

This Day in History

(November 17)

Today is Thursday; 27th of the Iranian month of Aban 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 17th of the Islamic month of Safar 1438 lunar hijri; and November 17, 2016, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar

lunar years ago, on this day in 203 AH, according to a narration, Imam Reza (AS), the 1235 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

solar years ago, on this day in 1278 AD, 680 Jews were arrested in England for counterfeit-738 ing coins, and 293 of them found guilty and hanged. Throughout European history Jews have been ostracized for their miserliness, charging of usury, and above all insulting the fundamental beliefs of Christians by slandering Prophet Jesus and his mother, Virgin Mary

solar years ago, on this day in 1405 AD, Sharif al-Hashim established the Sultanate of Sulu 611 comprising many of the islands of the Sulu Sea, parts of Mindanao, certain portions of present-day Sabah (then North Borneo) and North Kalimantan. Of Yemeni origin and born in Johore in what is now Malaysia, he was a direct descendant of the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He promulgated the first Sulu code of laws called Diwan that were based on the holy Qur'an. He introduced Islamic political institutions and the consolidation of Islam as the state religion

lunar years ago, on this day in 896 AH, the Sunni Muslim jurisprudent and exegete of the 542 Holy Qur'an, Abu Sa'ood Mohammad Mustafa Imadi, was born in the village of Modarres in the vicinity of Istanbul. He was of Kurdish origin, and served as judge in Bursa, Istanbul and Rumelia, where he brought local laws into conformity with the Islamic Shari'a. In the reign of Sultan Suleiman the "Lawgiver" he was promoted as Grand Mufti (Supreme Judge), an office he held until his death. He issued judicial opinions that legitimized Suleiman's persecution of the heretical Yazidi sect. Imadi reorganized Ottoman jurisprudence and brought it under tighter governmental control. He was fluent in Persian and Arabic and composed poems in these two languages

solar years ago, on this day in 1492 AD, the prominent Persian poet and literary figure, 524 Noor od-Din Abdur-Rahman Jami died in the Khorasani city of Herat, at the age of 78. Born in a family that had migrated from Isfahan to Khorasan, he went to Samarqand to learn Islamic sciences, literature and history, and visited several other lands, before settling in Herat. He has left behind a large number of works in prose and verse, including "Baharestan". Jami has also composed beautiful odes in praise of Prophet Mohammad (Blessings of God upon him and his progeny) and the Ahl al-Bayt

solar years ago, on this day in 1558 AD, Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England at the 458 age of 42 upon death of her half-sister Mary, thus starting the 45-year "Elizabethan Epoch" that gave national identity and stability to the country. The period is famous for the flourishing of English drama, led by playwrights such as William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe, and for the seafaring prowess of English adventurers such as Francis Drake. The 5th and last ruler of the Tudor Dynasty, she remained unmarried and was succeeded on her death by King James of Scotland, who united the British Isles

solar years ago, on this day in 1750 AD, French researcher, Nicolas Appert, was born. He 266 discovered the method of pasteurization of food for removing microbes, which marks a major development for preserving foodstuffs. He died in 1841 mired in poverty

solar years ago, on this day in 1796 AD, Empress Catherine the Great, the German wife of 220 Tsar Peter III of Russia, died at the age of 67 after a reign of 34 years (following her husband's death in 1762), and the news led to a humiliating retreat of Russian forces from the Caucasus in the midst of the war against Iran which she had started

lunar years ago, on this day in 1255 AH, the prominent scholar and reciter of Holy Qur'an, 183 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

solar years ago, on this day in 1869 AD, Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean Sea 147 to the Red Sea, was inaugurated. It was excavated by French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps in a period of ten years, covering a length of 168 km and width of 120 to 200 meters. Millennium prior to this date, Darius I, the Achaemenian Emperor of Iran who also ruled Egypt, and before him some Egyptian Pharaohs, had taken measures for connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Seas, which indicate the importance of this maritime route. The Suez Canal is considered as the border between the two continents of Asia and Africa. In 1956, Egypt nationalized the Canal, a move that made Britain, France, and the usurper Zionist entity called Israel, to launch a war. After initial success, the occupation troops were finally forced to evacuate the Suez Canal

solar years ago, on this day in 1870 AD, the united German Empire was founded by Prussia 146 following its victory over Denmark, Austria, and France. The main implementer of the unity plan was Otto von Bismarck, known as the Iron Chancellor. The German Empire, also known as the Second Reich, collapsed in 1918, following its defeat in World War I, and the Republic system was established in Germany

solar years ago, on this day in 1922 AD, with the exile to Italy of the 36th Ottoman Sul- 94 tan, Mohammad VI, after a 4-year reign, following the Turkish Grand Assembly's decision on November 1 to abolish the monarchy, the state that was declared independent of Seljuqid rule in 1299 by Osman Khan Ghazi, came to its end after six centuries of rule over the regions overlapping Asia, Europe and Africa. The Sultan who was also stripped of his dubious role as caliph, which was handed to his cousin, Abdul-Majid II for the next year-and-a-half before its abolishment in 1924, died in exile in 1926 at the age of 65. Osman was the son of Etughrul Beg, a Turkic chieftain of Central Asia, who fleeing the Mongol onslaught had sought refuge in Asia Minor in the Seljuqid Sultanate of Roum, which appointed him Amir of a border principality to fight the Byzantine Empire with the help of Ghazis (holy warriors) streaming into what is now Turkey from different Islamic lands

solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD, the Cairo Conference was held in the Egyptian 73 capital by Allied Powers during World War II. Among the decisions adopted by Britain, the US, and Russia, was to strip imperialist Japan of all territories that it had seized in the Pacific and the Asian continent, and to declare Korea as an independent country

solar years ago, on this day in 1946 AD, Head of the Islamic seminary of holy Mashhad, 70 Ayatollah Shaikh Morteza Ashtiyani, passed away at the age of 83 and was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Imam Reza (AS) - the 8th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He completed his higher studies and reached the status of Ijtihad in holy Najaf, Iraq, where his teachers were the famous ulema, Mirza Habibollah Rashti, and Akhound Khorasani. On his return to Iran, he took up residence in Tehran for some years before shifting to holy Mashhad where he spent the last 25 years of his life, teaching and preaching

solar years ago, on this day in 1976 AD, prominent Bengali Muslim leader, Mowlana Abdul 40 Hamid Khan Bhashani, whose political career spanned British India, Pakistan and Bangladesh rule, passed away in Dhaka at the age of 96. Noted for his selflessness and solidarity with the oppressed, he gained popularity among the masses of Bengali speakers. He is regarded as the proponent of anti-imperialist and non-communal politics by his admirers in present-day Bangladesh and beyond

solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, Iraqi parties in exile met in Tehran to form the 34 Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) to free their homeland from the tyrannical rule of the Ba'th minority regime of Saddam. SAIRI was active in political and military circles against the Ba'thists during the 8-year war the US had imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran through Saddam. After the US and Britain turned against their protégé Saddam and dislodged him from power in 2003, SAIRI relocated its headquarters to Iraq, where a few months later, its charismatic leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakeem was martyred shortly after leading the Friday Prayer in Najaf in the holy shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS). It has now changed its name to Supreme Islamic Assembly of Iraq, and is led by Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Ammar Hakeem, nephew of Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakeem. The group is an active member of the ruling coalition of Iraq

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

Notable Star Maadi Granted Stockholm Achievement Award



Peyman Maadi in '6.5 Per Meter'.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iran world-class actor Peyman Maadi is awarded with the 2019 Stockholm Achievement Award for his performance in '6.5 Per Meter'.

Maadi was granted the Bronze Horse at the Nordic premiere and red-carpet screening of Saeed Roustaei's latest drama.

It is the first time the Bronze Horse is awarded to an actor outside of Europe and U.S.A.

As this year's recipient of Stockholm Achievement Award, Maadi is one of the biggest and most popular film stars in Iran.

He got his big international break in Asghar Farhadi's 'A Separation' (2011).

Maadi has also starred in several American films like 'Camp X-ray' (2014), alongside Kristen Stewart. The film was screened at Stockholm International Film Festival 2014.

Stockholm International Film Festival was founded in 1990 and has grown to become one of Europe's leading film festivals.

The 30th edition of the event was held on November 6-17, 2019.

Iranian Short Titles Compete at U.S. Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Three Iranian films, including 'Birthday Party' by Amir Salimkhani and 'The Factory' by Ali Rahimi, will be taking part at the 13th edition of Short Short Story Film Festival in the United States.

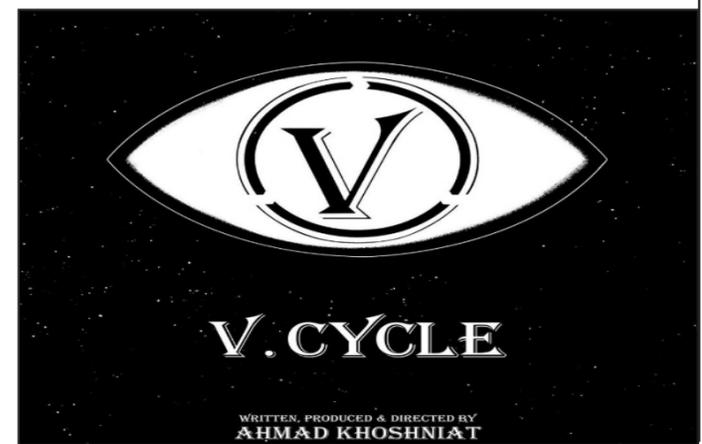
The annual Short Short Story Film Festival is dedicated to films under six minutes, celebrating brevity in filmmaking with both live-action and animated films.

The festival consists of two distinct programs of short films: the 'Heartstrings Program', which includes stories of an emotional nature - either poignant or charming, and the 'Headtrip Program', which presents forays into bizarre or

unsettling territory, according to the event's website.

The lineup for this year's edition of the festival includes three Iranian titles: 'Birthday Party', directed by Amir Salimkhani, will be taking part at the 'Heartstrings' section, while 'The Factory', directed by Ali Rahimi and Mohammad Amin Sharifi, and 'V. Cycle' by Ahmad Khoshniat, will be screened in the 'Headtrip' section of the festival.

The festival awards will include jury-selected awards, audience-voted awards, and more. Awards will be announced in early December, according to the event's organizers.



Hit Title 'Castle of Dreams' Grabs More Awards

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian feature film 'Castle of Dreams' has won an award at the Cambridge Film Festival in the UK.

Reza Mirkarimi's social feature, which has been on a spree of winning awards from various film events, has won the Golden Punt award from the 39th edition of the English film event to mark its most recent international achievement.

The film is the narrative of a father's failure in building the dream castle that his estranged wife had promised their kids.

A brief synopsis of the flick reads, "Jalal Moradi, a 42-year-old father of two, kills a family in an accident. In the court of law, the murder is recognized as accidental killing without intent. After getting out of prison, he leaves his wife and kids and moves to another city. Two years later, he must go back to his home town as his wife is brain-dead".

Hamed Behdad, the star of ifilm series 'Free Fall', has played the main role in the flick.

'Castle of Dreams' has a big number of festival attendances to date and it has won various awards as well, including the three main awards at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival in China.

This year edition of the Cambridge Film Festival was held 17-24 October, 2019.

Smart People May Learn Music Faster



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Intelligence could play a role, according to a Michigan State University study that investigated the early stages of learning to play piano.

The study may be the first to

examine the relationship between intelligence, music aptitude and growth mindset in beginner pianists.

Growth mindset refers to whether students believe they can improve basic abilities, like piano ability.

In the study, 161 undergraduates were taught how to play "Happy Birthday" on the piano with the help of a video guide. After practice, the students performed the 25-note song multiple times. Three MSU graduate students judged the performances based on their melodic and rhythmic accuracy.

The researchers gave the students tests of cognitive ability that measured things like problem-solving skills and processing speed, and tests of music aptitude that measured, for example, the ability to differentiate between similar rhythms. They also surveyed their growth mindset.

Picture of the Day



The China Museum is 400 years old and is in the eastern part of the main Ravagh of the Sheikh Safi al-Dowleh Ardabili complex. Sheikh Baha'i, a celebrity and a scholar of the Safavid dynasty is the designer of this complex. Courtesy of Tashim News Agency