

This Day in History

(December 4)

Today is Wednesday; 13th of the Iranian month of Azar 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 7th of the Islamic month of Rabi as-Sani 1441 lunar hijri; and December 4, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

2549 solar years ago, on this day in 530 BC, Iran's pre-Islamic monotheist Emperor, Cyrus the Great, the Founder of the Persian Achaemenid Empire, died in battle while fighting the Massagetae tribe along the Syr Darya or River Jaxartes in Central Asia, after a reign of 30 years. Under his rule, the empire embraced all the previous civilized states of Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, and the ancient Levant. He eventually conquered most of Southwest Asia and much of Central Asia and the Caucasus. From the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Indus River in the east, Cyrus the Great created the largest empire the world had yet seen.

909 solar years ago, on this day in 1110 AD, with the arrival of a 60-ship fleet led by King Sigurd of Norway, the European Crusader invaders who had earlier occupied the holy Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas, brutally sacked the city of Sidon in what is now Lebanon. After a 47-day siege to take the city from the control of the Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim Fatimid Dynasty of Egypt, the Christians massacred the people and looted their property.

888 solar years ago, on this day in 1131 AD, the Iranian mathematician, astronomer, and poet, Ghiyas od-Din Omar Ibn Ibrahim Khayyam, passed away in his hometown Naishapur, Khorasan, in northeastern Iran. His most important philosophical work is "*ar-Risalah fi'l-Wujud*" (Treatise on Being"), written in Arabic, which begins with Qur'anic verses and asserts that all things come from God and that there is an order to all things. Khayyam is known to English-speakers for his "*Rubaiyyaat*" (quatrains), published in 1859 by Edward Fitzgerald, although in the Islamic east he remains the astronomer and mathematician that he was, rather than a poet, since whatever he composed of poetry were casual expressions during his rare leisure hours after strenuous scientific studies and experiments. He was buried in the courtyard of the shrine of Imamzadah Mahruq, a descendant of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

807 lunar years ago, on this day in 634 AH, the Iranian polymath Qotb od-Din Mahmud ibn Zia od-Din Masoud Kazerouni, known as Mullah Qotb Shirazi, was born in Kazeroun, near Shiraz. He compiled the books "*Miftah al-Miftah*" on Arabic grammar and rhetoric, and "*Ikhtiyaraat al-Muzaffariya*" on astronomy. Among his works is "*Nihayat al-Idraak fi Dirayaat al-Aflak*" on the movement of planets. Mullah Qotb also identified observations by Ibn Sina on the transits of Venus and Mercury, centuries before European scientists.

485 solar years ago, on this day in 1534 AD, Baghdad was seized from Iran by Sultan Sulaiman, two years after start of the 23-year long intermittent Ottoman-Safavid War.

340 solar years ago, on this day in 1679 AD, English philosopher Thomas Hobbes died at the age of 91. His important book is "*Leviathan*", in which he argues that the only way to secure civil society is through submission to the absolute authority of a sovereign.

291 lunar years ago, on this day in 1150 AH, the Ottoman army led by Hekimoghlu Ali Pasha, defeated the Holy Roman Empire near the Bosnian town of Banja Luka. This was a crushing blow by the Muslims of Europe to the ambitions of the Germans and the Austrians in the Balkans.

224 solar years ago, on this day in 1795 AD, Scottish essayist, historian and orientalist, Thomas Carlyle was born. He mastered German and Arabic languages, and later taught Arabic at Cambridge University. During trips to Muslim lands, he became familiar with Islamic culture and civilization, and was highly influenced by the divine religion of Islam. On the Holy Qur'an, he calls it a direct voice from the heart of the universe for mankind. He has hailed Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) as a person of deep and a great spirit, and far from worldly ambitions.

On the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS), he has written:

"The best lesson which we get from the tragedy of Karbala is that Husain and his companions were the steadfast believers of God. They illustrated that numerical superiority does not count when it comes to truth and falsehood. The victory of Husain despite his minority marvels me!"

Carlyle, who died at the age of 86, authored several books, including "*The French Revolution*", "*Past and Present*", and "*On Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History*."

209 lunar years ago, on this day in 1232 AH, Moroccan exegete of the Holy Qur'an and literary figure, Abul-Fayz Hamdoun ibn Abdur-Rahman al-Faasi, passed away at the age of 58. Born in Fez (as his surname al-Faasi suggests), during the Hajj pilgrimage to holy Mecca, he met and conferred with prominent Shi'ite Muslim scholars such as the celebrated Ayatollah Sheikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli. He authored several books on theology, Qur'anic sciences, logic, etc.

190 solar years ago, on this day in 1829 AD British Governor-General of India, William Bentinck, issued a regulation declaring that anyone who abets "sati" or the Hindu custom of burning a widow on her husband's pyre, is guilty of culpable homicide.

184 solar years ago, on this day in 1835 AD, British writer and painter, Samuel Butler, was born. Two of his most famous pieces are the satire "*Erewhon*" and a semi-autobiographical novel published posthumously, "*The Way of All Flesh*". He is also known for examining Christian orthodoxy, studies of Italian art, and works of literary history and criticism. Butler made prose translations of the ancient Greek classics "*Iliad*" and "*Odyssey*", which remain in use to this day.

163 solar years ago, on this day in 1856 AD, a month after Iran's liberation of its northeastern city of Herat in Khorasan on 1st of November 1856, Britain declared war on Iran as its fleet sent from Bombay to the Persian Gulf, attacked Khark Island and Bushehr. An alarmed Nasser od-Din Shah Qajar sent an envoy to France for mediation, and the result was imposition of the Treaty of Paris on Iran, which was forced to drop all claims to this historical city and most of eastern Khorasan, which is now part of Afghanistan today, on condition of British withdrawal from Khark, Bushehr and Khorramshahr.

120 solar years ago, on this day in 1899 AD, vaccine to prevent the typhoid fever was used for the first time. It was developed by British pathologist, bacteriologist, and immunologist, Edward Wright.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1983 AD, when the US, in yet another act of state terrorism, attempted an air strike on Syrian positions in Lebanon, two of its aircraft were downed and a pilot captured. The Syrians then shelled the positions of the American intruders and killed eight Marines.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, the prominent Iranian researcher, author and member of the academic board of the UNESCO International Studies Department, Dr. Mohammad Hussein Mashayekh Faridouni, passed away at the age of 76. He has also written an excellent work titled "*Nawa-e Sha'er-e Farda*" (Voice of the Poet of the Future) on the Persian works of the famous Poet and Philosopher of the East, Allamah Mohammad Iqbal Lahori of the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, the First Islamic conference on solidarity with the Intefadha of the Palestinian people was held in Tehran. Thinkers from several countries reviewed the chronic crisis of the usurpation of Palestine by the Zionists of Europe and the growing influence of the Islamic Revolution on the Palestinian people. Iran is a firm supporter of the Palestinian cause and believes that Israel has no right to exist in Palestine, which should be returned in its entirety to the Palestinian people.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, Iranian defence experts brought down intact in eastern Iran through cyber control, a US spy drone RQ-170, which violated Iranian airspace from American-occupied Afghanistan. Among the most modern types of pilotless aircraft, these drones are designed to evade radars. These are equipped with an automatic pilot system designed to make them automatically explode in case of severance of links with their base operator. By gaining control of this radar-evasive drone, the Islamic Republic of Iran showed its ability in cyber warfare to the confusion of US military experts and officials. Iranian experts by decoding the advanced drone gained access to confidential data and technology behind its production.

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

Foreign Films Line Up to Screen at Cinéma Vérité

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 13th edition of the Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international documentary film festival, has announced Special Screenings lineup.

The Special Screenings section will screen 'A Donkey Called Geronimo' by Arjun Talwar and Bigna Tomschin from Switzerland and Germany, 'Blow It to Bits' by Lech Kowalski from France, 'Bottoms Up' by Brunella Fili from Italy, as well as 'Honeyland' by Ljubomir Stefanov and Tamara Kotevska from Macedonia.

The lineup goes on with 'Last Night I Saw You Smiling' by Kavich Neang from Cambodia and France, 'State Funeral' by Sergei Loznitsa from the Netherlands and Lithuania, 'The Journey of Javier Heraud' by Javier Corcuera from Spain, as well as 'Una Primavera' by Valentina Primavera from Austria, Germany and Italy.

Organized by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center, the first edition of



A still from 'A Donkey Called Geronimo' by Arjun Talwar.

the Cinéma Vérité was held in 2007.

film calendar.

Over the past decade it has emerged as one of the important events on Iran's documentary

The 13th edition of the Cinéma Vérité will be held on December 9-16, 2019.

Short Film Celebrity Joins Jury Panel in Bangladesh



TEHRAN (MNA) -- Iranian director of award-winning short films, Saeid Nejadi, has been selected as part of the jury panel for the international competition section of the 15th International Short and Independent Film Festival (ISIFF) in Bangladesh.

A graduate of cinema from Sureh University, Saeid Nejadi has previously served on the jury panels at several film festivals such as the 19th Izmir International Short Film Festival, Tehran short Film Festival and Iran Cinema Celebration.

Established in 1988, the International Short & Independent Film Festival Dhaka aims at creating a platform for solidarity and better understanding among the independent short and documentary filmmakers from Asia and other part of the globe irrespective of nationality, creed, color and gender, according to the event's organizers.

The festival is a biennial, non-competitive event and funded entirely by non-government private sector sponsors.

Its 15th edition will take place from December 7 to 13.

Face Mask Can Help Combat Sleep Apnea

LONDON (Dispatches) -- A night time face mask can improve energy levels and vitality in people who suffer from the condition sleep apnea, which is associated with snoring and breathing problems at night.

The research, conducted at 11 NHS sleep centres across the UK including the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, is one of the first to investigate the use of the treatment for mild cases of sleep apnea. The mask -- called a CPAP machine -- is currently only recommended for people whose sleep apnea is moderate to severe.

Sleep apnea affects over one billion adults globally, and causes the airways to become too narrow during sleep, causing people to briefly stop breathing many times throughout the night. It can also trigger loud snoring, and cause frequent awakening from sleep, and subsequent daytime sleepiness.

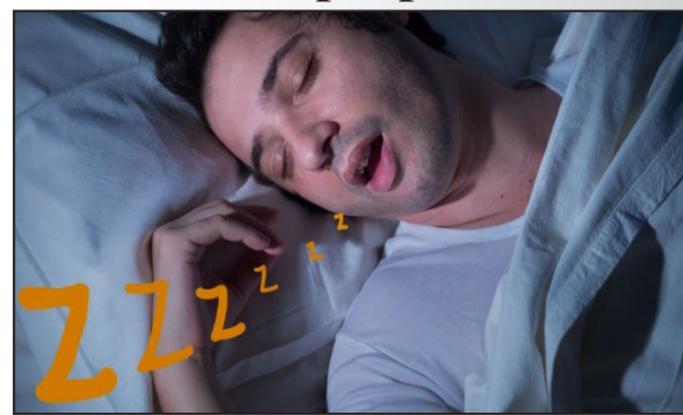
Severe cases of sleep apnea are thought to affect up to 1.5 million in the UK, with some estimates suggesting up to eight million people in the UK may have a mild form of the condition.

One treatment is a mask that fits over the nose or mouth called a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine, which gently pushes air into the mouth and throat, keeping the airways open.

Although previous trials have found a CPAP machine to improve symptoms of moderate to severe cases of the condition, this is the first large trial to find that mild cases of sleep apnea can also

be treated with this technology.

Mary Morrell, Professor of Sleep and Respiratory Physiology at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial, and lead author of the research, said: "We are seeing increasing cases of sleep apnea, and in a wide range of patients. Although the condition was previously thought to mainly affect overweight men, we now know it also strikes post-menopausal women, the elderly, and even children."



Picture of the Day



The famous Canadian food blogger and influencer, Trevor James has travelled to Tehran, Mazandaran, Gorgan, Mashhad and Chabahar in two weeks, having seen four seasons of Iran and got to know the country's cultural diversity, nature and people. He says Iran means the smell of colorful and delicious food whose videos can be shared with people around the world.

Courtesy of IFP News