

This Day in History

(November 8)

Today is Saturday; 17th of the Iranian month of Aban 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 14th of the Islamic month of Moharram 1436 lunar hijri; and November 8, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1106 lunar years ago, on this day in 330 AH, the Iranian scholar, literary figure, and poet, Hussain ibn Hajjaj Baghdadi, was born. He wrote delicate poetry using attractive terms. Most of his poems are in praise of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the Infallible Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt. His verses were compiled in book-form by his famous contemporary, the theologian and literary figure, Seyyed Razi, the compiler of the celebrated book "Nahj al-Balagha", which is a selection of the sermons, letters and maxims of the Prophet's vicegerent, Imam Ali (AS).

1054 solar years ago, on this day in 960 AD, the Battle of Andrassos occurred in the Taurus Mountains in what is now southwestern Turkey, when the Byzantines under Leo Phokas the Younger, ambushed the Muslim forces of the Hamdanid Emir of Aleppo, Saif od-Dowla, who despite the surprising defeat soon regrouped his forces in the following years to push back the Christian invaders. Saif od-Dowla was like a bulwark against Byzantine ambitions to encroach upon Muslim lands.

387 solar years ago, on this day in 1627 AD, the 4th Grand Moghul Emperor of the Subcontinent, Mohammad Noor od-Din Jahangir, died in Lahore in what is now Pakistan, after a reign of 23 years, mostly with the assistance of his Iranian wife, Noor Jahan. Named Salim at his birth by his father Akbar, he maintained excellent relations with Shah Abbas the Great of Iran. Jahangir was also a poet and writer in both Persian and his native Ghaghtai Turkic. The bleak record of his rule, however, was the execution of the prominent Iranian Islamic scholar in Agra, Qazi Seyyed Noorollah Shoushtari, the author of such famous books as "Majalis al-Momineen" and "Ahqaaq al-Haq". The king was under the influence of alcohol when he signed the decree drafted by jealous court mullahs. Later he rued his decision and with the help of his wife, he executed the perpetrators of the murder of Qazi Shoushtari, who is famous in India as Shaheed Salles or the Third Martyr.

358 solar years ago, on this day in 1656 AD, English astronomer, geophysicist and mathematician, Edmond Halley was born. He is best known for recognizing that a bright comet – later named after him – had appeared several times. He calculated its orbit in 1682 and successfully predicted its return. Halley became an influential Fellow of the Royal Society. After originating the question that prodded Isaac Newton to write the seminal Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica, Halley edited it and arranged its publication. Halley was a professor of geometry at Oxford and later appointed Astronomer Royal. Halley identified the proper motion of stars, studied the moon's motion and tides, realized that nebulae were clouds of luminous gas among the stars, and that the aurora was a phenomenon connected with the earth's magnetism. His prediction of the transit of Venus led to Cook's voyage to Tahiti.

340 solar years ago, on this day in 1674 AD, English Poet, John Milton, died in London in the age 66 years. One of his most important works is Paradise Lost, which is an epic poem. He was a supporter of freedom of religion, and opponent of the monarchy. He served under Oliver Cromwell in the Commonwealth of England after overthrow of the monarchy. After restoration of the monarchy, Milton retired from public life, and had gone completely blind when he died.

173 lunar years ago, on this day in 1263 AH, the prominent Islamic scholar and narrator of Hadith, Seyyed Sadreddin Musawi Ameli, passed away in the Iranian city of Isfahan. He was born in the Jabal Amel region of Lebanon. He left for Iraq at a young age and after completion of his studies in the holy city of Najaf, he honed his skills in theology, jurisprudence and Hadith. He has left behind a comprehensive compilation on jurisprudence and its principles. He also has a book on grammar in which he has extensively quoted from the holy Qur'an.

119 solar years ago, on this day in 1895 AD, the acclaimed German physicist, Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, discovered the X-Ray. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1901 due to this important discovery. X-Ray goes through human tissues and is the best means for taking photographs of limbs, and diagnosis of damages and fractures to limbs.

114 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, US author, Margaret Mitchell, was born in Atlanta, Georgia State. She first studied medicine but her sorrow over the death of her mother, led her to drop out of medical college and start writing books at the age of 22. She worked as a journalist for a long time, before her novel "Gone with the Wind" catapulted her to fame. She was killed in a car accident in 1949.

17 solar years ago, on this day in 1997 AD, the famous Iranian author, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh, passed away in Geneva, Switzerland at the age of 106. He was born in a religious family in the city of Isfahan. His father, Seyyed Jamaledin Va'ez, was an active religious leader of the Constitutional Movement, who attained martyrdom. He followed his father's path and was active in the Constitutional Movement. He travelled to France for higher studies and graduated in Law. He returned to Iran during World War I while the country was occupied by the British and Russian troops. His activities for liberation of Iran were inconclusive and he went to Germany, and later worked in the International Labour Bureau in Geneva, Switzerland. His literary life started when he was almost 50 years of age. His writings were simple and to the point. Hence, his stories, which were about social and political developments in Iran, were warmly welcomed by the people. He acquired the epithet of Father of Iran's Story-Writing. He was also fluent in Arabic, German, and French. Among his famous works are "Yeki Bood Yeki Nabood" (Once Upon a Time), "Farsi Shekar Ast" (Persian is Sugar), "Sahra-e Mahshar" (The Plain of Resurrection) and "Ghair az Khoda Hichkas Nabood" (None Existed Except God).

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio – <http://english.irib.ir>)

Art of 'Ta'zieh' Should Be Introduced to Youth



The Iranian art of 'ta'zieh' (Ashura passion play)

TEHRAN (IRIB) - The Iranian art of 'ta'zieh' (Ashura passion play) has to be introduced to the youth, said an expert.

Alaeddin Qassemi, a veteran per-

former of 'ta'zieh', announced this in a session held at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center.

Qassemi gave a brief introduction to the history of 'ta'zieh' in the ses-

sion, titled 'Knowledge of Symbols in Ta'zieh'.

"Ta'zieh has seen many ups and downs. It dates back to the Buyid dynasty—a Shiite dynasty which

originated from Lahijan in Dailam around 934, and still maintains a significant status among the public today," he said.

However, it was during the Safavid reign (1501 to 1722) when 'ta'zieh was performed according to a particular order, he said, adding that music performance in 'ta'zieh' was banned during this time.

"The art of 'ta'zieh' came to the limelight during the Qajar era (1785 to 1925) and it was performed nationwide. The famous Dowlat Tekyeh (a place for performing ritual plays) was set up during this period."

Qassemi noted that the simple language of 'ta'zieh' which easily touches the audience is the main feature of this theatrical genre. Moreover, the performer of the play can easily interact with the audience. "In fact, simple symbols are used to represent broad concepts."

He said that many Iranians are familiar with 'ta'zieh' characters and manuscripts, while the young generation is not well acquainted with the art.

Iran Condolences Lebanon on Demise of Veteran Author

BEIRUT (IRNA) – Iranian Embassy in Beirut issued a statement on Thursday expressing condolences over the death of Lebanon's veteran writer and well-known scholar George Jarda.

As like as Lebanon, Iran lost a scholar who contributed to the richness of humanity with his innovative literature and thought, the statement said.

The Christian writer, George Jarda, the author of the series of "Imam Ali (AS), the voice of human justice" died in Beirut on Wednesday at the age of 84.

Training Center of Chinese Language Teachers Unveiled in Hungary

BUDAPEST (Xinhua) -- The first training center for Chinese language teachers in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) was officially inaugurated.

The center located at the Confucius Institute of Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE) and has been running since June, offers training courses for Chinese language teachers from 16 CEE countries.

At the unveiling ceremony, Hungarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Laszlo Szabo said he believes China and Hungary will continue to develop their friendly relationship in such areas as culture and economy and hopes for more and more investment in Hungary.

Chinese Ambassador to Hungary Xiao Qian said China-CEE cooperation has made considerable progress thanks to joint efforts of all concerned parties.

Such cooperation has not only generated greater opportunities for exchanges and cooperation in education, but also led to higher demands for accelerating the training of language and culture talents, Xiao said.

Xiao said he believes the training center will be able to train more and more high-level Chinese language teachers and Chinese culture ambassadors, and make greater contribution to the friendship and cooperation between China and CEE countries.

Wang Yongli, deputy director of Hanban, or the Confucius Institute Headquarters, said the establishment of the training center marks an innovation in the training model for local Chinese language teachers and will promote the team-building of Chinese teachers in CEE countries.

Early Quran Recitations Available at Hussein Library

KARBALA (IQNA) - A collection of Quran recitations by early generations of Qaris has been made available at the Specialized Qur'anic Library of Imam Hussein's (AS) holy shrine in Karbala.

According to the information website of the holy shrine, the library has collected the audio files belonging to the 1940s with the aim of disseminating the Qur'anic culture in the

society.

Safa Al-Silavi, who is in charge of the library, said the files include Quran recitations by Iranian and Egyptian Qaris participating in international Quran competitions.

He added that Quran recitations in different styles by Iraqi Qaris are also available at the library.

Besides the audio files of Quran recitations, the library also provides

collections of elegies, supplications and recitation of pilgrimage.

There are collections of digital copies of books on Islamic themes, jurisprudence and Quran interpretations at the digital section of the library.

Those interested to master Quran recitation and memorization can participate in various courses organized at the library by Quran experts of the country.

Picture of the Day



Alamat Sazi (Muharram emblem workshop) – Tehran – Iran

Courtesy: CHN