

# This Day in History

(March 2)

Today is Tuesday; 12<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1399 solar hijri; corresponding to 18<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rajab 1442 lunar hijri; and March 2, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1435 lunar years ago**, on this day in 7 AH, Ibrahim, the infant son of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny), passed away at the age of a year and six months. His mother was the virtuous Maria Qibtiyya (Mary the Copt), who was sent to the Prophet by the Byzantine governor of Egypt, Muqawqis, along with other presents, in response to the letter of invitation to Islam. The Prophet wept at his death and personally laid him in the grave in the Baqie Cemetery, addressing the dead child with tearful eyes that this is the Will of God. Earlier in his youth the Prophet had also lost to the cold hands of death his two infant sons by his first and long standing wife, the Mother of all True Believers (Omm al-Momineen), Hazrat Khadija al-Kubra (SA) – Qassim and Abdullah.

**1016 lunar years ago**, on this day in 426 AH, the Spanish Muslim mathematician, astronomer, and physician, Asbagh ibn Mohammad Ibn Samh al-Gharnati, passed away at the age of 56 years. He wrote his *"Kitab az-Zij"* in astronomy mainly based on the Iranian Islamic scientist, Mohammad ibn Musa Khwarezmi's book *"Sindhind"*. He also wrote a treatise on the construction of the astrolabe and another on its use. He also extensively quotes in his *"Kitab al-Amal"* from another Iranian Islamic astronomer, Ahmad ibn Abdullah Habash al-Haseb al-Mervazi of Merv, Khorasan, which is evident of the profound influence of the Islamic East on Europe.

**968 solar years ago**, on this day in 1053 AD, Farrokhzad Jamal od-Dowlah ascended the throne of Ghazni as the 9th sultan, having escaped the massacre of Ghaznavid princess by Toghrul the Usurper. Son of Mas'oud I and grandson of the famous Sultan Mahmoud, his 6-year reign was one of benevolence, prosperity and tranquility, free from the chaotic turbulence of palace slaves who had destabilized the rule of his predecessors.

**887 lunar years ago**, on this day in 555 AH, Abdullah ibn Yousuf al-Azeed, the last self-styled caliph of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim dynasty of Egypt, Syria and North Africa, ascended the throne in Cairo at the age of 11. He was a pawn in the hands of his powerful vizier Shawar who frequently changed alliances, ranging from the Zangids of Syria to the Crusader occupiers of Palestine that brought about the doom of the Fatimid state. His eleven-year reign ended with his dethronement by the Kurdish general, Salah od-Din Ayyoubi, whom he had appointed as vizier on the assumption of containing the power of his own courtiers. Salah od-Din, who had entered Egypt as deputy to his uncle, Shirkoh, sent by Noor od-Din Zangi of Aleppo to protect Egypt from the Crusaders, brutally persecuted Shi'ite Muslims, burned entire libraries, and forced the people to become Sunnis, thereby ending over two-and-a-half centuries of Fatimid rule. The Fatimid rulers were buried in the grand mosque of Cairo known as *"al Mashhad al Husain"* in honour of the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson and 3<sup>rd</sup> Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**496 solar years ago**, on this day in 1525 AD, Budapest, the capital of Hungary was taken by the Ottoman Turkish army. The Turks had earlier defeated the Hungarian king in the Battle of Mohacs and in this manner the boundaries and borders of Ottoman Empire reached the Austrian Capital, Vienna.

**334 solar years ago**, on this day in 1687 AD, Prince Muhammad Mu'azzam was charged with treacherous conduct during the Mughal sieges of the Deccan sultanates of Iranian origin of Bijapur (1686) and Golkandah-Haiderabad, and imprisoned for seven years on the orders of his father, Emperor Aurangzeb. Earlier in the year he had defeated the Qutb-Shahi forces at Malkhed in what is now Karnataka State, but the Qutb-Shahis put up strong resistance from the impregnable Golkandah fortress till September of the same year, when through deceit and treachery the 170-year old dynasty founded by Sultan Quli, the Qara Qoyounlu adventurer from Hamedan in western Iran, collapsed. On Aurangzeb's death, Mu'azzam rebelled against his brother Azam Shah (descended on his mother's side from the Safavid emperors of Iran), who as the heir-apparent had crowned himself emperor, and after defeating and executing him, seized the throne with the titles of Shah Alam I and Bahadur Shah I. He died five years later.

**224 solar years ago**, on this day in 1797 AD, Horace Walpole, English art historian, man of letters, antiquarian and Whig politician, died at the age of 80. In 1754 AD, by playing with Persian words, he had coined the word *"Serendipity"* meaning a "fortuitous happenstance" or "pleasant surprise".

**185 solar years ago**, on this day in 1836 AD, German orientalist and Islamic scholar, Theodor Noldeke, was born in Harburg. In 1859 his history of the holy Qur'an won for him the prize of the French Academie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, and in the following year he rewrote it in German (*Geschichte des Qur'ans*). Noldeke's articles dealing with Iran were republished in a German volume, titled *"Aufsätze zur Persischen Geschichte"* in Leipzig in 1887. He died in 1930.

**148 solar years ago**, on this day in 1873 AD, George Smith, British Assyriologist, arrived at the ruins of Nineveh outside Mosul in Iraq. Over the next few weeks he found tablets referring to more pieces of the Gilgamesh story, a record of kings in the Babylonian dynasties, as well as lists of cuneiform symbols.

**125 solar years ago**, on this day in 1896 AD, French physicist, Henri Becquerel, discovered the radiation feature of radioactive material in uranium. The discovery won him the Nobel Prize for Physics in the year 1905; five years prior to his death.

**98 solar years ago**, on this day in 1923 AD, Iranian musician, Morteza Hannaneh, was born. For a while, he was conductor of Tehran's Symphonic Orchestra, and then joined Iran Radio. An expert in classical Iranian music, he died at the age of 67 in 1990. He authored several books, including the translation and commentary of the book *"Maqased al-Alhaan"*.

**65 solar years ago**, on this day in 1956 AD, Morocco gained independence from French colonial rule. In 1912, after decades of meddling by European powers, France had declared this Muslim country as its protectorate. The same year the Moroccan people, under the leadership of Abdul-Karim Rifi, started the liberation struggle and managed to free the mountainous parts of the country, until they were defeated in 1926 by the French.

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1991 AD, in the wake of the defeat of the Iraqi army in Kuwait by the US-led coalition, Iraqi people started their popular uprising against the repressive rule of Saddam's Ba'th minority regime, as the long suppressed Shi'a Arab majority rose in the south, while the ethnic Kurd minority rose in the north. After initial gains, when the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala had been liberated and the noose was being tightened around Baghdad, the US allowed Saddam to use missiles and fixed-wing aircraft to brutally crush the popular uprising and to desecrate the holy shrines. The result was catastrophic. Saddam massacred at least seven hundred thousand Shi'a Arabs, and forced some two million Kurds to seek refuge across the borders in Iran and Turkey.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1992 AD, the Iranian lady scholar of the holy Qur'an, Banu Kowkab Pour-Ranjbar, passed away at the age of 88.

**20 solar years ago**, on this day in 2001 AD, in Afghanistan the Taliban terrorists began the destruction of the giant Buddha statues of Bamiyan despite international protests. The pair of Buddha statues was not the object of worship to be destroyed. These were relics of the skill of craftsmen of the ancient past who had hewn mountains to carve them. The Taliban used dynamite, anti-tank missiles, and artillery fire to destroy the two statues.

**17 solar years ago**, on this day in 2004 AD, the holy cities of Karbala and Kazemain were rocked by several terrorist attacks, in which at least 170 people were martyred and 500 others injured. These attacks were carried out by the Takfiri terrorists on the Day of Ashura (10th of Moharram) – the martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet's grandson Imam Husain (AS) – when millions of devotees were attending mourning processions for the first time after the fall of Iraq's US-installed dictator, Saddam. The terrorists were never identified, but believed to be the agents of the US and Saudi Arabia.

# 'Driving Lessons' Sweeps Awards at Indian Festival



A still from the Iranian short flick 'Driving Lessons'.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian short flick 'Driving Lessons' has garnered three awards at the 4th edition of the Cinevoyage Film Festival (CFF) in India.

The Best Director Award went to Marzieh Riahi, the Best Editing Award went to Hossein Neshati, and the Best Screenplay Award went to Marjan Riahi.

"Bahareh must have her traditional, chauvinistic husband accompany her during driving lessons so that she and her instructor are not left together without a third party's presence," a synopsis for the film reads.

The film is starring Linda Kiani, Alireza Sanifar, Salar Khamseh, and Sanaz Mesbah.

'Driving Lessons' has already grabbed several awards at various international festivals, including the 18th Topaz Film Festival by Women in Film Dallas in the US, the 2020 Hebden Bridge Film Festival in the UK, and the 25th Aichi International Women's Film Festival in Japan.

The CFF hosts films from around the world and provides filmmakers with an opportunity to share their experiences and showcase their works.

The 2021 edition of the event was held on February 11-13.

# Historical Handmade Jewelry Showcased in Kerman

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The Qeisarieh Ebrahim historical complex in southeastern Iranian province of Kerman hosts a museum of handmade gold and jewelry.

The museum, which was recently inaugurated with the participation of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan and Venezuelan Tourism Minister Ali Padrón Paredes, is aimed to feature the process of making gold and silver jewelry in different historical eras.

There are a few jewel museums across the country, of



National Jewelry Museum.

which Treasury of the National Jewels, commonly known as the 'Jewels Museum', is the most famous.

Located in Tehran and owned by the Central Bank of Iran, the Jewels Museum is a collection of the most expensive jewels of the world, collected over centuries.

Kerman province is a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanse-rais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

# Iranian Artist's Work on Display at U.S. University Art Centre

TEHRAN (Honaronline) – Art Ventures at Faulkner Center present 'Caged Bird and The Blue Room' exhibition at the Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center.

The exhibition features works from Ziba Rajabi. Rajabi received her M.F.A. from the University of Arkansas and her BFA from the Sooreh University in Tehran, Iran. She is the recipient of the Artist 360 Grant, a program sponsored by Mid-America Arts Alliance. She primarily works with painting, drawing, fiber-based installation. Her work has been included in a number of exhibitions, nationally and internationally, such as Masur Museum, Los Angeles; CICA Museum, South Korea; Araan Gallery, Iran; The II Platform, United Kingdom; Pensacola Museum, Florida; Site: Brooklyn, New York; Amos Eno Gallery, New York; Tops Gallery, Tennessee; The Soo Contemporary, Tehran, among many others. She has also been an artist in residence at Vermont Studio Center.

Caged Bird and The Blue Room explores the artist's experience of physical and psychological spaces caused by displacement. In her paintings and drawings, she recreates moments inspired by her everyday observation of Arkansas natural

scenery, as well as glitched images recalled from the memory that alludes to urban life and Iranian Architecture. At some point, these two distinct realms collide and create a whole new reality. Caged Bird and The Blue Room is a reflection of these collisions and an invitation to the new reality.



...recalled from the memory that alludes to urban life and architecture.

# Picture of the Day



Having its reconstruction completed, Dafineh Museum, a museum in uptown Tehran whose exterior design was inspired by the works of late American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, has been inaugurated.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency