

This Day in History

(March 14)

Today is Sunday; 24<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1399 solar hijri; corresponding to 30<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rajab 1442 lunar hijri; and March 14, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1237 lunar years ago**, on this day in 204 AH, the jurisprudent, Mohammad bin Idris ash-Shafe’i, who founded the Shafe’i School, passed away in Fustat, Egypt at the age of 54, as a result of injuries sustained from an attack by supporters of a scholar named Fityan, who was follower of the Maleki School of Jurisprudence. Born near Asqalan in Gaza, in the Banu Muttalib clan – a sister clan of the famous Banu Hashem – he lost his father in childhood and grew up in poverty. His Yemeni mother moved to Mecca where he had his basic education, before shifting to Medina to learn about Islam. He became a student of Malek ibn Anas, who had studied for sometime under Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS), the 6<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), before deviating and founding the Maleki School. He was taken in chains to the tyrant Haroun Rashid in Raqqa in Syria on charges of supporting the Alawis or descendants of Imam Ali (AS).The Chief Judge, Shay-bani, used his influence to acquit him. He settled in Baghdad, where he set up his own school of jurisprudence in opposition to the schools of Abu Hanifa and Malek. Under pressure from the Hanafis, he left Baghdad for Egypt in 198 AH. Perhaps, because of fear of the repressive Abbasid regime, Shafe’i failed to establish direct contact with Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS) and Imam Ali ar-Reza (AS), respectively the Prophet’s 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heirs, and thus could not ascertain the authenticity of the legal code he had learned and collected. Nonetheless, in obedience to the Prophet’s famous Hadith Thaqalayn, he was deeply influenced by the blessed Ahl al-Bayt, and has explicitly stated that the daily ritual prayer is invalid if *salawaat* or blessings are not sent on the Prophet’s progeny in the *tashahhud*. He says in this regard in a quatrain: **“O Ahl Bayt of the Prophet of Allah! Allah has decreed your love obligatory for us in the revealed Qur’an; It is sufficient for your dignity (that); His (ritual) prayer is invalid, if there is no blessings sent upon you.”**

In many of his Arabic poems, Shafe’i has shown his devotion to the Prophet’s divinely-decreed vicegerent Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS): **“They say: You are a Rafedhi (heretic), I say: No; Never did I reject my religion or my belief; But in my heart without the least doubt; There is much love (and respect) for the Greatest Leader (Imam Ali); If loving the Wali of Allah (Friend of God) is Raf-dh; Then I am the foremost Rafedhi!**

He has also said: **“When I saw different creeds and jurisprudential schools steering towards ignorance and misguidance; I embarked in the Name of God on the Ark of Salvation; That is the progeny of Mustafa the Seal of Prophets; And got hold of the Divine Rope which is the very love of them; Indeed, God commands us to hold fast to the (Divine) Rope.**

Today, the Shafe’i School of jurisprudence is followed in Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Somalia, Yemen, Sri Lanka, southern parts of India, and the Kurds of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria.

**240 solar years ago**, on this day in 1781 AD, after only two years as ruler of Iran, Sadeq Khan Zand was killed by Ali Murad Khan Zand – who was to be killed himself four years later by his victim’s son, Ja’far Khan Zand. The fratricide amongst the Zands brought about the collapse of the 44-year dynasty founded by Nader Shah’s general, Karim Khan, who reigned for 29 years by placing Ismail III Safavi as a figurehead. In 1794, Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar established the Qajarid dynasty by eliminating the Zands.

**231 solar years ago**, on this day in 1790 AD, Ludwig Emil Grimm, German painter and engraver, and the youngest of the three talented Grimm Brothers, was born in Hanau. Upon completion of his studies, he published his first work; a sketchbook of engravings based on his Italian journey. In 1819 AD, he also contributed the frontispiece for the second edition of “Kinder- und Hausmärchen”, popularly known as “Grimm’s Fairy Tales”.

**142 solar years ago**, on this day in 1879 AD, on this day in 1879 AD, the prominent physicist-mathematician, Albert Einstein, was born in Germany. He died in 1955, and it is said that in his closing years he was no longer an atheist but his viewpoints had moved closer to the concept of God and spiritual values in Islam, especially in accordance with the school of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**138 solar years ago**, on this day in 1883 AD, the German philosopher and founder of Marxism, Karl Marx, died at the age of 65.

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1951 AD, the Iranian parliament (the Majlis) voted to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) and its holdings, and shortly thereafter Iranians democratically elected the champion of nationalisation, Mohammad Mossaddeq, as Prime Minister. This led to the Abadan Crisis where foreign countries, under pressure from Britain, boycotted the purchase of Iranian oil and the Abadan refinery was closed. On 26 May 1951, Britain took Iran to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), demanding that the 1933 agreement be upheld and that Iran pay damages and compensation for disrupting the UK-incorporated company’s profits. On 22 July 1952, the ICJ dismissed the case, resulting in the strengthening of Prime Minister Mosaddeq’s position and the fleeing of the British-installed Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1953. This was a main reason leading to the Anglo-American coup of August 1953 to remove Mosaddeq and re-install the Pahlavi potentate on the throne of Iran. Founded in 1908 as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) following the discovery of a large oil field in Masjid Soleiman, it was the first company to extract petroleum from Iran. In 1935 APOC was renamed the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) and in 1954 it became the British Petroleum Company (BP).

**43 solar years ago**, on this day in 1978 AD, the Zionist army invaded and occupied southern Lebanon, in what it called Operation Litani, on the pretext of stopping attacks by Palestinian combatants. The invasion, resulting in the massacre of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, brought the region south of River Litani under complete control of the usurper state of Israel, which deprived the Lebanese of river waters. When UN Security Council Resolution 425 stationed 4,000 peace-keepers and forced the Zionists to withdraw, Israel formed a Christian militia under its Lebanese agent, S’ad Haddad in order to have presence by proxy. In 1982, the Zionists once again attacked and occupied southern Lebanon, resulting in the massacre of over 5,000 Palestinian men, women, and children in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla. However, with the emergence of the legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, and its heroic resistance, Israel was forced to pull back from the outskirts of Beirut, and in 2000, it finally retreated from Lebanese soil, although some farmlands are still under occupation.

**41 solar years ago**, on this day in 1980 AD, the first legislative elections were held in Islamic Iran, thereby materializing one of the prime goals of the Islamic Revolution to choose lawmakers in a free and fair atmosphere, at a time when enemies were hatching conspiracies to undermine the government.

**36 solar years ago**, on this day in 1985 AD, agents of foreign powers triggered a bomb blast in the massive Friday Prayer gathering at Tehran University Campus, martyring and injuring many innocent worshippers. Meanwhile, timed with this terrorist operation during the height of the imposed war, Iraqi warplanes flew over Tehran to create panic in the city. The bomb blast failed to disrupt the Friday Prayer gathering and President Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was delivering the Tehran Friday Prayer sermons, continued his speech.

**26 solar years ago**, on this day in 1995 AD, Sheikh Abdul Ali Mazari, Secretary-General of Afghanistan’s Hizb-e Wahdat, was tortured and martyred at the age of 49 by the Taliban terrorists in midair during a helicopter flight and his body thrown out.

**24 solar years ago**, on this day in 1997 AD, in northeastern Iran a C-130 military cargo plane crashed near Mashhad and all 86 people aboard were killed.

**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2011 AD, the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime of the Persian Gulf island state of Bahrain imposed martial law in a bid to quell the people’s popular uprising. At the same time, the regime invited some 1,000 Saudi troops to invade Bahrain and crush the Islamic movement.

Iranian Artists’ Works Go Under Hammer in London



A work by Iranian artist Mohammad Ehsaei .

TEHRAN (Honaronline) -- Seventeen artworks by Iranian artists went under the hammer at Bonhams Auction in London on Tuesday. Works by artists from Iran, Egypt,

Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan were offered in the Bonhams auction.

A work by Syrian artist Levvia Kylie took the first place, earning

£37750.

Iranian artist Mohammad Ehsaei’s work “ Yazdan” becoming the second top seller at Bonhams auction. But the final figure is not registered on the auction site.

“Layla and Majnun” by Reza Derakhshani took the third place, earning £24000.

A calligraphy by Ali Shirazi sold for £3187, and an untitled painting by Parviz Kalantari was sold at £2550.

Eight works by painter Ardeshir Mohasses went under the hammer for £1912, 1657, 1402, 1275, 1020, 1020, 637 and 408 .

Sombat Der Kiureghian untitled portrati painting sold for £1020, and abstract painting by Neda Rahimi went for £701 .

Two paintings by Ali Ghahrema-

ni were sold for £637 and 573, and a photo by Saghi sold £191.

Bonhams has maintained a significant international presence in the market since the early years of its development. During their inaugural sale of modern West Asian art in Dubai in 2008, Bonhams broke 33 world records and witnessed the first West Asian artwork to achieve an auction sale of over one million dollars; Farhad Moshiri’s stunning mixed media work “Eshq” (Love).

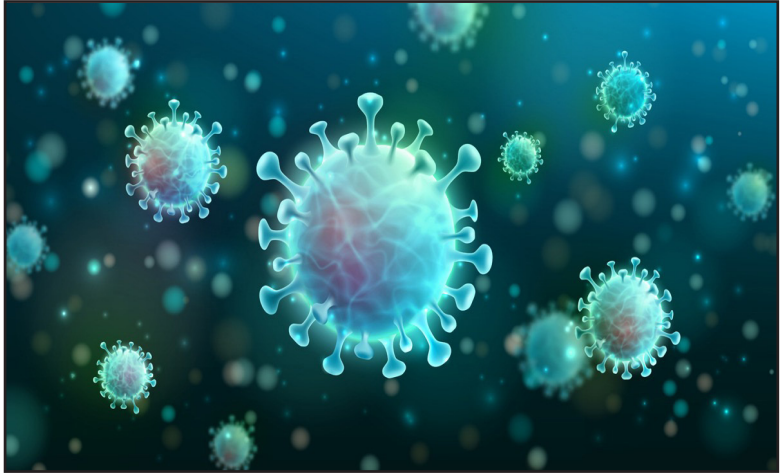
Since then, Bonhams has firmly established itself as one of the leading auction houses in the category, holding regular bi-annual sales first in Dubai and now in London, in recognition of the growing international market for art from West Asia and surrounding regions.

Coronavirus Evolving to Escape Current Vaccines

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Current vaccines and monoclonal antibody therapies provide less neutralizing activity against the U.K. and South Africa variants of SARS-CoV-2., study finds.

The predictions are now being borne out with the first reported results of the Novavax vaccine, reports David Ho, MD at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

He says that the study and the new clinical trial data show that the virus is traveling in a direction that is causing it to escape from our current vaccines and therapies that are directed against the viral spike.



Dr Ho says that if the rampant spread of the virus continues and more critical mutations accumulate, then they may be

condemned to chasing after the evolving SARS-CoV-2 continually, as we have long done for influenza virus and that Such

considerations require that they stop virus transmission as quickly as is feasible, by redoubling their mitigation measures and by expediting vaccine rollout.

Ho and his team found that antibodies in blood samples taken from people inoculated with the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine were less effective at neutralizing the two variants, B.1.1.7, which emerged last September in England, and B.1.351, which emerged from South Africa in late 2020. Against the U.K. variant, neutralization dropped by roughly 2-fold, but against the South Africa variant, neutralization dropped by 6.5- to 8.5-fold.

‘Careless Crime’ On Way to Hong Kong Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 45th edition of the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF45) has been scheduled to host Iranian movie ‘Careless Crime’.

Directed by Shahram Mokri, the 135-minute movie was internationally premiered at the Orizzonti section of the 77th Venice Film Festival in Italy.

Going back to forty years ago, the movie’s story starts during the uprising to overthrow the Shah’s regime in Iran.

Then, protestors set fire to movie theaters as a way of showing opposition to Western culture and burned down many cinemas.

In one tragic case, a theater was set on fire with four hundred people inside and most of them were burned alive.

Now in contemporary Iran, after forty years, four individuals also decide to burn down a movie theater.

Produced by Negar Eskanadarfar and Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture, the flick is starring Babak Karimi, Raziieh Mansouri, and Abolfazl Kahani.

‘Careless Crime’ has already gone on screen at several global events and won some awards, including the Best Original Screenplay award at the Venice International Film Festival in Italy and the best screenplay award at the Dhaka International Film Festival in Bangladesh. Dreamlab Films, the France-

based international distributor under Iranian film expert Nasrin Mirshab, has acquired the international distribution rights to ‘Careless Crime’.

Founded in 1976, the HKIFF45 is Asia’s oldest international film festival and a pioneer in introducing Hong Kong, Chinese language and Asian cinema and filmmakers to the world.

The 45th edition of the HKIFF is slated for April 1-12, 2021.



A still from Iranian movie ‘Careless Crime’.

Picture of the Day



Paragliding competition has been held in Sari, Mazandaran, northern province of Iran.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency