

This Day in History

(February 13)

Today is Tuesday; 24th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 26th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and February 13, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1159 lunar years ago, on this day in 280 AH, Iranian linguist and Arabic poet, Abu'l-Fazl Ahmad, popular as Ibn Abi Taher Tayfur, passed away. He played a vital role in revolutionizing Arabic literature. His works include the 3-volume *"Kitab al-Manthour wa'l-Manzoum"* (Book of Prose and Poetry), and the 6-volume *"Kitab Baghdad"* (Book of Baghdad). He also compiled *"Balaghat an-Nisa"* (Eloquence of Women), in which he has cited the two sermons of Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (SA), the daughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), following seizure of her patrimony of the orchard of Fadak and the usurpation of the right of political leadership of her husband the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). He has also cited the eloquently moving sermon of Omm Kolthoum, the Prophet's granddaughter, delivered in the aftermath of the tragedy of Karbala and the martyrdom of her brother Imam Husain (AS).

1158 lunar years ago, on this day in 281 AH, Iranian polymath, Abu Hanifah Ahmad ibn Dawoud Dinawari, passed away. He studied astronomy, mathematics and mechanics in Isfahan and Arabic philology and poetry in Kufa and Basra. He also excelled in agriculture, botany, metallurgy, history and geography. His most renowned contribution is *"Kitab an-Nabaat"* (Book of Plants), for which he is considered the founder of Islamic botany, for his scientific classification and listing of thousands of varieties of different plants, with detailed discussion from their evolution to birth and subsequent death. All his works are in Arabic including *"Kitab al-Kusouf"* (Book of Solar Eclipses), *"Kitab al-Akhbar at-Tiwaal"* (General History), *"Kitab al-Boldaan"* (Book of Geography), and *"Kitab ash-She'r wa'sh-Shu'ara"* (Book of Poetry and Poets). Dinawari's works also deal with astronomy, meteorology and agriculture. He describes the astronomical and meteorological character of the sky, the planets and constellations, the sun and moon, the lunar phases indicating seasons and rain, the atmospheric phenomena such as winds, thunder, lightning, snow, floods, rivers, lakes, wells and other sources of water.

1076 solar years ago, on this day in 942 AD, Mohammad ibn Ra'eq, a military officer of Khazar origin who exploited the weakness of the Abbasid caliphate to become the first *"Amir al-Umara"* (Commander of Commanders), and has earned lasting notoriety for impairing the agriculture of Iraq for several centuries by blocking the Nahrawan Canal in his fight against a rival, was assassinated. Deposed by Turkic guards in 938, he regained the post in 941, but was assassinated the next year – allegedly on the orders of Naser od-Dowla, the Hamdanid ruler of Mosul who succeeded him. The frequent coups and violent struggle for control of the caliphate had greatly enfeebled the caliphs and reduced them to a purely symbolical role. The main pillars of support for Ibn Ra'eq were Turkish troops under Bajkam and Tuzun (former subordinates of Mardavih the Founder of the Ziyarid Dynasty of Iran), who now turned against him. In a vain bid to impede Bajkam's advance towards Baghdad, he ordered flooding of the centuries-old irrigation system of the Sawad. The breach of Nahrawan Canal signaled the end of Abbasid power just as the breach of the Marib Dam was end of the prosperity of pre-Islamic Yemen.

669 solar years ago, on this day in 1349 AD, Christians expelled all Jews from Burgsdorf, Switzerland, because of the age-old enmity with the followers of Judaism for their slandering of Prophet Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary.

279 solar years ago, on this day in 1739 AD, the historic Battle of Karnaal was fought some 110 km north of Delhi, between the Iranian army of Nader Shah Afshar and the army of the Indian Moghal ruler, Mohammad Shah "Rangeeleh". The Iranians won a decisive victory losing only 2500 soldiers, while the death toll of the Indian army was over 20,000. The cause of the invasion was the failure and inability of Mohammad Shah to prevent the entry into Moghal-controlled Kabul and the eastern areas of Afghanistan and Punjab, of Hotaki and Ghilzai rebel leaders who were driven out from Iran by Nader Shah, following his ending of the Afghan occupation of the country. When a series of letters from Nader Shah did not entail any positive result or response from Mohammad Shah, the Iranian army began its invasion from Qandahar, and after taking Kabul and Peshawar, marched unopposed all the way till Karnaal. The superior artillery power of the Iranians threw the Moghals and their war elephants into disarray. The Iranian cavalry was swifter and out-manuevered the Moghals. Mohammad Shah was taken prisoner but was treated with respect by Nader Shah, who entered Delhi along with him and after a stay of some weeks, returned to Iran by restoring the Moghal king his rule, but taking with him the fabulous Koh-e Noor and Darya-e Noor Diamonds, the Peacock Throne, the Tent of Pearls and other jewels.

253 solar years ago, on this day in 1766 AD, Thomas Robert Malthus, English economist and demographer, was born. His theories, as is evident from his work *"An Essay on the Principle of Population"*, betrayed his lack of belief in the Infinite Power of the Almighty Creator. He wrote *"population would always outrun the food supply and would result in famine, disease or war to reduce the number of people."* His views became controversial, across economic, political, social and scientific thoughts, while his reputation as economist dropped for the rest of his life.

107 solar years ago, on this day in 1911, famous Urdu poet of the subcontinent, Faiz Ahmed Farooq, popular by his penname "Faiz", was born in Karachi in undivided India. He learned Arabic, Persian, Urdu languages and the holy Qur'an, but because of the social injustice, turned towards Marxism. He was politically active both before and after the founding of Pakistan. He opposed the dictatorial rule of General Zia ul-Haq and was imprisoned and exiled for his views, which he expressed through poetry and novels. He passed away in Lahore at the age of 73. Among his important works are *"Naqsh-e Faryadi"*, *"Dast-e Saba"*, and *"Zindan-Namah"*.

87 solar years ago, on this day in 1931 AD, British Viceroy, Lord Irwin, inaugurated the new capital of British India, which four years earlier in 1927 was officially named "New Delhi", since it was built on the outskirts of the old Indian Muslim capital Delhi. The leading British architect, Edwin Lutyens, in his designs incorporated Iranian styles including Persian paintings on the ceiling of what is now called Rashtrapathi Bhavan or Presidential Palace.

84 lunar years ago, on this day in 1355 AH, Source of Emulation, Grand Ayatollah Allamah Mirza Mohammad Hussain Na'ini, passed away. A product of the famous seminary of holy Najaf, he was well versed in mathematics, philosophy, and mysticism. Among his important works is *"Tanbih al-Ummah va Tanzih al-Millah"* which outlines the duties of ulema and people and the necessity of campaign against tyrannical regimes. This was an effective step in awakening the Iranian people, whose struggles against local despotism and foreign hegemony triumphed under the guidance of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA).

79 solar years ago, on this day in 1939 AD, Akbar Adibi, Iran's father of electronics, was born. After obtaining masters in Electrical Engineering from Tehran University, he left for the US, where he obtained two Master of Science degrees – the first in Microprocessor-based Computer Systems and the second in Solid State and Semiconductor Device. He completed his PhD on Barrier Solar Cells. On return to Iran he resumed his job as lecturer at Amir Kabir University. His notable achievements are: The creation of Iran's first Solar Cell in 1978, and more than 100 articles in internal and international publications. He was involved in many industry-based projects, namely, the design and implementation of a 32 channel PCM system, the design and construction of a DSP-based high voltage network protection system, and the design of a DCS-based control. Adibi is the author of several technical books such as *"Pulse Techniques"*, *"Theory and Technology of Semiconductor Devices"*, and *"Digital Electronics"*.

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, during closing months of World War 2, US and British warplanes mercilessly bombed the German city of Dresden. The British used 873 heavy bombers, killing 135,000 people.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, the Rio Negro massacre took place in Guatemala, resulting in the killing of more than 5,000 Amerindians of the Maya Achi tribe in and around the village of Rio Negro alone, because of the refusal of the natives to vacate their ancestral lands.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, during the Persian Gulf War, US warplanes fired two laser-guided smart bombs to destroy the Amiriyah civilian shelter in Baghdad, killing over 400 men, women and children on the pretext of targeting a military communications outpost. The US is the most blatant violator of human rights and known for its wanton killing of world people.

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

Winners Of 36th Fajr Film Festival Announced

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The winners of Iran 36th Fajr Film Festival were awarded during the closing ceremony of the event held in Milad Tower in Tehran on Sunday night.

The event was attended by First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi.

The nominees which succeeded to receive the top prize (Crystal Simorgh) include:

Crystal Simorgh for Best Short Film

Bahram & Bahman Ark- 'Animal'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Special Effects

Farid Naser-Fasihi- 'Istanbul Juncture'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Special Effects

Mohsen Ruzbehani- 'The Lost Strait'

Best Make up Crystal Simorgh Saeed Malekan- 'The Lost Strait'

Best Stage Design Crystal Si-



MEHR NEWSAGENCY Photo: Majid Asgarpour

morgh Abbas Blondi- 'Underwater Cedar'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Costume Design

Sara Khaledizadeh- 'Bomb: A Love Story'

Best Sound Crystal Simorgh

Ali-Reza Alavian- 'In the Levant Time' & 'Sheeple'

Best Sound Recording Crystal Simorgh

Rashid daneshmand- 'The lost Strait'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Composing

Karen Homayoon-Far- 'Cold Sweat'

Best editing Crystal Simorgh

Bahram Dehghani & Mohammad Najarian- 'Cold Sweat'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Filming

Ali-Reza Zarrin-Dast- 'Underwater Cedar'

Crystal Simorgh for Art & Experience

Hooman Seyyedi- 'Sheeple' Crystal Simorgh for Best First Film

Reza Maqsoodi- 'Don't Be Embarrassed'

Best Supporting Actress Crystal Simorgh

Sara Bahrami- 'Woodpecker'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Actor

Amin Hayaee- 'Flaming'

Best Screenplay Crystal Simorgh

Kambiziya Partoee- 'Truck' & Hooman Seyyedi- 'Sheeple'

Best Director Crystal Simorgh

Bahram Tava- 'The Lost Strait'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Film

Saeed Malekan- 'The lost Strait'

At the conclusion of the 10-day festival, the best film prize went to The Abu Ghraib Strait, directed by Bahram Tavakoli and produced by Saeed Malekan.

The highly popular film festival had begun in capital Tehran and several other cities on February 1.

The Fajr Film Festival, established in 1982, has played a vital role in the development of Iranian Cinema.

Japan to Help Equip Two Hospitals in Tehran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Japan will help to equip two Iranian hospitals in east of Tehran, according to the agreement signed between Iranian Deputy Health Minister for International Affairs Mohsen Asadi Lari and the permanent representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Konayashi, in Tehran on Monday.

As per the agreement, Japan will allocate financial aid worth 14 million dollars to equip two

hospitals, including Imam Hussein and Arash, with the angiographic, advanced endoscopes, surgical X-ray system, endoscopic ultrasound and ultrasound diagnostic devices.

Also, Arash Hospital will be provided with devices including the full-body CT scan, MRI, digital mammography, laparoscopic set, digital general radiography services and portable radiography.

Sibling Bullying May Lead to Psychotic Disorders

LONDON (Dispatches) - People who were bullied by siblings during childhood are up to three times more likely to develop psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia in early adulthood, according to new research.

The research by University of Warwick found that the more frequently children are involved in sibling bullying -- either as bully, victim, or both -- the more likely they are to develop a psychotic disorder.

In the study by led by Professor Dieter Wolke (senior author) at Warwick's Department of Psychology, almost 3,600 children from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children completed a detailed questionnaire on sibling bullying at twelve years of age, and then subsequently filled out a standardized clinical examination assessing psychotic symptoms when they were eighteen years old.

Of the adolescents, 664 were victims of sibling bullying, 486 children were pure bullies to their siblings and 771 children were bully-victims (victimized by siblings and bullied their siblings), at age twelve.

Fifty-five of the total 3600 children in the study had developed a psychotic disorder by the age of eighteen.

The researchers found that the more frequently children are involved in sibling bullying -- either as bully, victim, or both -- the more likely they are to develop a psychotic disorder.

Those involved in sibling bullying (as bully or victim) sev-

eral times a week or month are two to three times more likely to develop a psychotic disorder than other kids.

The children most at risk are victims of sibling bullying, and those who both become victims and bully their siblings (bully-victims).

Children who are victimized both at home and by school peers are even worse off -- being four times more likely to develop psychotic disorders than those not involved in bullying at all.



Picture of the Day



The Iranian art of Minakari or enameling depicted in central Province of Isfahan. Courtesy: IRNA