

This Day in History

(October 16)

Today is Wednesday; 24th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 17th of the Islamic month of Safar 1441 lunar hijri; and October 16, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1238 lunar years ago, on this day in 203 AH, according to a narration, Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred through poisoning in the city of Tous in Khorasan, northeastern Iran, by the crafty Abbasid caliph, Mamoun. In Iran, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Reza (AS) is commemorated on the last day of the month of Safar with a public holiday and official mourning ceremonies throughout the country, especially in the holy city of Mashhad, where the 8th Imam reposes in eternal peace.

1043 solar years ago, on this day in 976 AD, Hakam II, the 2nd self-styled Omayyad caliph of Cordoba (al-Andalus or Muslim Spain), died at the age of 61 after a 15-year reign, during which he established Muslim supremacy over the Christian states of Navarre, Castile and León and utilized the peace to develop agriculture, irrigation works, urban development scholarly pursuits to the extent that books were procured from Damascus, Baghdad, Basra, Constantinople, Cairo, Mecca, Medina, Rayy, and Bukhara.

545 lunar years ago, on this day in 896 AH, the Sunni Muslim jurisprudent and exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Abu Sa'ood Mohammad Mustafa Imadi, was born in the village of Modarres in the vicinity of Istanbul. He was fluent in Persian and Arabic and composed poems in these two languages. Among his works is the exegesis of the holy Qur'an titled *"Tafsir al-Irshad al-Aql"*.

289 solar years ago, on this day in 1730 AD, Ottoman Grand Vizier, Nevsehirli Damad Ibrahim Pasha, after twelve years of service during which he successfully demarcated the border in the Caucasus with the advancing Russian Empire, was sacrificed to the fury of the public and troops in Istanbul by Sultan Ahmed III in order to save himself from his failure in the war in Anatolia against Shah Tahmasp II of the Safavid Empire of Iran. The Grand Vizier, who was married to the sultan's sister, had earlier received a letter from Moghal Emperor Farrukhsiyar, apprising the Ottomans of the victories of (kingmaker) Seyyed Hassan Ali Khan of Barha against the Rajput and Maratha rebellions.

261 solar years ago, on this day in 1758 AD, American lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and prolific author, Noah Webster was born. In 1806, Webster published his first dictionary, titled *"A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language"*. In 1807 he began compiling an expanded and fully comprehensive dictionary, titled *"An American Dictionary of the English Language"*; it took eighteen years to complete.

226 solar years ago, on this day in 1793 AD, during the French Revolution, Queen Marie Antoinette was beheaded. Prosecutors claimed she had financially abused the French Monarchy. Her husband, Louis XVI had been guillotined the previous January. At the time of her execution, she was clad in rags, with her once-dazzling locks shorn by the executioner's assistant.

204 solar years ago, on this day in 1815 AD, the second and final exile of French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, started with his arrival as a British captive on Saint Helena Island, off the coast of South Africa, following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. Napoleon died in exile in May 1821 AD.

186 lunar years ago, on this day in 1255 AH, the prominent scholar and reciter of Holy Qur'an, Sheikh Abdur-Rahim Tabrizi, who earned fame as *"Sultan ol-Qurra"* (Chief of Qur'an Reciters), was born in the city of Tabriz, in northwestern Iran. He learned the recitation of Holy Qur'an from his father, and became a master in this field as his title suggests. He became familiar with the prominent Islamic freedom fighter of the Caucasus against Russian colonial rule, Shaikh Shamil Daghestani. When Sheikh Shamil was gathering an army to launch an uprising against the Russians who had occupied what was then the Iranian province of Daghestan, Sultan ol-Qurra Tabrizi joined the campaign. He later returned to Tabriz and organized classes for proper recitation of the Holy Qur'an. He passed away in 1336 AH at the age of 81, and has left behind a large number of valuable books.

74 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) was set up by the United Nations in Quebec City, Canada, before being moved to Washington, US. It leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

72 solar years ago, on this day in 1946 AD, the Nuremberg Tribunal handed death sentences to nine senior German Nazi officials as war criminals, including air force commander, Hermann Goering, who committed suicide a few hours prior to his execution. The Nuremberg Tribunal also slapped long term prison terms on nine other senior Nazi officials and acquitted three others. The representatives of the victorious countries, that is, the US, Soviet Union, Britain, and France, presided over the trial, which started on September 30, 1946.

68 solar years ago, on this day in 1951 AD, Pakistan's first Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, died at the age of 56, after being shot twice in the chest by an assassin at a public meeting in Rawalpindi.

67 solar years ago, on this day in 1952 AD, the famous Indo-Pakistani lawyer, political activist, poet and literary figure, Ghulam Mohi od-Din Bhik Nairang, passed away in Lahore at the age of 76. In addition to his poetical composition *"Kalaam-e Nairang"* he was a regular contributor to prestigious Urdu magazines such as *"Zamana"*, *"Makhzan"*, *"Humayun"*, *"Aligarh Old Boys"*, and his own *"Tableegh"*. His articles on political, national and literary topics also appeared in the prominent newspapers of those.

55 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, China detonated its first atomic bomb, and became the fifth country with nuclear arms after the United States (1945), Great Britain (1953), the Soviet Union (1961), and France. It was exploded in the vicinity of Lop Nor, a lake in a remote area of Central Asia. The Chinese Government stated "This is a major achievement of the Chinese people in their struggle to increase their national defence capability and oppose the US imperialist policy of nuclear blackmail and nuclear threats."

44 solar years ago, on this day in 1975 AD, Rahima Banu, a two-year old girl from the village of Kuralia in Bangladesh, became the last known person to be infected with naturally occurring smallpox. An estimated 300-to-500 million deaths occurred during the 20th century because of smallpox. As recently as 1967, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 15 million people contracted the disease and that two million died in that year. After vaccination campaigns throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the WHO certified the eradication of smallpox in 1979.

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1978 AD, while the people of Kerman in southeastern Iran were commemorating at the city's Jame' Masjid or Main Mosque, the traditional 40th day of the martyrs of the Tehran uprising against the despotic regime of the Shah, Pahlavi agents attacked the mourners, martyring and injuring scores of them. This led to development of a new wave of protests against the British-installed and American-backed regime, resulting in chain demonstrations throughout the country that eventually led to the victory of the Islamic Revolution under the guidance of Imam Khomeini (RA).

30 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, the prominent Iranian musician, Morteza Hananeh, passed away at the age of 67. He was one of the founders of Tehran Symphonic Orchestra. He also produced movie scores and compiled several books, including: *"How to Make a Melody"*

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, the million-man-march was staged in Washington in front of the White House, by the oppressed Afro-American community, in coordination with the Nation of Islam, in protest to the inhuman policies of US administrations. For the first time, the cry of Allah-o Akbar echoed on the streets of the US, as the various speakers, urged the people to unite in self-help and self-defense against economic and social ills plaguing the Afro-American community.

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

Iranian Students Sweep Medals at UK Invention Expo



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian students received six medals at the International Invention & Trade Expo (ITE 2019) in London, UK.

The Secretary of the fourth Avicenna student festival Mehdi Rashidi Jahan said that Iranian students won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals at ITE 2019.

Iranian student teams, including Mahdis Mirzaie and Ghazal Ghaljoughi from Mashhad, Kian Miraftabzadeh, Ali Takin, Reza Hashemian and Tannaz Navidi from Tehran managed to grab 2 gold medals at the ITE 2019, he said.

Another student team consisting of Mahroo Mansouri, Niki Ghobaie Parnaz Mirdeghani and Ghaza Zare from Tehran, Mahan Tabatabaie from Bandar Abbas, each team received a silver medal and Alireza ghadim from Shahriar and Yasamin Rezaie from Karaj who won the bronze medal at this competition, he added.

ITE, International Invention & Trade Expo 2019 was a business platform for Inventors and manufacturers to present their latest products and innovations and exchange information.

It was held on 29-30 August 2019 in London with the participation of more than 20 countries.

Jury's Choice Goes to 'Elephantbird' in Italy

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Directed by Amir Masoud Soheili, 'Elephantbird' has grabbed the Special Jury Award in the Iran Fest section of the Sedicicorto International Film Festival in Italy.

"The last wish of an old Afghan man is to give his 'elephant-bird' (turkey) to his grandchild, but this simple wish is hard to realize," a synopsis for the film reads.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Sedicicorto has been held every year in October in the city of Forli.

The gala aims to offer visibility to young authors and to provide an opportunity for film industry professionals to exchange experiences.

The 16th Sedicicorto Interna-



tional Film Festival was held on October 4-13, 2019.

U.S. Queen Palm Festival Awards Iran's Title

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian feature 'Fourteenth Day', directed by Mahmoud Nazeri, has won an award at the second edition of bi-monthly Queen Palm International Film Festival in the United States.

Written and directed by Mahmoud Nazeri, 'Fourteenth Day' won the Best Feature Film award in the Family/Inspirational/Faith category of Queen Palm International Film Festival in the U.S.

The film narrates the story of a woman who has to choose between her family and working in a harsh and industrial area. It has so far taken part in 12 international film festivals.

Queen Palm International Film Festival is a bi-monthly film, music, and screenwriting competition with a live Annual Screening & Awards Show Event in Palm Springs, California. It is an IMDB qualifying Film Festival.

Slower Walkers Have Older Brains, Bodies

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The walking speed of 45-year-olds, particularly their fastest walking speed without running, can be used as a marker of their aging brains and bodies.

Slower walkers were shown to have "accelerated aging" on a 19-measure scale devised by researchers, and their lungs, teeth and immune systems tended to be in worse shape than the people who walked faster.

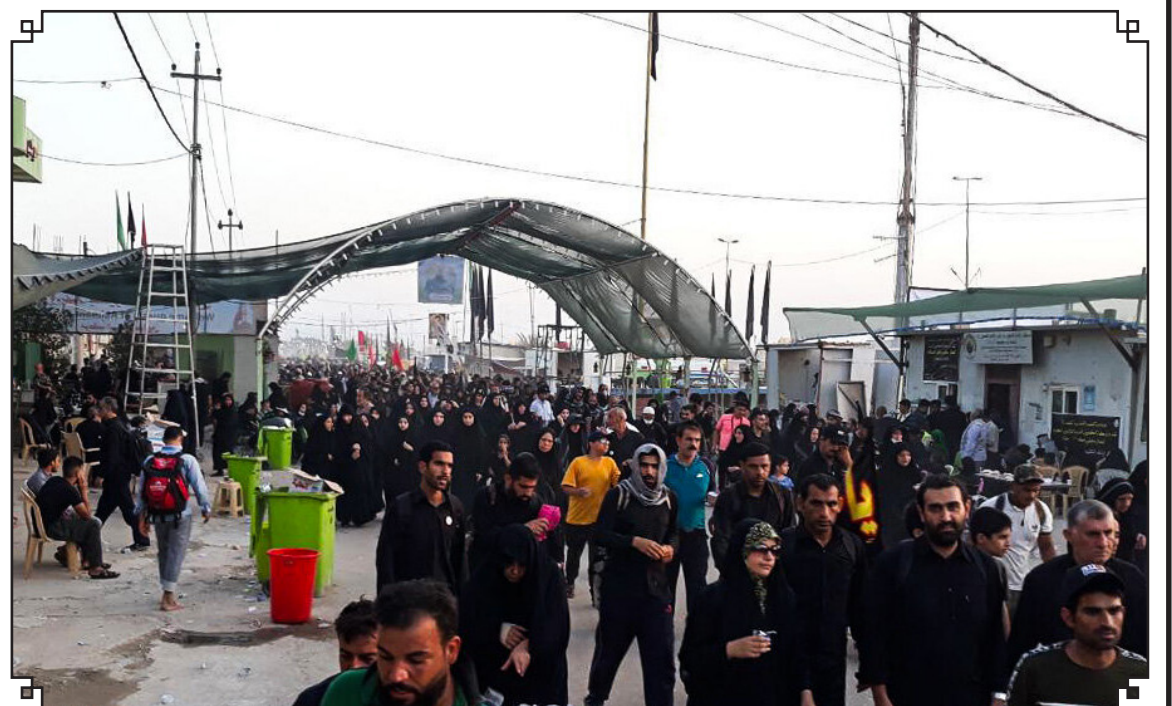
"The thing that's really striking is that this is in 45-year-old people, not the geriatric patients who are usually assessed with such measures," said lead researcher Line J.H. Rasmussen, a post-doctoral researcher in the Duke University department of psychology & neuroscience.

Equally striking, neurocognitive testing that these individuals took as children could predict who would become the slower walkers. At age 3, their scores on IQ, understanding language, frustration tolerance, motor skills and emotional control predicted their walking speed at age 45.

The data come from a long-term study of nearly 1,000 people who were born during a single year in Dunedin, New Zealand. The 904 research participants in the current study have been tested, quizzed and measured their entire lives, mostly recently from April 2017 to April 2019 at age 45.



Picture of the Day



Every year, a large number of native people in Najaf and pilgrims from different Iraqi cities walk through Tariq al-Olama, located between Euphrates and palm groves in Najaf, for participating in Arbabeen ceremonies. Courtesy: Mehr News Agency