

# This Day in History

(August 21)

Today is Wednesday; 30<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri corresponding to 19<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 21, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**888 solar years ago**, on this day in 1131 AD, Baldwin II the self-styled 3<sup>rd</sup> king of the illegal Latin kingdom of Jerusalem (occupied Bayt al-Moqaddas) died after a rule of 13 years during which he was constantly involved in wars and killings of Muslims. Earlier as Count of the occupied Syrian-Mesopotamian city of Edessa (currently in southeastern Turkey), he was captured in the Battle of Harran by the Seljuq Turks and was not released until four years later in 1108. The Latin kingdom set up by the Crusaders from Europe collapsed in 1187 after 88 years of illegal existence in Palestine, as a result of an attack by a united Muslim army of Kurds, Turks, Arabs and Iranians, while the Egyptian navy effectively blocked the Mediterranean Sea to prevent any aid from Europe.

**862 solar years ago**, on this day in 1157 AD, Alfonso VII of Leon and Castile died at the age of 52. By 1125 he had inherited the formerly Muslim Kingdom of Toledo. On 10 March 1126, after the death of his mother, he was crowned in León and immediately began the recovery of the Kingdom of Castile. He lost the Battle of Leon to the Muslims.

**443 solar years ago**, on this day in 1576 AD, Ismail II ascended the Safavid throne of Iran as the 3<sup>rd</sup> king of the dynasty and launched a campaign of fratricide in his brief 15-month reign that ended with his murder at the age of 40.

**398 solar years ago**, on this day in 1621 AD, the well-known Islamic scholar, theologian, astronomer, and mathematician, Baha od-Din Mohammad bin Hussain Ameli, popularly known as "Sheikh Bahai", passed away in Isfahan at the age of 78. He has left behind at least 100 valuable books and treatises. Among his works, mention can be made of the books: "*Kashkol*" (literature), "*Khulasat al-Hesab*" (mathematics), and "*Tashrih al-Aflak*" (astronomy).

**339 solar years ago**, on this day in 1680 AD, Pueblo Amerindians captured Santa Fe from the Spanish during the Pueblo Revolt in what is now New Mexico State of the US. In the fighting over 400 Spanish occupiers lost their life, while more than 2,000 others fled. Soon, as part of their genocidal policies, the Spanish occupiers retaliated and massacred thousands of native Amerindians.

**249 solar years ago**, on this day in 1770 AD, Captain James Cook formally claimed eastern Australia for Britain, naming it New South Wales. The British soon occupied the whole of the continent by seizing lands from the native aborigines and settling them with convicts, as well as Irish revolutionaries exiled from their homeland.

**188 solar years ago**, on this day 1831 AD, Nat Turner led the enslaved black people as well as the free blacks in a rebellion against the white US oppressors, a week after he saw a solar eclipse and interpreted it as a sign of God to launch an uprising against the Anglo-Saxon racists.

**183 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1257 AH, one of the leading revolutionary ulema of Iran's Constitutional Movement, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Tabatabai, was born in holy Karbala in Iraq. On attaining the status of Ijtihad he moved to Iran, and in cooperation with Ayatollah Seyyed Abdullah Behbahani, he opposed the autocratic rule of the Qajarid dynasty. Following the failure of the Iranian government to carry out its international diplomatic duties, he wrote a letter to the Japanese Emperor to treat Muslims under his rule with respect and justice. He was also an erudite scholar and groomed numerous students. He passed away in Tehran at the age of 82.

**79 solar years ago** on this day in 1940 AD, Russian Marxist leader, Leon Trotsky, was assassinated in exile in Mexico by a Spanish communist agent of Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, who had expelled him from the communist party. He wrote a number of books including "*History of the Russian Revolution*" and "*The Revolution Betrayed*".

**75 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1365 AH, Ayatollah Mahdi Gharawi Isfahani passed away at the age of 62 in Mashhad and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Imam Reza (AS).

**60 solar years ago**, on this day in 1959 AD, the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) was set up with the signing of an accord in the Turkish capital Ankara by Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and Britain, for replacing the Baghdad Pact that had collapsed the year before with General Abdul-Karim Qassim's coup in Iraq and his decision to withdraw from the Treaty. Although the US was not a signatory and had an observer status, it played the major role in CENTO, which was the central loop in the West's military girdle around the Soviet Union. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and Iran's withdrawal, CENTO collapsed and was dissolved.

**50 solar years ago**, on this day in 1969 AD, an arson attack was launched by the Zionists on Islam's former Qibla (focal point of prayer), the al-Aqsa Mosque in Bayt al-Moqaddas. The usurper state of Israel attributed the fire to Australian tourist, Denis Michael Rohan, and detained him, but a court in Tel Aviv released him on the pretext of being mentally ill. Muslims throughout the world held protest rallies, compelling heads of Muslim states to establish the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) the next year, to counter the threats against Islamic sanctities. In 2003, on the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the OIC designated August 21 as World Mosque Day in order to arouse international conscience towards the sanctity of mosques.

**33 solar years ago**, on this day in 1986 AD, more than 1700 people died when toxic gas erupted from Lake Nyos, a volcanic lake in the West African nation of Cameroon. The gas was carbon dioxide which, being denser than air, hugged the ground and flowed down valleys.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, Iran's President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated the country's first domestically built unmanned bomber aircraft, as part of the Islamic Republic's efforts to reach self-sufficiency in sophisticated electronic technology despite the illegal sanctions imposed by the US and its accomplices. He called it an "ambassador of death" to Iran's enemies.

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, terrorists, supported by the US and Arab reactionary regimes, used internationally banned chemical weapons to kill hundreds of men, women, and children in the Ghouta region of Syria near the capital Damascus.

**Mordad 30** is commemorated every year in Iran as "Allamah Mohammad Baqer Majlisi Day" in honour of this celebrated scholar of the Safavid era, among whose services to the promotion of Islam amongst the people is compilation of the famous 110-volume Hadith Encyclopedia "*Bihar al-Anwaar*" (Oceans of Lights). He was a prolific writer in both Arabic and Persian, and his books include "*Miraat al-Uqoul*", "*Hayat al-Qoloub*", "*Haqq al-Yaqeen*", "*Hilyat-al-Muttaqeen*", "*Jala' al-Uyoun*" etc.

**August 21** is marked as International Mosque Day since 2003 AD, following Iran's initiative at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), and its approval by the OIC Foreign Ministerial Meeting. Every year, the International Mosque Week is observed in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries, on the anniversary of the arson attack on al-Aqsa Mosque in the Zionist occupied Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas - Islam's third holiest site. The goal is to arouse amongst Muslims the importance of mosques, and their role in promoting religious, ethical, cultural, social and various other morally-upright activities.

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

# Iran Street Theater Festival Hosts 9 Countries



TEHRAN (MNA) – The international competition section of the 14th Mariwan International Street Theater Festival includes works from nine countries such as Italy, Russia and Brazil.

According to the secretariat

of the festival, the event had received entries by artists from over 100 countries, but the final cut includes works by nine countries such as Russia, Italy, Brazil, Ukraine, Armenia, a co-production by Iraq and

Oman, and another one by Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan.

The international section of the festival is competitive one, which also includes three performances from Iran. The works selected for this section are produced on the basis of modern street theater techniques that deal with human themes such as peace and friendship among nations and the defense of the oppressed.

Directors of theater festivals from Georgia, Oman, Baghdad, Erbil and Darbandikhan in Iraqi Kurdistan's Sulaimaniya will be present at the event as special guests.

Experts from Mexico and the Netherlands will also hold workshops on the sidelines of the event.

Mariwan International Street Theater Festival is an annual event organized by the Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Kordestan Province, in cooperation with Department of the Dramatic Arts, Iranian Dramatic Arts Society, Kordestan Dramatic Arts Association, and Street Theater Institute.

The 14th edition of the festival, presided over by Fateh Badparva, will be held on 23-27 August 2019 with a focus on 'tourism'.

## Foreign Students Attend Persian Language Course at 'Allameh University'

TEHRAN (IBNA) -- Tehran's Allameh Tabatabaei University is hosting the first group of professors and students of Uzbek professors and students of Persian language.

Uzbek professors and students are attending the program launched by AZFA Center of Allameh Tabatabaei University titled: "The Course for Improving Knowledge of Persian Language and Literature".

As well as them, several students from countries such as Turkey, South Korea, China and



Tunisia have also participated in the course.

Programs included in the

course of AZFA Center Summer School are: Persian language proficiency test, Persian liter-

ature class (contemporary literature, mystical literature and semantics) and Haddad Adel's 'Masnavi' class.

Furthermore sightseeing in Tehran including The Book Garden, Nature Bridge, Sa'adabad Palace, Sacred Defense Museum and travel to ancient Iranian cities of Kashan and Isfahan are among the other programs of Allameh Tabatabaei University Azfa Center for the guests.

The closing ceremony of the program will be held on August 29.

## Insomnia Tied to Higher Risk of Heart Disease

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- People suffering from insomnia may have an increased risk of coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke, according to new research in the American Heart Association.

Previous observational studies have found an association between insomnia, which affects up to 30% of the general population, and an increased risk of developing heart disease and stroke. These observational studies were unable to determine whether insomnia is a cause, or if it is just associated with them, explained Susanna Larsson, Ph.D., lead study author and associate professor of cardiovascular and nutritional epidemiology at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.

In this first-of-its-kind study on insomnia, Larsson and a colleague applied Mendelian randomization, a technique that uses genetic variants known to be connected with a potential risk factor, such as insomnia, to reduce bias in the results. The 1.3 million participants with or without heart disease and stroke were drawn from four major public studies and groups.

Researchers found genetic variants for insomnia were associated with significantly higher odds of

coronary artery disease, heart failure and ischemic stroke -- particularly large artery stroke, but not atrial fibrillation.

A limitation to this study is that the results represent a genetic variant link to insomnia rather than insomnia itself. According to Larsson, it was not possible to determine whether or not the individuals with cardiovascular disease had insomnia.



## Picture of the Day



The 10th edition of the street theater 'citizen' festival of Lahijan is currently underway in the northern city with 30 performances by artists from all across the country. Courtesy: Mehr News Agency