 26<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 15<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 17, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1226 lunar years ago**, on this day in 214 AH, Imam Ali an-Naqi al-Hadi (AS), the 10<sup>th</sup> Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born in the holy city of Medina. His period of Imamate, or divinely-decreed leadership of mankind, was 34 years, until he was martyred in the Iraqi city of Samarra through poisoning by the usurper Abbasid caliph, Mo'taz. The Imam, who was forced to come to Samarra by the previous caliph, the tyrant Motawakkil, trained many prominent scholars, including his distant cousin, Hazrat Abdul-Azeem al-Hassani, whose shrine in Rayy, a southern suburb of Tehran, is visited by pilgrims throughout the year. Despite the suffocating atmosphere of Abbasid rule, the 10th Imam strengthened the system of "wikala" (representation) throughout the Islamic realm, to serve the ummah during the Imamate of his son, and especially the long occultation of his grandson, the eagerly awaited, Imam Mahdi (AS), who will reappear in the end times to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice, by weeding out oppression and corruption from the earth.

**1198 lunar years ago**, on this day in 242 AH, the Mu'tazalite ideologue, Yahya Ibn Aktham, died in Rabadha. He was a close confidante of Mamoun, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, and was hopelessly outwitted in the famous debate he held in the front of the whole court with the young Imam Mohammad Taqi (AS), the 9th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) on jurisprudential issues. Some two decades later, Yahya wrote a series of complicated questions to try to test the God-given knowledge of Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS), and was astounded by the answers provided by the Prophet's 10th Infallible Successor to which he had no clue.

**302 solar years ago**, on this day in 1717 AD, a year after start of the Austro-Turkish War, the month-long siege of Belgrade ended with Prince Eugene of Savoy's Austrian troops capturing the city from the Ottoman Empire. The Austrian occupation ended 22 years later in 1739 with the liberation of Belgrade by Turkish Muslims who in 1521 had built it as an Islamic city, complete with baths, public fountains, libraries, bazaars, and mosques. The city was occupied by the Serbs in 1807 and became capital of Serbia in 1841. The Christians have erased much of the Islamic features of Belgrade.

**185 solar years ago**, on this day in 1834 AD, Bosnian Muslim revolutionary general, Hussain-Kapetan Gradasevic, died in Istanbul under mysterious circumstances at the young age of 32, after fighting against the policies of the Ottoman Empire and for Bosnian autonomy.

**173 solar years ago**, on this day in 1846 AD, during the American-Mexican War, US fleet officer Robert F Stockton annexed the vast region of California 21 years after the independence of Mexico from Spain.

**169 solar years ago**, on this day in 1850 AD, Argentine general and politician Jose de San Martin, who became the 1<sup>st</sup> President of Peru on liberating the southeastern parts of South America from Spanish colonial rule, died at the age of 72 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, where he was living in self-exile.

**153 solar years ago**, on this day in 1866 AD, the 6<sup>th</sup> ruler of the Asef-Jahi Dynasty of Deccan in south India, Mahboob Ali Khan Nizam ol-Mulk, was born in Hyderabad. In 1889, at the age of three, on the death of his father, Afzal od-Dowla, he was crowned as ruler by the able Prime Minister, Turab Ali Khan Salaar Jung. Besides his native Urdu, he was well versed in Persian, Arabic and English. He founded schools and libraries, even though he led a lavish life - his extensive wardrobe being the largest in the world along with his collection of jewels. He was a poet in both Urdu and Persian, and maintained relations with the Qajarid Dynasty of Iran. Many Iranians, including men of letters, settled in the Deccan during his reign, which also saw establishment of the famous publication house of books on Islamic sciences - later expanded by his son and successor, Osman Ali Khan Asef Jah VII, as Dairat-ul-Ma'arif al-Osmania.

**74 solar years ago**, on this day in 1945 AD, Ahmad Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed Indonesia's independence by launching the Revolution against Dutch colonial rule. Four years later Indonesia emerged as an independent country. In 1956, total independence was achieved and Sukarno was elected the first president.

**62 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1378 AH, Ayatollah Sheikh Ali Borhan passed away at the age of 54. A product of the Islamic seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, he studied under Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abu'l-Hassan Isfahani and Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abu'l-Qassim Khoie. On his return to Iran he engaged in socio-religious activities, managing seminaries and building mosques. He wrote several books including an exegesis on Surah Yusuf of the holy Qur'an and a supplication manual "Hadith al-Ayyam".

**59 solar years ago**, on this day in 1960 AD, Gabon in West Africa, gained independence after four centuries of European colonial rule and the wanton plundering of its natural resources, in addition to the enslavement of its people. Gabon covers an area of 267,000 sq km. It shares borders with the Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, and Guinea. Islam, practiced by 20 percent of the Gabonese is the fastest growing religion.

**38 solar years ago**, on this day in 1981 AD, Mullah Saleh Khosravi, a Sunni Muslim religious leader of Iran's ethnic Kurdish minority, was martyred by US mercenaries, along with his 18-year old son, at the Jame' Mosque in the city of Sanandaj (Kurdistan) before start of the evening congregational prayers. He joined the grassroots Islamic movement of the Iranian people under the leadership of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), braving imprisonment several times by the British-installed and US-backed Pahlavi regime. On the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he defended national solidarity and Islamic unity, opposing the anti-revolutionary activities of the mercenary outfits in Kurdistan.

**32 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, Rudolf Hess, the deputy of German Nazi leader Adolph Hitler, committed suicide in prison in Britain at the age of 93. Following end of World War II he was prosecuted at the war criminals tribunal in Nuremberg and sentenced to life.

**31 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, along with US Ambassador to Islamabad, Arnold Raphel, was killed in a plane crash, thirteen days after the martyrdom of prominent Shi'a Muslim scholar, Seyyed Arif Hussain al-Hussaini in Peshawar - believed to be the dirty work of the state apparatus.

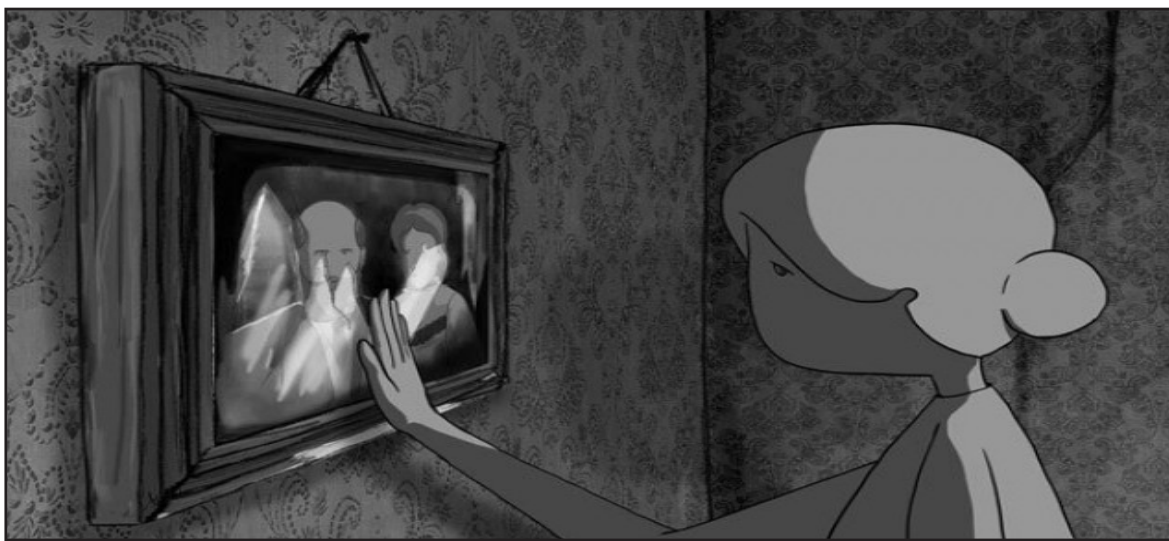
**31 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, a ceasefire formally took effect as per UN Security Council Resolution 598, ending the 8-year war launched on Islamic Iran by the US through its agent, Saddam, of the tyrannical Ba'th minority regime of Iraq. The goal of the invasion was to topple the Islamic Republic but thanks to the committed and courageous Iranian forces the Ba'th war machine failed in its efforts.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1990 AD, in the process of exchange of prisoners of war, the first group of Iranian POWs returned home as part of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 that ended the 8-year war the US had imposed on Iran through Saddam. The POW exchange which Saddam had hindered for two years took place after his occupation of Kuwait and subsequent isolation in the region and the world. This day is marked as Day of Azadegan (Freed POWs). It is worth noting that some 7,000 Iraqi POWs sought refuge in Iran under supervision of the International Red Cross, refusing to return to their homeland because of the tyranny of the Ba'th minority regime.

**20 solar years ago**, on this day in 1999 AD, a 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck Izmit, Turkey, killing more than 17,000 and injuring 44,000.

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

# Narrative Grand Prize Goes to 'Tangle' in U.S.



A still from Iran's short animated film 'Tangle'.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iran's short animated film 'Tangle' has received the Narrative Grand Prize at U.S. film festival.

"The film is simply exquisite," Jo Ann Skousen, founding director of Anthem festival, said at the awards ceremony.

Directed by Maliheh Gholamzadeh, 'Tangle' is a war story narrating the separation of people from their homeland due to war and the subsequent crisis.

The seven-minute animation was produced in 2019.

'Tangle' has attended the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) in the U.S. and is vying at the 10th edition of "We Like 'Em Short" Film Festival currently underway in the state of Oregon.

The film also grabbed the Best Animation award at the "Short to the Point" Film Festival in Romania.

## Researchers Use Herb to Treat Parkinson's Disease

TEHRAN (IFP) -- Iranian researchers have produced an herbal medicine to treat the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The medicine is currently in the commercialization stage and will soon be on the market.

According to Public Relations Department of Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, Parkinson's disease is one of the most common public health problems worldwide. The chronic disease is characterized by the gradual death of dopamine-producing neurons at the base of the brain resulting in a dopamine imbalance in the brain. Symptoms include disorders such as muscle stiffness, tremor, sluggishness and severe physical loss.

A drug called Levodopa is one of the main drugs used to treat



Parkinson's symptoms.

There are many chemical and herbal medicines produced in various countries containing this substance, but in Iran the medi-

cine could not be produced locally until researchers at Tehran University of Medical Sciences managed to produce it using a natural herb.

Research into the medicine's production began with a project sponsored by the Vice Presidency's Fund for Researchers and Technologists.

Samira Rahmani, a researcher of this project, says "this study extracted and standardized Levodopa from a plant native to India. It contains up to 15% natural Levodopa, is used in traditional medicine and is mainly used to relieve Parkinson's symptoms."

"Extraction and formulation were performed for drug production and we were able to localize the medicinal plant for this disease for the first time in Iran. Levodopa is converted to dopamine by the enzyme in the body, and it has also positive effects on Parkinson's symptoms," she added.

## Iran's Children Cinema Big Success Worldwide

TEHRAN (MNA) -- International Manager of 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Raed Faridzadeh, said the Iranian children and the youth cinema enjoys a special place in the world.

"For the first time this year, the children festival has a video library featuring a collection of recent films on children and adolescents as well as top works in the past 40 years to screen for festival buyers, directors, and planners", said Faridzadeh.

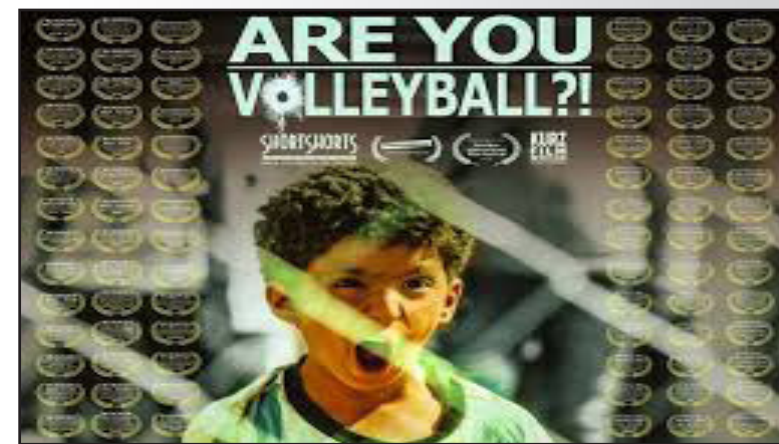
"This is a step towards the festival's focus on the child and adolescent cinema market, and for this reason, alongside a video library of regional buyers whose children and adolescent cinema is important to them; there is also a focus on countries in the region that share cultural interests with Iran. Of course, a number of European and Asian countries have been invited to watch the films this year, as well as negotiate with broadcasters and select works from the video library," he added.

Faridzadeh also commented on the co-production section of the festival, adding that "Along with this section, with the help of my colleagues, we designed a co-production panel focused on child and adolescent cinema, inviting guests from Serbia, Pakistan, Turkey, Germany, South Korea and Russia. Iranian filmmakers, directors and actors involved in co-production have also been invited to hold talks on the matter."

He added several top international

film critics from South Korea, Germany, Armenia, Berlin film festivals, as well as Cannes, would take part in this section and the works by Abbas Kiarostami and Majid Majidi will be reviewed by an Armenian cinema expert.

Presided by Alireza Tabesh, the 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth is slated to be held in Province of Isfahan on Aug 19-26, 2019 in the feature, short story, web series, long animation, short animation sections.



Children's film 'Are You Volleyball'.

## Picture of the Day



The 19th Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival has begun its work at Tehran's City Theatre, hosting artists and researchers of traditional and ritual theater from all over the country. Iran has an old history of traditional and ritual drama, such as Siah Bazi, Ta'zieh, Naqqali, and Kheimeh Shab Bazi, attracting the majority of people through the ages. Courtesy: Honaronline