

This Day in History

(November 21)

Today is Thursday; 30th of the Iranian month of Aban 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 23rd of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and November 21, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1240 lunar years ago, on this day in 201 AH, Hazrat Fatema al-Ma'sumah (SA), the venerable descendent of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), arrived in Qom, which proved to be her permanent abode, since seventeen days later her soul flew to the ethereal heavens from this city in the Iranian desert. The daughter of the Prophet's 7th Infallible Heir, Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), she was on her way from Medina to Merv in Khorasan to meet her brother Imam Reza (AS), when her caravan was attacked near Saveh by agents of the tyrannical Abbasid regime. As a result, several people, including two of her brothers were martyred, and the exhausted lady, reportedly poisoned, asked the caravan to turn towards Qom, which was a centre of adherents of the Prophet's Ahl-Bayt. People came out in large numbers to greet her and to escort her to the city – a ceremony that is enacted till this day by the people of Qom. On the 10th of Rabi al-Akher, she departed from the world at the young age of 28, and was laid to rest in an orchard near the riverbank. Her tomb soon grew into a sprawling mausoleum, topped by a gold-plated dome, which is the site of pilgrimage today for people from all over the world, who seek intercession with God and see their prayers answered. Imam Reza (AS) had remarked: *"Whoever visits her (shrine), aware of her status, is like the one who has visited me."*

633 solar years ago, on this day in 1386 AD, the Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur, captured Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and took King Bagrat V as captive to Samarqand, because of the latter's alliance with the Khan of the Golden Horde, Tokhtamysh, with whom Timur was engaged in a fearsome war in what is now southern Russia. Bagrat was later released and restored as king of Georgia.

574 lunar years ago, on this day in 866 AH, Jam Nizam od-Din II, known as Nindo, the most powerful ruler of the Samma Dynasty, succeeded his father Sanjar Sadr od-Din and ruled for 48 years over Sindh, parts of Punjab, Baluchistan and Gujarat. Towards the end of his reign he defeated a Mughal army sent against him by Shah Beg Arghun from Qandahar.

343 solar years ago, on this day in 1676 AD, Danish astronomer Ole Christensen Romer, inventor of the modern thermometer showing the temperature between two fixed points, namely the points at which water respectively boils and freezes, claimed to have made the first quantitative measurements of the speed of light, although Islamic scientists had already made such discoveries several centuries earlier. It is interesting to note that Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), the 4th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), has even spoken of the weight of light in one of his supplications to God Almighty as is evident in the Sahifat-as-Sajjadiya, almost a millennium earlier than Romer. In 1021, the Islamic scientist Hassan Ibn al-Haytham –Alhazen to medieval Europe – in his famous *"Kitab al-Manazer"* (or Book of Optics) has presented a series of arguments dismissing the emission theory of vision of the Greek philosopher Aristotle in favour of the now accepted intromission theory, in which light moves from an object into the eye. This made Ibn al-Haytham, who flourished in the Shi'a Muslim dynasties of Buwaih-d-ruled Iraq and Fatimid-ruled Egypt, propose that light must have a finite speed and that the speed of light is variable, decreasing in denser bodies. He argued that light is substantial matter, the propagation of which requires time, even if this is hidden from our senses. In the same period, the celebrated Iranian Islamic genius Abu Rayhan Birouni agreed that light has a finite speed, and observed that the speed of light is much faster than the speed of sound.

325 solar years ago, on this day in 1694 AD, French author and philosopher, Francois-Marie Arouet, famous as Voltaire, was born. He popularized the English scientist Isaac Newton's work in France by arranging a translation of *"Principia Mathematica"* to which he added his own commentary.

236 solar years ago, on this day in 1783 AD, for the first time in history, a balloon was successfully sent up in the air.

228 solar years ago, on this day in 1791 AD, Colonel Napoleon Bonaparte was promoted to full general and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the French Republic. In 1804, he assumed totalitarian powers and declared himself Emperor.

213 solar years ago, on this day in 1806 AD, the Berlin Decree was issued by French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, following his victory over Prussia (Germany) at the Battle of Jena. The decree forbade all European countries under the influence of France from any trade with Britain.

173 solar years ago, on this day in 1846 AD, the word anesthesia was coined by Oliver Wendell Holmes in a letter to William Thomas Green Morton, the surgeon who gave the first public demonstration of the pain-killing effects of ether.

142 solar years ago, on this day in 1877 AD, Thomas Edison announced invention of his "talking machine" – the tin-foil cylinder recorder that preceded the phonograph. He appears to have envisioned it as a business dictation machine.

98 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, Iran as per the approval of the Majlis (parliament), secretly signed a contact with Standard Oil of the US for exploitation of its northern oilfields. Two days later, when the news leaked out, the Soviet Union, followed by Britain, delivered ultimatums to Iran to cancel the contact with the American company, but the Majlis ignored them.

79 lunar years ago, on this day in 1362 AH, famous Iranian poet and scholar, Hussain Khan Danesh, died at the age of 70. He spent a major part of his life in Turkey, conducting research on Persian works in Ankara, Istanbul and other cities, and making efforts to publish them. Among his works, mention could be made of *"Dastour Zaban-e Farsi"* and *"Saramadan-e Sokhan"*.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1962 AD, China declared a unilateral cease-fire in the Sino-Indian War after a month of fighting. The war was fought in harsh mountainous terrain and freezing temperatures at altitudes of over 4,000 meters.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, the scholar and poet, Mohammad Hussain Jalili "Bidaar", passed away at the age of 60 in his hometown Kermanshah. He wrote several books, including *"Ancient Kermanshah"* and *"History of Seljuq Dynasty"* in Persian, and *"Abkaar al-Afkaar"* in Arabic.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, former US Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested while spying for the illegal Zionist entity called Israel. This was a rare case of a surrogate state spying against its own godfather who, because of shared animosity against Muslims and Arabs, never withheld any sensitive information or sophisticated military technology. In 1987 Pollard, who is a Jew, confessed that he passed classified documents to Israel, and was subsequently sentenced to life in prison. The Zionist entity has continued to lobby for his release, and in 1995 on this same day, it granted citizenship to this American Jew.

31 lunar years ago, on this day in 1410 AH, Grand Ayatollah Jawad Aqa Tehrani passed away at the age of 88. He was born in Tehran and after completing his studies in Qom left for Holy Najaf in Iraq to continue his higher studies. He groomed many scholars and was known for his piety and ascetic nature. Among the books written by him are: *"Mizan al-Mataleb"* in Arabic and *"Aieen-e Zindagi"* in Persian.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, World Television Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through resolution 51/205 (ratified on 17 December 1996). The day recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting different issues that affect people. It is a day to renew the commitments of the governments, organizations and individuals, to support the development of television media in providing unbiased information about important issues and events that affect society.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2012 AD in Afghanistan, 23-year old Seyyed Mohammad, a farmer from Karim Dad village, was abducted by US occupation forces. He was subjected to torture and abuse, like so many Afghans detained by US troops. Several months later on May 21, 2013, near a former US Special Forces base in Wardak province, his footless body was found. Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed by the US occupation forces.

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

Iranian Cities Host Polish Film Week



A still from the Polish movie 'Papusza' directed by Joanna Kos-Krauze.

TEHRAN (MNA) – The second Polish Film Week, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tehran and Art and Experience Cinema, is set to open in three Iranian cities in December.

Organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tehran and Art and Experience Cinema, the second Polish Film Week in Iran will open on December 1st, 2019 in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan.

According to the Polish embassy's PR department, the event will open with the screening of the movie 'Papusza' directed

by Joanna Kos-Krauze (Polish language with English and Persian subtitles), at 5:00 PM at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

The screening of the movie will be followed by a debate led by the film's director Joanna Kos-Krauze on the subject of "Polish and Iranian Art Cinema and Co production".

During the Polish Film Week seven Polish films will be screened in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan from 1st to 7th December.

All screenings are free of charge and open to everyone.

Baku Honors Iran Short Animation

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 2019 edition of the Baku International Short Film Festival in the Azerbaijan Republic has granted an award to Iranian short animation 'Parivash'.

Directed by Ameneh Monshizadeh, the short has secured the Diploma of the Cinema Center of Young Cinematographers of the tenth edition of the Azerbaijani film event.

'Akif' directed by Harun Baysan from Turkey has

also been announced as winner at this category of the event.

'Parivash' is also currently in competition with 140 Iranian and international titles at the 49th edition of the Roshd International Film Festival in Iran.

Established in 2004, the Baku International Short Film Festival aims to review and discuss films and select the best ones. It also means to be a medium through which local filmmakers can widen



their horizons and get to know international trends.

This year's edition of the event was held on November 6-9.

Healthful Diet Tied to Lower Risk of Hearing Loss

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Investigators from Brigham and Women's Hospital have found that eating a healthy diet may reduce the risk of acquired hearing loss.

"A common perception is that hearing loss is an inevitable part of the aging process. However, our research focuses on identifying potentially modifiable risk factors -- that is, things that we can change in our diet and lifestyle to prevent hearing loss or delay its progression," said lead author Sharon Curhan, MD, a physician and epidemiologist in the Brigham's Channing



Division of Network Medicine. "The benefits of adherence to healthful dietary patterns have been associated with numerous

positive health outcomes and eating a healthy diet may also help reduce the risk of hearing loss."

Using longitudinal data collected in the Nurses' Health Study II Conservation of Hearing Study (CHEARS), researchers examined three-year changes in hearing sensitivities and found that women whose eating patterns more closely adhered to commonly recommended healthful dietary patterns, such as the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet, the Alternate Mediterranean (AMED) diet, and the Alternate Healthy Index-2010 (AHEI-2010), had substantially lower risk of decline in hearing sensitivity.

'Copper Notes of a Dream' Goes to Chinese Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 2nd edition of the Hainan Island International Film Festival (HIIF) in China has scheduled to screen 'Copper Notes of a Dream' by Iranian filmmaker.

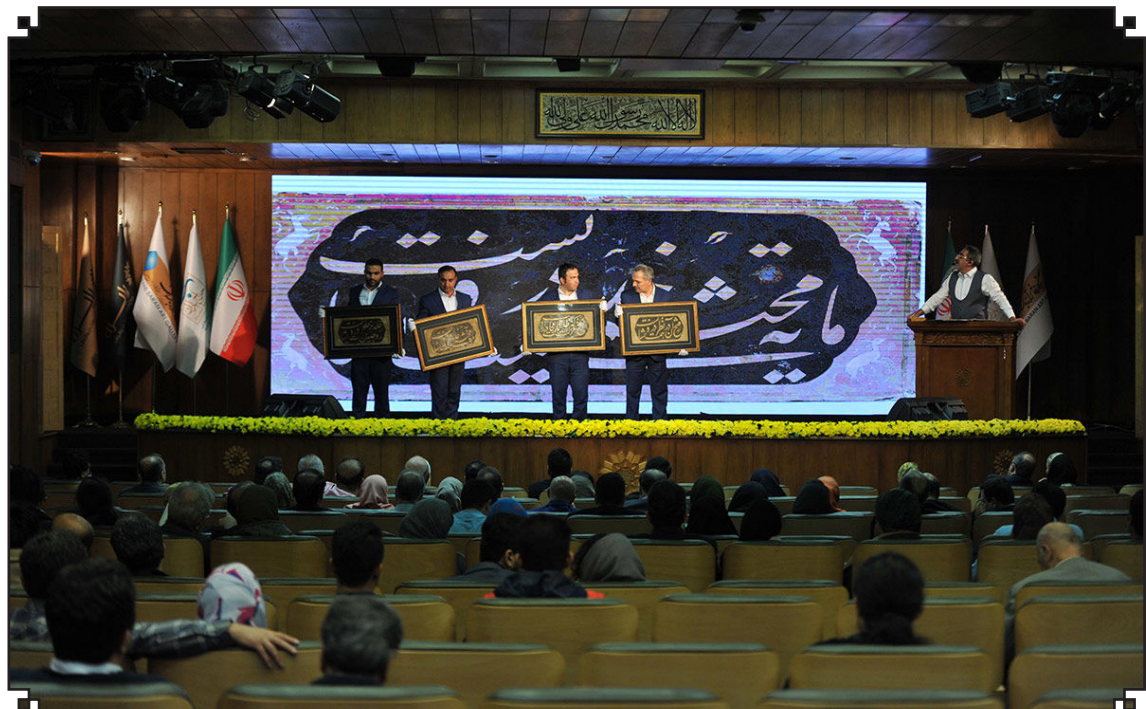
Made by Reza Farahmand and produced by Morteza Shabani, the documentary tells the story of Mallouk, a ten year old boy who collects the copper wire along with his friends.

They gather the wire from homes which were demolished during war and sell the collection in order to make a living.

Their passion for the pursuit of a childhood dream, however, lightens the warmth of hope in their hearts, enabling them to find happiness among the ruins.

'Copper Notes of a Dream' has been screened at a number of global events, including the 13th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Australia, the 11th DMZ International Documentary Film Festival in South Korea, and the 15th Camden International Film Festival in the U.S.

Picture of the Day



The fourth specialized auction of calligraphy, Iranian and Islamic art, Baran auction, has been at the International Conference Center of Rayzan . It took in 26, 26 billion toman (over \$2 million). Five folios from a rare manuscript of the Shahnameh, the epic masterpiece of the Persian poet Ferdowsi, was the top lot selling for 9 billion toman (\$750,000), became the most expensive work sold in an auction in Iran. The manuscripts inscribed in the nastaliq style of Persian calligraphy dates back to the Timurid era (ca. 1370-1507). Courtesy of Honaronline