

# This Day in History

(December 15)

Today is Sunday; 24<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Azar 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 18<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rabi as-Sani 1441 lunar hijri; and December 15, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**947 solar years ago**, on this day in 1072 AD, Alp Arslan, the third and perhaps the greatest Sultan of the Iran-based Turkic Seljuq dynasty, died at the age of 43 after a 9-year reign, four days after being stabbed by Yusuf al-Khwarazmi, the governor of a fortress in the ancient Iranian land of Khwarazm (divided today between the Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan).

**943 lunar years ago**, on this day in 498 AH, Abu'l-Muzaffar Rukn ud-Dn Barkyaruq, the Seljuq sultan of Iran-Iraq-Anatolia and parts of Syria, died in Boroujerd, southwestern Iran. He was a son of Malik Shah I and participated in the succession war against his three brothers, Mahmoud I, Ahmad Sanjar, and Mohammad I. His rule coincided with the Crusader European invasion of Palestine. It is said his body was brought to Isfahan, the Seljuqid capital for burial. However, a tomb exists in his name 5 km from Boroujerd, at a place called Zawwarian.

**858 solar years ago**, on this day in 1161 AD, during the Jin-Song wars in China, military officers conspired against Emperor Hailing of the Jin dynasty after a defeat at the Battle of Caishi, and assassinated him at his camp.

**839 lunar years ago**, on this day in 602 AH, the scholar Najmuddin Abu'l-Qasem Ja'far Ibn al-Hassan, famous as "*Muhaqqiq al-Hilli*", was born in Hilla in Iraq. Among Muhaqqiq's prominent students was his nephew, the celebrated "*Allamah Hilli*". Another of his important works is "*Ma'arij al-Usoul*" on jurisprudential methodology, in which he stresses centrality of the Mujtahid's role during the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam's Occultation, in deriving a proper understanding of the Shari'ah from the holy Qur'an, Hadith and statements of the Twelve Infallible Imams.

**763 solar years ago**, on this day in 1256 AD, Hulagu Khan captured and destroyed the Hashshashin stronghold of the Ismaili Nizari sect at Alamout, some 200 km west of Tehran. The almost impregnable fortress surrendered without a fight, by accepting a deal that spared the lives of the people. Among those freed was the prominent Iranian theologian and scientist, Khwaja Naseer od-Din Tousi, who was held against his will at the court of the Ismail ruler, Da'i an-Nasser, and for whom he had to dedicate the famous book "*Akhlaq-e Nasser*" on ethics and scientific issues.

**503 solar years ago**, on this day in 1516 AD, the Spanish invaders seized the coastal areas of Argentina in South America. Spain's colonial rule over Argentina ended in the year 1916. Argentina is currently a republic, and covers an area of 2780000 sq km. It lies on the coastlines of Atlantic Ocean and shares borders with Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

**337 solar years ago**, on this day in 1672 AD, Ali Adel Shah II of the Bijapur kingdom of Iranian origin of the Deccan (or southern India), was struck with paralysis and died a few days later after a reign of 16 years. The regent Khawas Khan, in violation of the deceased king's will, placed on the throne the 4-year-old Sikandar, who fourteen years later was defeated and captured by Aurangzeb the Mughal Emperor. The curtain thus came down on 190 years of the rule of the dynasty founded by the Iranian adventurer, Yusuf Adel Khan of Saveh. The reign of Ali II is marked by developments in Persian and Deccani literature and fine arts, and some good works of history were also produced under his patronage.

**187 solar years ago**, on this day in 1832 AD, French engineer, Gustave Eiffel, who specialized in metal structures, known especially for the Eiffel Tower in Paris, was born. He built his first of his iron bridges at Bordeaux (in 1858) and was among the first engineers to build bridge foundations using compressed-air caissons. After building the Eiffel Tower (in 1887-9), which he used for scientific research on meteorology, aerodynamics and radio telegraphy, he also built the first aerodynamic laboratory at Auteuil, outside Paris.

**167 solar years ago**, on this day in 1852 AD, French physicist and discoverer, Henri Becquerel, was born in Paris. Following the discovery of X-ray by German Physicist, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, he tried to discover objects that emit X-rays. In 1896, he succeeded in determining elements which are radioactive and produce X-rays. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1902 and died in 1908.

**160 solar years ago**, on this day in 1859 AD, the Polish physician, and linguist, Dr. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, was born.

**129 solar years ago**, on this day in 1890 AD, US forces, cold-bloodedly killed Amerindian leader of Hunkpapa Lakota tribe, Sitting Bull, on Standing Rock Indian Reservation, leading to the Wounded Knee Massacre, during which over 250 Amerindian men, women, and children were massacred.

**102 solar years ago**, on this day in 1917 AD, notable Urdu poet, journalist, broadcaster, translator, researcher, linguist and lexicographer, Shan ul-Haq Haqqee, was born in Delhi. He obtained a Master's in English literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, wrote short stories, and translated from Persian into Urdu the Divan of the famous Iranian poet, Hafez Shirazi with the title "*Tarjuman ul-Ghaib*". He also compiled an Urdu lexicon.

**86 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1355 AH, Grand Ayatollah Mirza Ali Shirazi, passed away in holy Najaf, Iraq at the age of 68. A student of Ayatollah Fesharaki Isfahani and Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Taqi Shirazi, he attained the status of ijtehad at the young age of 22 years. He was an authority in theology, jurisprudence, philosophy, medicine, history, and literature.

**53 solar years ago**, on this day in 1966 AD, American showman, animator and producer of children's cinema and cartoons, Walt Disney, died at the age of 65.

**44 solar years ago**, on this day in 1975 AD, the Spanish occupiers left Western Sahara which they had seized in 1884. The cause was the guerrilla warfare launched by the Muslim revolutionary groups operating under the Polisario Front.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, Mohammad Reza, the fugitive Pahlavi potentate of Iran, was forced to leave the US for Panama, as the Jimmy Carter Administration came under pressure from the Islamic Republic of Iran for extradition of the British-installed Shah to try him for his treason against the Iranian nation and crimes against Islam. His stay on the Isla Contadora, resulted in mass demonstrations by Panamanians who objected to his presence in their country. The Islamic Republic of Iran dispatched an envoy to Panama, carrying a 450-page extradition request which listed his crimes. This official appeal alarmed both the Shah and his advisors, and fearing extradition he fled Panama in March 1980 for Egypt - his initial destination on fleeing Iran on January 16, 1979. His host was the Egyptian president, Anwaar Saadaat, notorious for his treason against Islam and the Palestinian cause. On 27 July 1980, the 60-year old Mohammad Reza who had ruled Iran under Anglo-American tutelage from 11 September 1941 to mid-January 1979, died in Cairo and was buried there besides his equally treacherous father, the British agent Reza Khan, whose bones he had dug up and taken to Egypt when he fled Iran.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2010 AD, two terrorists triggered bomb attacks at the entrance of the Imam Husain (AS) Mosque on Tasua 9<sup>th</sup> Moharram, in the southeastern Iranian city of Chabahar, martyring 39 people and wounding more than 100 during a commemoration ceremony for the Martyrs of Karbala. Terrorists in the payroll of the CIA, Saudi Arabia and the Zionist entity carry out such cowardly attacks in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan in a vain bid to plunge the country into a security crisis.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2012 AD, Iran successfully sent a monkey into space for a second time, as part of an advanced programme aimed at manned space flight. Iran has taken giant strides in the aeronautics and space technology.

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, prominent Pakistani Shi'a Muslim preacher, Allamah Nasser Abbas, was shot dead in Lahore by Taliban terrorists. The 42-year old martyr was the leader of Tehreek Nifaz Fiqh-e Jafaria, or movement for implementation of the Ja'fari school of jurisprudence.

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

# India Children, Youth Festival Hosts Line-Up of Iran Titles



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Smile International Film Festival for Children & Youth (SIFFCY) in India is currently hosting Iranian film lineup.

A total of six Iranian movies have attended the event and are now in the running at various sections of the 5th edition of the Indian screening event.

The 'Official Section' of the festival is hosting 'Here My Village' by Abbas Aram about a 12-year-old village boy named Farhad who is in love with photos and magazines. He has a failing attempt to work hard to buy a second-hand camera.

The 'Films by Children Section', however, will screen 'Serok' by Zhivar Farajzadeh and 'Snowy Heart' by Alireza Biglari.

'This Side, Other Side' by Lida Fazli is competing at the 'Short Film Competition Section'. The flick is an attempt to show that no border can block friendship and affection between children.

The 'Animation Section' of SIFFCY has two entries from Iran, including 'The Fisherman and Spring' by Seyyed Hassan

Soltani and 'Beyond the Black' co-directed by Saeed Sodagar and Sepideh Eidi about a black crow that loves golden things.

SIFFCY is an annual films festival and a special film platform devoted to a greater appreciation of meaningful cinema made for children and youth.

The weeklong festival presents features, shorts, live action and animation films over one week, with a projected attendance of more than thirty thousand children and hundreds of film professionals and eminent guests from around the world.

The Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth is underway in New Delhi, India and will run until December 15, 2019.

# Turkey Outshines Documentaries at Cinema Vérité

TEHRAN (MNA) - Turkish directors have always been among the regular participants in Iranian festivals, receiving great attention from both Iranian and international audience and the Cinema Vérité International documentary film festival is no exception.

Iran and Turkey enjoy long-run cooperation when it comes to film and documentary during the last decade and some successful co-productions between the two countries could prove it right. The two countries have made remarkable interactions in film industry aiming to discover the existing potentials for fruitful cooperation to capture the audience attention.

Docmakers from more than 100 countries including Turkey have sent approximately 6000 films, more than 30 from Turkey, to the world competition section of the 13th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival, also known as the Cinema Vérité.

"My Country Till I Return" directed by Nuran Ozkan and Erdal Hos, "Urgent Tyro Wanted" by Osman Çakir have been among the most successful screenings during the event. Turkish films have always been noticed highly by Iranian audience and a lot of films from that country are on air from Iranian satellite channels.

At the moment, Iran and Turkey are collaborating on a joint film project, which will focus on the lives of the Persian

poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi, the wandering sage who later became the mentor of Rumi in the 13th century CE.

A cast and crew of the best Iranian Turkish actors have already joined the project. The entire film will be shot in Konya, a Turkish town that is home to the mausoleum of Rumi.

The 13th edition of Iran International Documentary Film Festival, also known as the Cinema Verite kicked off on December 9 and will run through 16th Dec. in Tehran. Films are screened in different sections including the national and the international one.

# Breakthrough in Zika virus vaccine

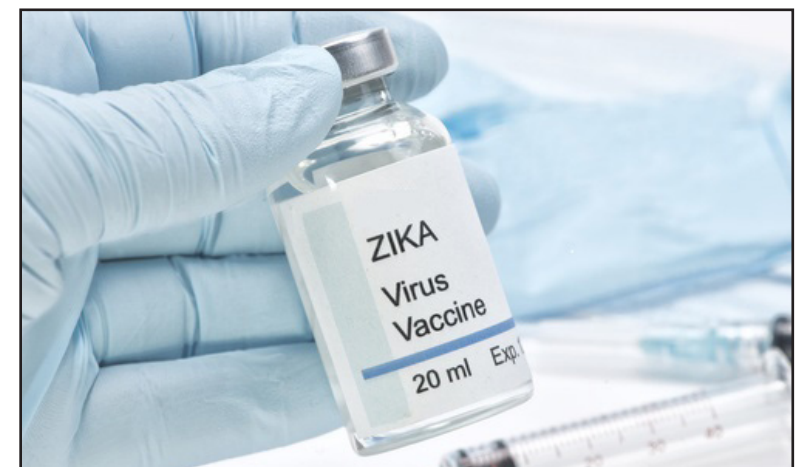
SYDNEY (Dispatches) -- Researchers from the University of Adelaide have made significant advances in developing a novel vaccine against Zika virus, which could potentially lead to global elimination of the disease.

The virology team, led by Professor Eric Gowans and Dr Branka Grubor-Bauk -- based at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research and supported by The Hospital Research Foundation -- has developed a vaccine that prevents Zika infection in pre-clinical models of the disease.

Zika is a mosquito-transmitted 'flavivirus' which can cause microcephaly (a birth defect where a baby's head is significantly smaller than expected) and severe birth defects in infants born to infected mothers.

The introduction of an effective vaccine for Zika will prevent infection of pregnant women and the resultant congenital effects in the unborn child.

Dr Grubor-Bauk, senior research officer with the Adelaide Medical School, said the team had developed a novel vaccine against Zika that proved effective in mouse models.



# Picture of the Day



A tapestry exhibition of an Iranian artist is underway in the Shirin Gallery of Tehran. The exhibition consists of 24 various works created by Shahrzad Gharavi. Courtesy of Honaronline