

This Day in History

(September 16)

Today is Monday, 25th of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 16th of the Islamic month of Muharram 1441 lunar hijri; and September 16, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

521 solar years ago, on this day in 1498 AD the notorious Tomas de Torquemada, who as Grand Inquisitor of Spain, imprisoned, tortured, killed and forcibly converted to the Catholic sect of Christianity, tens of thousands of Moriscos or Spanish Muslims, as well as Marranos or Jews pretending to be Christians in public but practicing Judaism in their homes, died a humiliating death in Avila, Spain, after a prolonged illness. He is such a hated figure in Spanish history that his tomb was ransacked in 1832 – two years before the Inquisition was officially disbanded. His bones were dug out and ritually incinerated, in the same manner as he used to burn people alive at the stake. Of Jewish ancestry, as a close confidante of the bigotedly murderous Queen Isabella of Castile, he was the chief supporter of the Alhambra Decree of 1492 that violated the terms of the Treaty of Granada concluded the year before with the Nasrid Emir at the final surrender of the Muslim state of al-Andalus mandating protection of religious rights of the remaining Muslim population.

283 solar years ago, on this day in 1736 AD, German-Dutch physicist and inventor of the thermometer, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, died at the age of 50. He lived in Holland most of his life, and in 1714 invented the mercury thermometer by developing the Fahrenheit temperature scale. For the zero of his scale he used the temperature of an equal ice-salt mixture; 30° for the freezing point of water; and 90° for normal body temperature. Later, he adjusted to 32° for the freezing point of water and 212° for the boiling point of water, the interval between the two being divided into 180 parts.

209 solar years ago, on this day in 1810 AD, Mexicans publicly called for the end of Spanish rule. Mexican Independence Day celebrates this event. Mexico’s revolt against Spain, started with from meetings of the literary and social club of Queretaro (now a central state of Mexico), which included the priest, the mayor of the town, and a local military captain named Ignacio Allende. They believed that New Spain should be governed by the Creoles or the locally born citizens of Spanish ancestry rather than those sent by Spain to head the administration.

181 lunar years ago, on this day in 1260 AH, Amir Abdul-Qader of Algeria was finally detained after fifteen years of struggle against the French occupiers. One of the reasons behind his failure was the treason of the pro-French rulers of Morocco who did not allow him to use the border areas for the independence struggle.

124 solar years ago, on this day in 1895 AD, Malaysian scholar Zain al-Abidin Ahmad was born. He modernized the Malay language with the publication of a series of grammar books entitled *“Pelita Bahasa”* in 1936. The book modernized the structure of the classical Malay language and became the basis for Malay that is in use today. The most important change was in syntax, from the classical passive form to the modern active form.

88 solar years ago, on this day in 1931 AD, the leader of the Libyan people’s struggles against colonial rule, Omar al-Mukhtar, was executed by his Italian captors at the age of 72, after 23 years of armed resistance against the European invaders.

87 solar years ago, on this day in 1932 AD, British physician Ronald Ross, who located the malarial parasite in the gut of the Anopheles mosquito died in London at the age 75.

78 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, the British removed their agent Reza Khan Pahlavi from the Peacock Throne of Iran and replaced him with his 21-year son Mohammad Reza, because of showing sympathies with Germany. An illiterate soldier, Reza Khan was promoted rapidly by the British to become head of the Cossack Brigade, before being imposed on Ahmad Shah Qajar as prime minister. In 1925, he was formally installed as king after abolishment of the Qajar Dynasty, and instructed to impose decadent western values on the Iranian Muslim people, including the forced unveiling of women, and banning of the traditional Persian dress of men. The British took him to Mauritius, then to Durban, and thence to Johannesburg, South Africa, where he died on 26 July 1944. His son, Mohammad Reza, fled Iran in January 1979 after his barbaric measures failed to crush the Islamic Revolution, thereby bringing the curtain down on 54-years of the despotic and corrupt Pahlavi Dynasty.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1963 AD, Malaysia was formed from the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo (Sabah) and Sarawak, with Tunku Abdul-Rahman as prime minister. Singapore, however, soon left this new country. The establishment of Malaysia was bitterly opposed by Indonesia, which refused to recognize the country and waged a guerrilla war against it.

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1975 AD, Papua-New Guinea gained independence. The first Europeans to occupy it were the Dutch, followed by the British. Half of this large Pacific island was handed over to Australia in 1906 by Britain while the other half came under German occupation, until the Nazi defeat in War 2 when it was placed under the UN.

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1978 AD, a 7.7-magnitude quake jolted northeastern Iran and destroyed the city of Tabas and its environs in eastern Iran, killing more than 25,000 people and leaving tens of thousands of others injured. This trembler hit Iran at a time when the people had risen against the tyrannical regime of the Shah, which tried to exploit public sentiments in regard in a bid to undermine the Islamic Movement. The Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), in a message to Iranian nation, emphasized on assistance to the quake victims and called for people’s vigilance and continuation of their struggles against the dictatorship.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, the illegal Zionist entity, along with its Phalangist agents in Lebanon, massacred over 5,000 old men, women and children in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in southern Lebanon. The evil mind behind the bloodcurdling slaughter was Israeli war minister, Ariel Sharon. An ethnic German, born to Lithuanian parents illegally residing in Palestine, his crimes against humanity got him the post of prime minister of the usurper state of Israel. In January 2006, divine wrath struck him in the form of a brain stroke, and for eight years he lay in coma, with most of the brain becoming fluid, before his death.

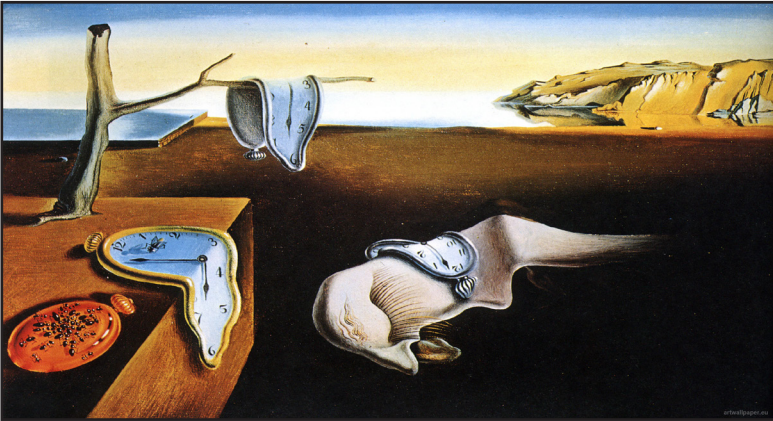
26 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, prominent Iranian literary figure, researcher and political activist, Seyyed Abu’l-Qassim Injavi Shirazi, passed away at the age of 72. Born in Shiraz, he became a journalist in 1948 at the age of 27 and was arrested and banished to remote areas by the British-installed Pahlavi regime for writing critical analysis of the country’s situation. During the oil nationalization campaign, he became part of the administration of Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq, on whose overthrow by the CIA, he was imprisoned. On his release, he busied himself in collecting documents of the cultural heritage of the nation. After victory of the Islamic Revolution he joined the national radio and launched the popular programme *“People’s Culture”*, the result of which was publishing of ten volumes on this valuable heritage.

12 solar years ago, in 2007 AD, the International Ozone Day was celebrated on the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol, following the designation of September 16 as the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, by the UN. By 2007, 191 countries had signed the environmental protocol, under which there was to be a phase out of the production and consumption of ozone depleting chemicals.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, American terrorists working for the notorious Blackwater Company shot and killed 17 Iraqi civilians in Baghdad’s Nisour Square, and injured scores of others. Following outrage in Iraq and the Muslim World, a kangaroo trial was held in the US but soon all criminal charges against the killers were dropped and they were freed.

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

Tehran Exhibits Historic Spanish Artworks



TEHRAN (IFP) -- After the “Iran: The Cradle of Civilization” exhibition was held at the Archaeological Muse-

um of Alicante in eastern Spain, 300 selected artifacts from ancient Spain have arrived in Tehran to be displayed

at the National Museum of Iran next week.

Director of the National Museum of Iran Jebreil Nokandeh says after the end of the Iranian exhibition in Spain, all the 196 historical items borrowed from Iranian museums, along with 300 ancient Spanish works, were returned to Iran on Thursday, September 5.

These items were escorted to the National Museum of Iran by the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts after the customs procedure, he said.

The Spanish works have been selected from the Alicante Museum of Archaeology, and will be displayed

in an exhibition in Tehran entitled “The Archaeology of Spain”, along with the works of the “Iran: Cradle of Civilisation”, Nokandeh said.

The exhibition will be launched on September 22 in the presence of political and cultural figures, he added.

“The collection comprises 300 works such as figurines, earthenware, and paintings that tell the story of ancient Spanish land in the eastern Mediterranean from various pre-historic times to recent centuries.”

Nokandeh further referred to the “Iran: The Cradle of Civilization” exhibition, and said it has been selected as the best museum exhibition in the world.

Animation Hit Awarded at San Diego Kids’ Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iran animation ‘The Last Fiction’ has won an award at the 2019 San Diego International Kids’ Film Festival (SDIKFF) in the U.S.

Directed by Ashkan Rahgozar, ‘The Last Fiction’ won Best Animated Feature Film award at the U.S. event.

The animated film tells the story of an evil figure in Iranian mythology, Zahhak. It is a free adaptation of a story from Iran’s classic literature.

Based on classic Persian literature — “The Shahnameh,” or “The Book of Kings,” by the poet Ferdowsi — the 100-minute animated ‘The Last Fiction’ follows the twin stories of upstart ruler Zahak, who makes a treacherous rise to the throne in Jamkard (ancient Persia), and of young hero Afaridoun, who is fated to save the kingdom’s people from the darkness.

Zahak, who made a Faustian pact to seize the throne, is now haunted



by his evil deeds, and his recent nightmares prophesy that a young man he wronged in the past will rise up against him.

However, Afaridoun must first conquer his own inner demons before he can battle Zahak’s dark forces and restore peace to the kingdom.

Popular Iranian actors Akbar Zanjapour, Hamed Behdad, Parviz

Parastouee, Majid Mozaffari, and Ashkan Khatibi are among the animation voice actors.

The list goes on with Zoheir Yari, Baran Kosari, Hassan Pourshirazi, Shaqayeq Farahani, Melika Sharifinia, Farrokh Nemati, and Bita Farrahi.

The film won recognition and was presented as one of the best ongoing projects at the Annecy International

Iran Documentary Grabs Award at South Korea NETPAC

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian documentary ‘Beloved’, directed by Yaser Talebi, has won the NETPAC Award at the 2019 Ulju Mountain Film Festival in South Korea.

The Iranian documentary won the award at South Korea’s only mountain-themed film festival in the southeastern county of Ulju.

‘Beloved’ was competing with ten other titles, including ‘Winter After Winter’ by Chinese filmmaker Xing Jian, for the NETPAC award, which is given to the best Asian film on behalf of the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema.

‘Beloved’ has been one of the most successful Iranian documentaries in the past year, taking part in several notable film festivals such as Hot Docs and Berlin.

The film follows the life of an 80-year-old mother named Firouzeh who is fond of her isolated lifestyle in nature with her cows. The film shows her kind and loving character and demonstrates her brav-

ery and strength tackling the hardship of life in the Alborz mountains without the modern comforts of technology. She believes happiness lies in the simplicity of life.

The fourth edition of Ulju Mountain Film Festival (UMFF) ran from Sept. 6-10, screening 31 movies from 20 countries.



Picture of the Day



Making pickled cucumbers and preparing them for export is a serious business in Shirvan, North Khorasan province. The exports bring in a lot of revenues for the people of surrounding villages. Courtesy: Mehr News Agency