

This Day in History

(November 14)

Today is Thursday; 23<sup>rd</sup> of the Iranian month of Aban 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 16<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and November 14, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1454 solar years ago**, on this day in 565 AD, Emperor Justinian I of Byzantine or the Eastern Roman Empire, died at the age of 83 after a 39-year reign, during which he was embroiled in a disastrous war with the Sassanid Empire of Iran.

**1441 lunar years ago**, on this day, a few days after his Hijra or migration from Mecca, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), held the first-ever public Friday Prayer. This landmark congregation was held on the outskirts of Medina at Qoba, where on the Prophet’s instructions the construction of the first-ever mosque had started on Rabi al-Awwal 12. The Prophet had halted at Qoba to await his dear cousin, Imam Ali (AS), who on his instructions had agreed to sleep on his bed the night of Hijra so that he could migrate undetected from the assassins hovering around the abode of divine revelation. The Prophet had also instructed the Imam to return to the people of Mecca the things they used to keep as safe-custody with him as *“Amin”* (Trustworthy). After three days, the Imam, for whose selfless risking of life on the night of Hijra, God Almighty revealed to the Prophet ayah 207 of Surah Baqarah, left Mecca and a few days later arrived in Qoba with the ladies of the Bani Hashem clan, including his mother, Fatema bint Asad (SA), and his future wife, the Prophet’s Immaculate daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). The Prophet’s holding of the first-ever Friday Prayer is indicative of the religious, social, cultural, and political importance of this congregational ritual, which Muslims have been recommended to perform every week.

**1095 lunar years ago**, on this day in 346 AH, the noted Islamic historian and geographer, Ali bin Hussain al-Mas’oudi, passed away in Egypt at the age of 62. Born in Baghdad in an Arab family descended from Abdullah ibn Mas’oud, the prominent companion of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), like his ancestor he was a staunch follower of the Ahl al-Bayt. He is sometimes referred to as the Herodotus of the Arabs, and was one of the first to combine history and scientific geography in a large-scale work, as is evident in his famous book *“Morouj az-Zahab wa Ma’adan al-Jawaher”* (Meadows of Gold and Mines of Gems), which is an encyclopedic history of the world. Among the other writings of Mas’oudi mention could be made of *“at-Tanbih wa'l-Ishraaf”* (Book of Admonition and Revision).

**1079 solar years ago**, on this day in 940 AD, Abu'l-Fazl Mohammad ibn Obaidollah Bal’ami, the able vizier of the Iranian Samanid dynasty of Central Asia, passed away. He was from Marv and in 921 was appointed vizier by Amir Nasr II – a position he held until 938. He assisted the Amir in defeating the Zaydi invasion of Khorasan, and later crushed the rebellion of the Amir’s brothers. He was a patron of scholars and poets, including the famous Persian poet, Rudaki. He is known as Bal’ami-e Bozorg or Elder, while his equally efficient son, Mohammad, who also served as vizier and was a prominent historian, is known as Bal’ami-e Kuchak or Younger.

**1043 solar years ago**, on this day in 976 AD, Emperor Zhao Kuangyin, founder of the Song Dynasty of China, was murdered at the age of 49 after a 16-year rule by his brother who usurped the throne. Also known by his temple name Taizu, he was a distinguished military general under the Later Zhou, and came to power by staging a coup d’état that forced the young Emperor Gong of Later Zhou to abdicate power. During his reign, he conquered the states of Southern Tang, Later Shu, Southern Han and Jingnan, thus reunifying most of China and effectively ending the tumultuous Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period.

**486 solar years ago**, on this day in 1533 AD, Ecuador in South America was occupied by Spanish invaders. Ecuador was Spain’s colony for three centuries, until in the year 1822 it was liberated by the people led by Simon Bolivar. It became part of the Federation of Greater Columbia, which dissolved in 1830. Ecuador covers an area of 283,561 sq km and is located along the Pacific Ocean’s coastlines. Its capital is Quito, and it shares borders with Columbia and Peru.

**370 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1071 AH, the prominent jurist and scholar, Mullah Abdullah Touni Basharwi, known as Fazel Touni, passed away in Kermanshah, western Iran. A product of the seminary of Isfahan, he wrote several books, including *“al-Wafiyah”* on the fundamentals of faith.

**303 solar years ago**, on this day in 1716 AD, German philosopher and mathematician, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, died at the age of 70. He founded the science of differential calculus in 1676.

**222 solar years ago**, on this day in 1797 AD, Scottish geologist and scientist, Charles Lyell, was born. He was the first European to classify geology as a separate branch of science in emulation of Islamic scientists. Following years of research and study, he published in three volumes *“The Principles of the Science of Geology”*. He died in 1875.

**130 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, one of the prominent leaders of India’s struggles against British colonial rule, Jawaharlal Nehru, was born in Allahabad, in northern India in a Kashmiri family. He graduated in law from London, and on returning home, started his struggles against Britain after joining the Congress Party. He was arrested several times, and on release carried on his struggle as a disciple of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Following India’s independence, Nehru became the country’s first prime minister, a post he held for 16 years until his death in 1964. During his imprisonment, he wrote lengthy letters to his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and later compiled them in book form under the titles *“The Discovery of India”* and *“Glimpses of World History”*, which also deal with the glories of the Islamic civilization and ancient Iranian culture. Nehru was well versed in English, Urdu, Persian and Hindi languages, and was one of the founders of the Non Aligned Movement when the capitalist west and the communist east were converting world countries into satellite states. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, was elected prime minister in 1965 and proved to be an efficient administrator, who successfully resisted US pressures and hegemony.

**130 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, the prominent author and literary figure of Egypt, Dr. Taha Hussein, was born. He went blind in childhood, but given his high intelligence, he studied hard and obtained PhDs at Egyptian universities and later at the universities of Montpellier and Sorbonne in France. Thereafter, he rendered valuable services in the domain of literature and culture, including the foundation of the University of Alexandria. He was appointed to senior cultural posts and briefly served as Egypt’s minister of education. He has left behind a large number of compilations such as *“History of Arabic Literature”* *“Ibn Khaldoun’s Philosophy”* and *“al-Fitnat-al-Kubra”* or The Great Sedition that deals with the sorry state of affairs of the caliphate after the passing away of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He also wrote *“Hafez and Shawqi”*, which is a comparison between two great poets of the Persian and Arabic language, that is, Iran’s Khwaja Hafez Shirazi and Egypt’s Poet Laureate, Ahmad Shawqi. Taha Hussein passed away in 1973.

**42 solar years ago**, on this day in 1977 AD, vociferous chants of “Death to the Shah” by a huge protest rally of Iranians in the US – the biggest since the Vietnam War – which rent the air in Washington– was attacked by police forces using teargas that drifted inside the White House to moisten the eyes of both President Jimmy Carter and Mohammad Reza Shah of Iran, who were posing for the press, but ended up providing a sad spectacle to the TV cameras. Over a hundred protestors were injured. The Pahlavi potentate was in the US to submit a report on his suppression of Iranian people under the so-called ‘Open Atmosphere’ policy and to seek new instructions for more suppression.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, a few days after banning of oil imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the US regime illegally froze all Iran’s hard currency assets in its banks, totaling scores of billions of dollars. With the blockade of Iran’s banking accounts, the US regime increased economic pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran which continue to this day. A few days prior to this measure, Iran had stopped oil exports to the US because of American lawlessness.

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, Saudi-backed terrorists carried out twin bomb blasts at a religious gathering at as-Sa’diyah in Iraq on the anniversary of Ashura, resulting in the martyrdom of over 50 people and wounding of more than a hundred other men, women, and children.

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

Iranian Films Line Up to Compete in Estonia



‘The Warden’ directed by Nima Javidi and Saeed Roustayi’s.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Estonia’s Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (POFF) is set to feature nine Iranian films at its 23rd annual event later this week.

The films will be competing in

various categories at the festival to include Shorts, First Feature Competition, Current Waves, Films Out of Competition, and the festival’s Official Selection category.

‘Tattoo’ Star Awarded at Italian Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Behdokht Valian has won the Best Actress Award for her role in the Iranian short film ‘Tattoo’ from the 37th Sulmona International Film Festival (SIFF), held in Italy, November 6-9.

Directed by Farhad Delaram, ‘Tattoo’ is about a young girl who wants to renew her driver’s license but she is sent to the traffic police center for her tattoos.

A 2019 production, the 15-minute-long film has won several awards earlier this year. It won the Golden Owl for best short film at the 19th Tirana International Film Festival,

Albania’s Academy Awards short films qualifying event, and the Crystal Bear for best short in the Generation 14plus section of the 69th Berlin International Film Festival.

Besides Valian in the leading role, Alireza Sanifar, Anahita Eghbalnejad, Mojtaba Fallahi and Pouria Shakibaei play in the film.

The SIFF is a festival for short films taking place in Sulmona, Italy. it celebrates young cinema from all around the world with a selection of new works from emerging directors and passionate storytellers with unique visions.



Behdokht Valian in ‘Tattoo’.

The event also presents a range of special initiatives included film workshop, retrospectives, non-competitive feature films screening, concerts and exhibitions.

Tehran Film Festival Hosts Foreign Guests

TEHRAN (MNA) – The six foreign guests of the 36th Tehran International Short Film Festival are from Germany, Turkey, France, Austria and Japan.

Simone Späni from Germany’s Berlin Film Festival (Berlinale), the Turkish director Ugur Sahin, Laurent Crouzeix a key member of France’s Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival and head of Short Film Festival Depot, Seigo Tôno director of Japan Short Film Festival, Gerald Weber a member of Sixpack Company and Baptiste Bertin a French producer are among the guests of the festival.

The guests are slated to share their valuable experience with the audience in separate free-of-charge sessions accompanied by a translator.

Some 140 film from 25 countries are taking part in various sections of the festival.

Meanwhile, the works of Mahvash Sheikholeslami and Masoud Amini Tirani will be reviewed on the sideline.

For the first time, the Spotlight section of the Berlin International Film Festival in Germany presents four short films during the 36 edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival.

Presided by Sadeq Mousavi, the 36th Tehran International short film festival will conclude on Nov. 15, 2019.

Tehran, Ankara Keen on Academic Ties

TEHRAN(FNA)--Iran’s University of Mohaqeq Ardebili and Turkey’s Ataturk University in a joint session held in Ardebil in Northwestern Iran reviewed development of scientific and research interactions.

During the meeting in the Northwestern city on Monday, Vice Chancellor of Ataturk University for Scientific Affairs Ayhan Celick said that the academic center is eager to

boost collaboration with University of Mohaqeq Ardebili.

Mohaqeq Ardebili University Chancellor Aziz Habibi, for his part, said that some 11,000 students are currently studying in the university in various courses.

Noting that the university houses three research centers and five faculties, he put the number of instructors teaching there at 400, 45

percent of whom are professors and associate professors.

Mohaqeq Ardebili University has had an eight-step rise in Islamic World Science Citation’s annual ranking and 55 percent growth in its scientific productions over the past year based on the reports by Scopus and Web of Science are indicative of scientific and research undertakings of the scientific center.

Picture of the Day



The awarding ceremony for the 26th edition of International Children Theater Festival has been held in Hamedan , Iran . Courtesy of Mehr News Agency