

## This Day in History

(November 13)

Today is Wednesday; 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Iranian month of Aban 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 15<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and November 13, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1685 solar years ago**, on this day in 354 AD, Christian bishop, Augustine of Hippo was born in Thagaste in what is now Souq Ahras, Algeria, in a Romanized pagan Berber family. Although raised as a Christian by his mother, he left the church to follow the Manichaean Iranian religion, and led a hedonistic life. Later in life he became a priest. He was a proponent of the theory of the so-called "just war", saying a nation's leaders must consider among other things, anticipated loss of civilian life and whether all peaceful options have been exhausted before war starts. Intellectuals have criticized his views, pointing out that his dogmatic invective laid the foundations for centuries of intellectual tyranny by the Catholic Church. He died in Hippo – present day Annaba in Algeria in 430. His writings include "The Confessions."

**1293 lunar years ago**, on this day in 148 AH, the scholar Sulaiman Ibn Mehraan Kufi al-A'mash passed away in Kufa. He had a sharp memory and had memorized a great number of hadith. A follower of the Infallible Imams of the Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), he was greatly respected by all other Muslims. He was said to be from Damavand, northeast of Tehran. Two days before his death he was visited by several scholars including Ibn Abu Layla and Abu Hanifa – the founder of the Hanafi School of jurisprudence. The discussion turned to hadith, and the famous statement of Imam Ali (AS): "I am the distributor of heaven and hell".

**1267 lunar years ago**, on this day in 174 AH, Abdullah bin Lahiyya, the chief judge of Egypt passed away. He was considered a reliable narrator of hadith by most of the Sunni scholars, and among his narrations are many which expose Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan as a criminal and murderer of Muslims, including the companions of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) such as Hujr Ibn Adi, who was martyred near Damascus for being a staunch follower of Imam Ali (AS). Recently Hujr's tomb was desecrated by Takfiri terrorists, who stole the body that had remained fresh despite passing a millennium and three centuries.

**1118 lunar years ago**, on this day in 323 AH, Obaidullah Mahdi died. He claimed to be a descendant of Ismail, the son of Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the 6th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He rejected the Abbasids and all preceding caliphs as usurpers of the political rights of the Prophet's divinely-appointed heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). He declared himself caliph in the Maghreb or North Africa, in what is now Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and founded the Fatimid Dynasty, which later shifted its capital to Egypt, ruling for a total of 274 years.

**1017 solar years ago**, on this day in 1002 AD, English king Æthelred II ordered the killing of all Danish men in England. Known till this day as the St. Brice's Day Massacre, it resulted in the killing of thousands of people, including Danish women. Among those slain were Gunhilde, the sister of King Sweyn I of Denmark, along with her husband Pallig Tokesen, the Danish Ealdorman of Devonshire.

**876 solar years ago**, on this day in 1143 AD, King Fulk of the usurper Latin kingdom of Jerusalem, established in Palestine by the Crusader occupiers from Europe, died a horrible death while hunting when his horse stumbled. He fell and his skull was crushed by the saddle, while his brain gushed forth from both ears and nostrils. Born in France, he was Count of Anjou for twenty years before coming to Palestine to marry Melisende, the eldest daughter of Baldwin II, whom he succeeded in 1131. His 12-year reign was marked by battles with the Fatemids of Egypt and the rising power of the Zangids of Syria, who decisively defeated him in 1137 in the Battle of Baarin. The usurper Latin Kingdom ended in 1187 after 88 years of occupation when a united Muslim army of Arabs, Kurds, Iranians and Turks liberated Bayt al-Moqaddas.

**395 solar years ago**, on this day in 1624 AD, Dutch Orientalist, Thomas van Erpe (Erpenius), died at the age of 40 in Leiden, while preparing an edition of the Holy Qur'an with a Latin translation and notes. Born in Gorinchem, Holland, he travelled to France and Italy, learning and perfecting Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Ethiopic languages. After a long absence, he returned to Holland in 1612, and in February 1613 was appointed professor of Arabic and other Oriental languages. Among his works are "Grammatica Arabica", "Grammatica Ebraea generalis" (Hebrew), "Grammatica Chaldaica et Syriaca" (Chaldean & Syriac) and an edition of Elmacin's "History of the Saracens".

**239 solar years ago**, on this day in 1780 AD, Founder of the Sikh kingdom in the northwest parts of the Subcontinent, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born in Gujranwala, Punjab.

**178 solar years ago**, on this day in 1841 AD, James Braid first saw a demonstration of animal magnetism that led to his study of the subject he eventually called hypnotism.

**169 solar years ago**, on this day in 1850 AD, English author, Robert Louis Stevenson, was born in Edinburgh, in Scotland. He wrote several books including the famous work "Treasure Island". He died in 1894.

**147 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1294 AH, the scholar Mohammad Qazvini was born in Tehran. His talents emerged in his teens in literature and theology, and he soon became an authority in these fields. He spent some years in Europe where he made copies of valuable Persian manuscripts in museums and libraries. Of the books he wrote "The Era of Hafez" is regarded as his masterpiece. At the age of 75 he passed away, and was laid to rest in Rayy, south of Tehran.

**105 solar years ago**, on this day in 1914 AD, Berber Muslim tribesmen inflicted the heaviest defeat on French forces in Morocco at the Battle of El-Herri. The cause of the battle was the opposition of the confederation of Zaian tribes continued French expansion into the interior of Morocco. Almost the entire French garrison was wiped out, including around a thousand Frenchmen, in addition to an equal number of mercenaries made up of Algerians, Tunisians, and Senegalese.

**104 solar years ago**, on this day in 1915 AD, the Iranian national parliament was dissolved before completing its 3rd round, upon the orders of the last Qajarid king, Ahmad Shah. This unwarranted measure was taken after Ahmad Shah's meeting with the British and Russian ambassadors to Iran.

**98 solar years ago**, on this day in 1921 AD, Orientalist, Ignaz Goldziher, a Hungarian Jewish scholar of Islam, died at the age of 71 in Budapest. Along with the German Theodor Noldeke and the Dutch Christian Snouck Hurgronje, he is considered the founder of modern Islamic studies in Europe.

**54 solar years ago**, on this day in 1965 AD, the acclaimed Iranian literary figure, author, and researcher, Professor Sa'eed Nafisi, passed away at the age of 71. Following completion of high school, he went to France to learn law and political science. On return to Iran he lectured at the country's universities. He was a permanent member of Iran's Cultural House. He has left behind more than 180 compilations and translations and authored "The Politico-Social History of Contemporary Iran". Sa'eed Nafisi also compiled the "French-to-Persian Comprehensive Dictionary".

**34 solar years ago**, on this day in 1985 AD, the volcano Nevado del Ruiz erupted melting a glacier and causing a lahar (volcanic mudslide) that buried Armero, Colombia, killing approximately 23,000 people.

**25 solar years ago**, on this day in 1994 AD, the prominent authority on ancient Iranian languages, Dr. Mehrdad Bahar, passed away.

**23 solar years ago**, on this day in 1996 AD, Ayatollah Seyyed Morteza Pasandideh, passed away at the age of 100. Son of the scholar Seyyed Mostafa al-Hindi of Khomein, he was the elder brother of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Ruhollah Khomeini (RA).

**11 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, in Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan gunmen kidnapped Iranian diplomat Hashmatullah Attarzadeh, and killed his local guard. Iranian intelligence agents freed Attarzadeh in late March 2010.

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

# Australia Hosts Iranian Film Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Melbourne has been hosting the 9th edition of the Iranian Film Festival Australia (IFFA).

'Zaferanieh' by Seyyed-Ali Hashemi, 'Alive' (Life Hanging) by Hossein Doumari and Pedram Pour-Amiri, 'Castle of Dreams' by Reza Mirkarimi, 'Repression' by

Reza Gouran, 'Labyrinth' by Amir-Hossein Torabi, as well as 'Zero Floor' by Ebrahim Ebrahimi are on the screening list of the festival.

The list goes on with 'Old Men Never Die' by Reza Jamali, 'My Second Year in College' by Rasoul Sadr-Ameli, 'Symphony No.9' by Mohammad-Reza Honarmand,

'Oath' by Mohsen Tanabandeh, 'Tehran: City of Love' by Ali Jaber-Ansari, and 'Captain Khorshid' by Nasser Taqvaee.

'Oath' will go on the Melbourne screen November 12 and 'Symphony No.9' is scheduled to hit the screen on November 13, 2019.

'Oath' tells the story of a woman, hell-bent on avenging her sister's murder, who takes 50 men and women from her family on a bus trip to another town for them all to take an oath in front of a judge declaring her brother-in-law as the murderer. But the road has so many twists and turns.

Mahnaz Afshar, Saeed Aqakhani, Hassan Pour-Shirazi, and Mehran Ahmadi are on the movie's cast list.

In 'Symphony No.9', Rahil is a surgeon and has lost her husband during surgery. She decides to kidnap her husband's body and bury

him next to his parents based on his will, although his husband's family disagrees.

The movie stars Hamid Farrokhnejad, Sareh Bayat Mohammad-Reza Foroutan Mehrdad Seddiqian, Pejman Bazeghi, Hoda Zeynolabedin, Alireza Kamali, Marivin Vankhol, and Hamid Molana.

Commenced in 2011, the IFFA is the only nation-wide Australian Festival dedicated to Iranian Cinema. Its aim is to showcase a diverse range of the best and most interesting of current Iranian cinema, one of the world's most exhilarating national cinemas, and through cinema to introduce Iranian culture to Australians.

Perth and Adelaide will be the next destinations of this year's IFFA which will come to an end on November 20.

## 'Reza' Crowned Best Film at Barcelona Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian movie 'Reza' written and directed by Alireza Motamedi won the best film award at the 7th Asian Film Festival Barcelona (AFFBCN) in Spain.

Directed by Alireza Motamedi, the romantic comedy 'Reza' revolves around the life of an author named Reza who begins to write a story about his ancestor's immigration to the historic city of Isfahan. His story begins with a hundred-year-old man, abandoned by his family and left to die in the desert.

Alireza Motamedi, Sahar Dolatshahi, Solmaz Ghani, Setareh Pesyani, Afsar Asadi, and Nasim Mirzadeh are among the cast of this 94-minute flick.

In its most recent screening,

'Reza' won the best film award at the 7th edition of the Asian Film Festival Barcelona in Spain.

The film was premiered at the 36th Fajr International Film Festival and well-received by the film critics.

It has attended a number of global events, including the 19th Yari Iranian Film Festival in Sweden, the 9th Beijing International Film Festival in China, as well as the 2018 Mumbai Film Festival in India. The jury members of the Indian event praised the film for being poetic and having a critical outlook.

The film had previously won the Ciné+ Distribution Support Award at the French Belfort International Film Festival EntreVues 2018 and it was nominated to the New



A still from the Iranian movie 'Reza'.

Directors competition's Best Film at the São Paulo International Film Festival 2018.

The 7th AFFBCN screened more than 100 films from 25 Asian countries. It was held on October 30-November 10, 2019 in the

Spanish city of Barcelona.

AFFBCN included 4 international juries and a youth jury made up of Asian young people who live in Barcelona, students of Barcelona film schools and young film directors.

## Tehran, Beijing Broaden Cinematic Cooperation

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- China has set to open film market for Iranian cinema due to bilateral cooperation ties.

The China Film Group Corporation's production manager Huang Jianxin said the Chinese film market will be open to Iranian cinematic productions.

He said the above during a meeting with Alireza Tabesh, the director of Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation in Tehran on Saturday.

Jianxin added "If Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and the China Film Group Corporation work on joint film productions, China's film market will open up to Iranian cinema, and China will also enjoy the high acclaim of Iranian cinema in the world".

He also noted that children's films in Iran have had an even higher effect in the world compared to the Chinese cinema.

"Iran and China enjoy many cultural affinities and this will help make joint film productions," the Chinese official said.

## Picture of the Day



Aminiha House and Hosseiniyeh is a beautiful luxurious house in Qazvin which was built in the west of Dezej River by Haj Mohammad Reza Amini, one of the wealthy merchants of Qazvin.

Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency