

This Day in History

(August 18)

Today is Sunday; 27th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 16th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 18, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1335 solar years ago, on this day in 684 AD, the crucial Battle of Marj Rahit took place near Damascus for control of Syria, resulting in a surprise victory for Marwan Ibn al-Hakam of the tottering Omayyad regime, because of the support of the Banu Kalb tribesmen against the rival Banu Qays clansmen. The Banu Qays were led by the governor of Damascus, Dahhak Ibn Qays al-Fihri, a partisan of Abdullah Ibn Zubayr, who had styled himself as caliph in Hijaz on the death of the tyrant Yazid, but made the fatal mistake of allowing Marwan to leave Medina for Syria. Twenty days earlier at Marj as-Suffar, Dahhak had defeated Marwan and almost annihilated the Omayyads. Marwan, who decades ago had been banished along with his infidel father, Hakam Ibn Aas, by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) but recalled to Medina by Othman Ibn Affan and given charge of all state affairs during the latter's 12-year caliphate, now took advantage of the abdication by Yazid's son, Mu'awiyya II, to declare himself caliph. Marwan's victory was due to the bribing of commanders of the rival forces by his generals, such as Obaidollah Ibn Ziyad, the perpetrator of the heartrending tragedy of Karbala and the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS). After nine months in power Marwan was choked to death by Yazid's wife whom he had married, and was succeeded by his equally cruel son, Abdul-Malik.

969 lunar years ago, on this day in 471 AH, the Spanish Muslim astronomer and mathematician, Abu Abdullah Mohammad ibn Mu'az al-Jayyani, passed away at the age of over 90. He wrote important commentaries on the Greek scientist, Euclid's Elements. He also wrote the first known treatise on spherical trigonometry as a discipline independent from astronomy. His work on spherical trigonometry contains formulae for right-handed triangles, the general law of sines, and the solution of a spherical triangle by means of the polar triangle. This treatise had a strong influence on European mathematics, while his definition of ratios as numbers and method of solving a spherical triangle when all sides are unknown, influenced scholars of the Renaissance period.

792 solar years ago, on this day in 1227 AD, the bloodthirsty Mongolian Buddhist tyrant, Genghis Khan, died at the age of 65, after devastating centres of civilization, especially in the Muslim world, including Iran, and slaughtering some seventeen million people.

532 solar years ago, on this day in 1487 AD, the four-month siege of the strategic Spanish Muslim port of Malaga of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, ended with its occupation by the Christian forces, aided by mercenaries from other parts of Europe, who massacred the Muslims and sold the remnants into slavery. It was the first conflict in which ambulances, or special vehicles for the purpose of carrying injured persons, were used by the Muslim defenders.

371 solar years ago, on this day in 1648 AD, the 18th Ottoman Sultan, Ibrahim Deli (the Deranged), who styled himself the 10th Turkic Caliph, was strangled to death at the age 33, after 8 years in power, on the orders of his minor son and successor, Mohammad IV, as per the fatwa issued by the chief Qazi of the realm.

169 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, French novelist and playwright, Honore de Balzac, died in Paris at the age of 51. He is regarded as one of the founders of realism in European literature. The novel sequence *"La Comedie Humaine"* (Human Comedy), which presents a panorama of post-Napoleonic French life, is generally viewed as his magnum opus.

151 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, the English orientalist scholar, Reynold Alleyne Nicholson, was born in West Riding, Yorkshire.

151 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, French astronomer, Pierre Janssen, discovered a previously unknown bright yellow line in the spectrum of the chromosphere of the sun during a solar eclipse he was observing from India. This was an indication of a new element. For over 30 years, it was assumed the element was only present in the sun since the spectral line was not observed in the lab until 1895 when William Ramsay examined a gas released from treating the mineral cleveite. Ramsay named the new element "helium" after the Greek word "helios" for the sun.

98 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, Akhond Abdul-Karim Gazi bin Mahdi Gazi passed away at the age of 77. Born in the town of Gaz, near Isfahan, in a scholarly family, after preliminary studies in Isfahan, he left for the seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where he attained the status of Ijtihad. On return to Iran, he taught for several years at the Neem Avar Madrasah, training a several scholars. He was a prolific writer, and among his books, mention could be made of *"Tadhkirat-al-Qobour"* on the prominent persons buried in Isfahan.

79 solar years ago, on this day in 1940 AD, the prominent Iranian painter, Mohammad Ghaffari, titled *"Kamal od-Molk"* (Wonder of the State), passed away in exile near the northeastern Iranian city of Naishapur.

76 solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD, General Ali-Agha Ismail-Agha Shikhlinski of Russian occupied Azerbaijan, died in Baku at the age of 78. Born in a noble family first mentioned in 1537 during the reign of Emperor Shah Tahmasb Safavi of Iran, his mother was a granddaughter of the famous Azeri poet Molla Vali Vidadi. Shikhlinski published a number of works on artillery, including the book titled *"Use of Field Artillery in a Battle"*, and invented an original target-finding device, which was called *"Shikhlinski triangle"*.

61 solar years ago, on this day in 1958 AD, Brojen Das of East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh) swam across the English Channel in a competition, as the first Asian to ever do it. He came first among 39 competitors.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, following armed sedition in the western border areas of Kurdistan Province and a bid by anti-revolutionaries to detach the strategic city of Paveh and adjoining regions from Iran, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), issued a communique for mass mobilization forces to liberate the areas. Paveh had been surrounded by the anti-revolutionaries, with the active backing of the US, but the timely arrival of Basiji forces thwarted the bid of the separatists, and the whole region was cleared off seditious elements.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1981 AD, Ayatollah Shaikh Baha od-Din Mahallati, passed away at the age of 85. After preliminary studies under his scholarly father, he left of the Islamic seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where he stayed for ten years, attaining the status of Ijtihad. On his return to Iran, he became popular amongst the people and was a firm supporter of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) in the struggle against the despotic Pahlavi regime.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, Iranian historian Seyyed Mohammad Moheet Tabatabaie passed away at the age of 89. He has left behind some 2,500 research articles, while the books written by him include, *"Seyyed Jamal od-Din and the Awakening of the Orient"*, *"Analytical History of the Iranian Media"*, and *"Evolution of Government in Iran after the Advent of Islam."*

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, Ayatollah Qodratollah Vajdani Fakhr passed away at the age of 64. He had permission to related hadith from several Sources of Emulation, and has written a number of books, which include *"Norms of Etiquette in Islam"*, *"Ijtihad in Islam"*, and the 16-volume *"al-Fahriyya"* on jurisprudence.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2008 AD, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan had to resign due to threat of impeachment, after nine years in power, following his bloodless coup against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 1999. He was allowed to leave the country, but is currently under house arrest with several charges against him, following his return to Pakistan last year and unsuccessful bid to contest the parliamentary elections.

4 solar years ago, on this day in 2015 AD, Khaled al-As'ad, Syrian Archaeologist and Head of antiquities at the ancient city of Tadmour or Palmyra – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – was brutally beheaded at a public square in his hometown Palmyra in front of a large crowd, by takfiri terrorists of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. He was 81 years old and spent a lifetime in the excavations and restoration of Palmyra.

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

Tehran, Moscow Keen on Broadening Cultural Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – Senior Iranian and Russian cultural officials met and held talks in Moscow to discuss the ways boosting cultural relations between the two countries.

Iran's Cultural Attaché in Russia Qahraman Soleimani hosted

a meeting on Friday with several high-ranking Russian officials, including the Head of Russian Foundation for Supporting Art Denis Fan and Head of the Center for Art and Music Studies Azaliya Akhmatova and the Head of the Russian

Culture Ministry's Office for Professional Artists and Education Irina Choikina.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for promoting cultural relations between the two countries.

Soleimani stressed the need to make use of the existing capacities between the two neighbors to devise better joint programs in a bid to improve the level of cultural cooperation between the two countries quantitatively and qualitatively.

Italy Corti Hosts Iranian Short Film

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian short 'Breathing' has been scheduled to screen at the 2019 edition of VICOLI CORTI Film Festival in Italy.

Directed by Farshid Ayyoubinejad, the short film narrates the story of some stone factory workers who do not have health care and have to hide in a small dark room every month when the insurance agent arrives. This time that the agent shows up, though, something unexpected happens.

'Breathing' has so far attended



several international events including 2019 Busan International Short Film Festival (BISFF) in South Korea, 2018 Lift India | Filmotav-World Cine Fest and 21st edition of Festival International de Cortometrajes de Vila-real in Spain.

The film has also participated at the Human Rights International Film Festival in the Italian city of Orvieto and won the award for Best Short.

The 14th edition of the VICOLI CORTI Film Festival is slated for August 21-25, 2019.

Scientists Identify Non-Verbal Marker to Measure Autism

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- A Dartmouth-led research team has identified a non-verbal, neural marker of autism. This marker shows that individuals with autism are slower to dampen neural activity in response to visual signals in the brain.

The research revealed that neural data could be used to predict whether or not an individual had autism with 87 percent accuracy. The findings were striking and tracked with clinical measures

of autism: participants with a higher level of autism had a slower rate of binocular rivalry, where the brain was slower in switching from one image to the next.

The research offers new promise for the way autism is diagnosed. "This visual test may be a non-verbal marker of autism in adults. Our next steps are to learn whether this test could potentially be used to detect autism in pre-verbal children and non-verbal adults and develop it into a

screening tool for the condition. In the meantime, this result gives us new insight into the brain in autism, showing that visual regions of the brain are affected," says Robertson. The researchers also note that the visual sensitivities individuals with autism experience differ significantly among people on the autism spectrum, so while measuring these differences in visual processing may not detect autism in all individuals, it might help to better understand the autism spectrum.

Iranian-Armenian Title 'Yeva' Competes in Bulgaria

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian feature 'Yeva' by Anahid Abad has been accepted into the Spectrum section of 27th International Film Festival in Varna, Bulgaria.

The 27th edition of International Film Festival in Varna will host the screening of Iranian feature 'Yeva' in its Spectrum section.

Written and directed by Iranian-Armenian Anahid Abad, 'Yeva' is the story of a young woman who is forced to flee Yerevan with her daughter Nareh. She would have to stand trial there because she allegedly killed her husband. Uncle Ruben and the remote village in Nagorno-Karabakh are her last chance to go into hiding. But the villagers recognize her from the days of war when she had cared for the wounded as a doctor at the front.

The film has received the Audience Choice Award at the 12th annual Pomegranate Film Festival (POM) in Canada.

'Yeva' has recently received three nominations (best feature, best script and best director award) at the 21st Arpa International Film Festival (AIFF) in the United States.

The 27th International Film Festival in Varna is scheduled for 23 Aug. - 1 Sep. 2019 in Bulgaria.

The festival title is "Love is folly". The IFF "Love is folly" is one of

the most important art events not only for fashionable Varna but also for the life of the European cinema industry.

For over 26 years, the doyen of international film festivals with a Bulgarian address, led by the ambition to broadcast the latest productions in the world of the seventh art, annually presents more than 90 films from both the Bulgarian and world film list.



Picture of the Day



The fourth Exhibition of Iranian Villagers and Nomads' Capabilities is currently underway at Tehran International Permanent Fairground. It will be open to visitors until August 18. Courtesy: IFP News