

# This Day in History

(May 20)

Today is Wednesday; 31<sup>st</sup> of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1399 solar hijri; corresponding to 26<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1441 lunar hijri; and May 20, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1494 solar years ago**, on this day in 526 AD, as many as 300,000 people were killed when a devastating earthquake hit the sin-infested Byzantine city of Antioch in Syria (presently in Turkey and called Antakya).

**642 solar years ago**, on this day in 1378 AD, Dawoud Shah, who over a month earlier had usurped the throne of the Bahmani Dynasty of Iranian origin of the Deccan (South India) by treacherously assassinating his nephew Mujahid Shah, was killed on the orders of his niece Rooh-Parwar Agha (sister of the deceased Mujahid Shah) and replaced by her younger brother, Mohammad Shah II.

**599 solar years ago**, on this day in 1421 AD, Khizr Khan, who governed Delhi, Punjab and parts of northern India, as viceroy of the Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur, and after him of his son, Shahrukh, died in Delhi. He was succeeded by his son, Mubarak Shah, in whose reign the Persian history "*Tarikh-e Mubarak Shahi*" was written.

**514 solar years ago**, on this day in 1506 AD, Italian navigator, Christopher Columbus, died in Valladolid in Spain at the age of 55 in the state of poverty, still believing he had discovered the coast of Asia. Born near Genoa in Italy, he took up service with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, after years of unsuccessful lobbying with the Italian republics of Genoa and Venice and the kingdom of Portugal, for finding a western sea route to Asia through the Atlantic, since the growing power of Ottoman Turks in southwestern Europe had blocked the land route to India and China. In 1492, following the fall of Granada (Gharnata), the last Muslim kingdom in Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella provided him ships and personnel, including Muslim navigators familiar with the sea routes of the Atlantic for the voyage. Columbus was acquainted with "*Tabula Rogeriana*" the Latin translation of the Muslim geographer al-Idrisi's "*Nuzhat al-Mushataaq fi-Ikhteraaq al-Afaq*" - a description of the world and the first world map ever drawn in Europe. He landed on the eastern coast of Cuba, and thought that he had reached an island off the coast of India; hence the use of such terms as "Indies" and "Indians" by him for the American natives. In all, he made four voyages to the New World, and mercilessly slaughtered the native people in his quest for gold and riches, which did not avail him in his last days. Columbus was initially interred in a monastery in Valladolid - corruption of the Arabic word "*Balad al-Waleed*" or City of Waleed, founded by Muslims. Three years later, his remains were moved to a monastery in La Cartuja near Seville. In 1537, Maria de Rojas y Toledo, widow of Columbus' son Diego, sent the bones of her husband and his father to the cathedral in Santo Domingo on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola for burial. There they lay until 1795, when Spain ceded Hispaniola to France, and dug up from behind the main altar in the newly built cathedral, what it thought were Columbus' remains and shipped them to a cathedral in Havana, Cuba, where they remained until the US-Spanish War in 1898. Spain then brought them back to Seville. In 1877 workers digging at the Santo Domingo cathedral unearthed a leaden box containing 13 large bone fragments and 28 small ones. It was inscribed "Illustrious and distinguished male, don Cristobal Colon." The Dominicans said these were the real remains of Columbus and the Spaniards had taken the wrong ones in 1795.

**500 solar years ago**, on this day in 1520 AD, the Spanish conquerors of Mexico brutally massacred the Aztec people while celebrations were taking place at the Festival of Tocatl in the city of Tenochtitlan. The Europeans are notorious for their genocide of the native populations of the Americas and plundering of rich natural resources. The ruling elites in almost all American countries are descendants of the European occupiers.

**398 solar years ago**, on this day in 1622 AD, Osman II, the 16th Ottoman Sultan and the 8th self-styled Turkish caliph, was strangled to death by his vizier, Qara Davoud Pasha, at the age of 18, after a 4-year reign.

**389 solar years ago**, on this day in 1631 AD, the city of Magdeburg in Germany was seized by forces of the Holy Roman Empire and most of its inhabitants massacred, in one of the bloodiest incidents of the Thirty-Year-War.

**375 solar years ago**, on this day in 1645 AD, the Manchurian Qing forces, led by Prince Dodo occupied the city of Yangzhou and for 10 days massacred almost the population for supporting the Ming loyalist government. It is said 800,000 people were butchered.

**316 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1125 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Jamal od-Din Mohammad Khwansari, passed away in his hometown Isfahan. Born in a religious and academic family, his equally learned father was Aqa Hussain Mubaqqiq of the famous Khwansari family which traced its lineage to Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He has written an annotation on the philosophical masterpiece "*ash-Shefa*" of the Iranian Islamic genius Abu Ali ibn Sina His most popular book, however, is "*Kulthum-Nana*" or "*Aqa'ed an-Nisa*", which is a humorous book that criticizes laypeople's approach to religiosity or piety and in particular women's ill-founded religious beliefs in the Safavid period.

**218 solar years ago**, on this day in 1802 AD, Napoleon Bonaparte reinstated slavery in the French colonies, revoking its abolition by the French Revolution, thus depriving a sizeable number of fellow humans of their rights of liberty and freedom.

**214 solar years ago**, on this day in 1806 AD, English philosopher and economist, John Stuart Mill, was born. The books he wrote include "*Principles of Political Economy*". He died in 1873.

**118 solar years ago**, on this day in 1902 AD, Cuba became independent on the withdrawal of US occupation forces, which had seized the country during the 4-year war against Spain, fought from 1898-to-1902.

**110 solar years ago**, on this day in 1910 AD, Japan, which had occupied the Korean Peninsula three years earlier by defeating both Russia and China, formally announced annexation of this land and renamed it Joseon. The Korean people revolted against Japan, and during World War II, fought against the Japanese army, alongside Allied Forces.

**93 solar years ago**, on this day in 1927 AD, the British, as per the Treaty of Jeddah, handed over to the desert brigand Abdul-Aziz ibn Saud, the historical land of Hijaz and its religious and commercial centres, such as the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, the seaport of Jeddah and the agriculture-rich resort of Ta'ef. A couple of years earlier, the Wahhabi heretics had occupied Hijaz by driving out the other British agent, Sharif Hussain, and slaughtering over a hundred thousand Muslims, in addition to desecrating the holy shrines of the sacred cemeteries of Jannat al-Baqie in Medina and Jannat al-Mu'alla in Mecca. Five years later in 1932, Hijaz was joined with Najd to create the spurious entity called Saudi Arabia, which annexed the oil-rich eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf against the wishes of the local people, and then seized from Yemen the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and Asir.

**86 solar years ago**, on this day in 1934 AD, the one-sided Treaty of Ta'ef was imposed on Imam Yahya of Yemen by Abdul-Aziz ibn Saud, ruler of the British created state called Saudi Arabia, according to which the regions of Najran, Jeezan, and Asir were occupied for a period of 40 years. In 1974 and again on its unification in 1990, Yemen demanded the return of these vast territories, but Saudi Arabia, backed by the US, has refused to return them, in violation of the Treaty of Ta'ef. Currently, Saudi Arabia has unleashed state terrorism on Yemen, and has been criminally bombarding the country, killing so far some four thousand men, women and children.

**60 solar years ago**, on this day in 1960 AD, Cameroon became a republic following independence from joint British and French colonial rule. Cameroon is located in West Africa with a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean.

**18 solar years ago**, on this day in 2002 AD, East Timor, with a population of about 800,000, celebrated independence from Indonesia, but a legal battle loomed with Australia over the Greater Sunrise natural gas field in the Timor Sea. The field lies 95 miles south of East Timor and 250 miles north of Australia.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2007 AD, Nigeria's largest state, Niger, sued US drug firm Pfizer for using 200 children as "guinea pigs" for a drug test in 1996 that led to multiple deaths and deformities. In 2010 a leaked WikiLeaks cable said Pfizer hired investigators to unearth evidence of corruption against Nigeria's former attorney general Michael Aondoakaa to pressure him to drop legal action over the company's experimental antibiotic, Trovan.

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

# Iranian Screenplays Compete in U.S.



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Zeinali's screenplays 'Crusher', 'Moon and Fishes', and 'Rootless' have been selected to compete at the American Screenwriters Conference in the U.S.

'Crusher' narrates the story of a man who lost his job in a stone crusher plant. Rumors about the rising value of dollar currency and the possibility of war force him into a crisis. Finally, he decides to do something with everlasting effects.

'Moon and Fishes' is the story

of a 10-year-old boy and his friends whose kite goes to the top of a lighthouse.

'Rootless' brings the viewer the situation of a man who straddles the border between two countries during war. There is neither the way forward nor the way back.

The American Screenwriters Conference is organized by the Sacramento International Film Festival.

Due to coronavirus outbreak, the festival will be held online on May 30, 2020.

# Poland Hosts Iran's Animation Documentary

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian Animation Documentary 'The Unseen' by Behzad Nalbandi will take part in the 60th edition of Krakow Film Festival (KFF) in Poland.

Directed and written by Behzad Nalbandi, 'The Unseen' is about a time when Tehran hosts foreign dignitaries, the local authorities clean up Tehran's urban image through an 'urban beautification' process which includes the rounding up of unsavory characters from the city streets; i.e. drug addicts and prostitutes. The men are released after a few days but the women are kept as wards of the state in perpetuity.

'The Unseen' also took part in the



35th International Documentary Film Festival Munich in Germany. Krakow Film Festival is one of the oldest events in the world

dedicated to documentary, animated and short feature films. Its core consists of four competitions of equal rank: documentary

film competition, short film competition, national competition, and music documentary film competition DocFilmMusic.

During the eight festival days, the viewers have a chance to watch about 250 films from Poland and from around the world. They are shown in competition sections and in special screenings. The festival is accompanied by exhibitions, concerts, open-air shows, and meetings with artists. Every year, the festival is visited by approximately 900 Polish and international guests: directors, producers, festival programmers, and numerous Krakow audience.

The 60th KFF will be held on 31 May - 5 June 2020 in Poland.

# Coffee May Have Anti-Obesity Properties

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Women who drink two or three cups of coffee a day have been found to have lower total body and abdominal fat than those who drink less, according to a new study.

Researchers examined data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, organised by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States and looked at the relationship between cups of coffee drunk per day, and both total body fat percentage

and abdominal or 'trunk' fat (adiposity).

They found that women aged 20-44 who drank two or three cups of coffee per day had the lowest levels of adiposity, 3.4% lower than people who did not consume coffee. Among women aged between 45-69, those who drank four or more cups had an adiposity percentage 4.1% lower.

Overall, the average total body fat percentage was 2.8% lower among women of all ages who drank two or three cups of coffee per day.



# Researchers Produce Dry Fog Disinfecting System

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian researchers managed to build a dry fog disinfecting system which increases the efficiency of efforts to sterilize different surfaces and areas against coronavirus.

"In the dry fog method, the turbojet engine of the device takes the air and makes it very dense and pushes it to the system's nozzle. This process leads to the start of dry fog," Babak Shahbazian, a researcher at Pardis Technology Park.

He added that the dry fog includes little drops of disinfectant with a diameter less than 5 microns which enables the user to sterilize the area and surfaces in the most effective way.

Shahbazian said that the little drops can even infiltrate hard-to-accessed points, including inside the wardrobes and air conditioning systems' channels.

# Picture of the Day



The Shokatiyeh School in the city of Birjand is the third modern school in Iran after Darolfonoon and Roshdiyeh schools.

Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency