

## This Day in History

(March 10)

Today is Saturday; 19th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 21st of the Islamic month of Jamad as-Sani 1439 lunar hijri; and March 10, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2259 solar years ago**, on this day in 241 BC, the Battle of the Aegates Island, off the coast of Sicily, was won by the Romans who sank the Carthaginian fleet to bring the First Punic War to its end after 23 years of seesaw fighting, mainly on the Mediterranean island of Sicily and its surrounding waters and also to a lesser extent in North Africa.

**1378 lunar years ago**, on this day in 61 AH, Hazrat Omm Kulthoum (SA), the second and youngest daughter of Imam Ali and Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) was born in Medina in the lifetime of her maternal grandfather, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Like her elder sister, Hazrat Zainab (SA), and brothers, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS), she was a picture of virtue, and on growing up married her paternal first cousin Awn ibn Ja'far at-Tayyar, since as a member of the spotlessly pure Ahl al-Bayt, no other man was worthy of her hand, except a faithful Hashemite. Awn was martyred in 38 AH in the War of Siffeen. Omm Kulthoum (SA) was present in Karbala at history's most heartrending tragedy; was taken in chains along with the rest of ladies and children of the Prophet's blessed household to the court of the tyrant Yazid; delivered memorable sermons, especially in Kufa, to unmask the hypocrisy of the Omayyad regime; and on return to Medina recited the famous elegy "Madinato Jaddona la taqbalina..." (O City of our Grandfather, don't accept our coming).

**1120 lunar years ago**, on this day in 319 AH, famous hadith scholar, Mohammad bin Abdus-Samad al-Baghdadi, passed away. Like his ancestors he dedicated his efforts to collecting authentic narrations from the original sources, quoting Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) and Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He has also chronicled the event of the Treaty of Hudaibiyya including the Prophet's statement on this day regarding the "wilayah" or divinely-decreed authority of Imam Ali (AS), through Jaber ibn Abdullah al-Ansari. His compilation of hadith is esteemed by researchers. One of his narrations from the Prophet reads: "Those who like to live like me, die like me, and enter the Paradise that Allah has promised me, should follow (Imam) Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) and his (infallible) progeny, because they will not deviate you from the path of guidance and will never lead you astray."

**1055 lunar years ago**, on this day in 384 AH, literary figure, historian, and judge, Muhassin ibn Ali at-Tanoukhi, passed away at the age of 55. His books include "al-Faraj Ba'd ash-Shiddah" on historical and social developments, and "al-Masajed". He also left behind a Diwan of Arabic poetry.

**781 lunar years ago**, on this day in 658 AH, Damascus fell to the Iran-based dynasty of the Ilkhanid Mongols as the ruling Ayyubid Kurds (descendants of Salah od-Din) succumbed to the onslaught, two years after Hulagu Khan had sacked Baghdad and ended the Abbasid caliphate. The attack was led by Kitbugha Noyan, a Turkic Christian general of the Mongols, who built up an alliance with King Hethum I of Armenia and the European Crusader ruler of Antioch, Bohemond VI. The combined forces with the assistance of the Seljuqid Turk auxiliaries had earlier driven out the Ayyubids from Aleppo. On the fall of Damascus, the three Christian warlords (i.e. Kitbugha, Hethum and Bohemond) entered the Omayyad Mosque, turned it into a cathedral, and held mass at what is said to be the shrine of John the Baptist.

**727 solar years ago**, on this day in 1291 AD, Arghun Khan, the 4th ruler of the Mongol Ilkhanid Dynasty of Iran, Iraq, and parts of Syria and Anatolia, died after a reign of seven years during which he sent delegations, at least four times, to the Pope in Rome and to major European powers for forging a Buddhist-Christian alliance in a bid to exterminate Islam and Muslims. The plan never materialized because of the growing power and resolve of the Turkic Mamluk rulers of Egypt-Syria in defeating both the Buddhist Mongols and the European Crusaders. Arghun was son of Abaqa Khan and his Christian wife, Haimash Khatun, and the grandson of the destroyer of Baghdad, Hulagu Khan.

**283 solar years ago**, on this day in 1735 AD, an accord between Nader Shah Afshar of Iran and Czarist Russia was signed near Ganja in what is now the Azerbaijan Republic, according to which Russian troops were withdrawn from Baku. Russia also ended occupation of Daghestan when Nader Shah threatened to march upon Moscow.

**214 solar years ago**, on this day in 1804 AD, a ceremony was conducted to transfer ownership of the Louisiana Territory from France to the United States. This area like the rest of the southern and western states of the US was under Spain's jurisdiction. On 30th November 1803 AD, Spanish representatives had transferred the Louisiana Territory in North America to a French representative, and just 20 days later, France sold the same land to the United States in a deal known as the Louisiana Purchase.

**157 solar years ago**, on this day in 1861 AD, Umar Ta'l seized the important West African city of Segou in Mali, after a series of victories that ended the animist Bambara kingdom, thereby preventing it from serving as a base for penetration of the region by the French colonialists. He thus founded a brief Islamic empire, encompassing much of Senegal, Mali and Guinea.

**157 solar years ago**, on this day in 1861 AD, Canadian Poetess, Pauline Johnson, was born. She was from the Mohawk Red Indian Tribe, which was forced to emigrate from the US to Canada. She left behind four collections of poems. She died in 1913.

**142 solar years ago**, on this day in 1876 AD, Scottish-American inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, after years of experiments and designs of various apparatuses by different scientists, spoke the famous sentence "Mr. Watson—Come here—I want to see you" into the liquid transmitter he had invented, while Watson, listening at the receiving end in an adjoining room, heard the words clearly. This was in effect the first telephone call.

**122 solar years ago**, on this day in 1896 AD, Italian troops during their invasion of Abyssinia (present day Ethiopia), were crushed in Adowa region. Italian forces intended to occupy Abyssinia and to establish a link between two of their colonies in the Horn of Africa – Eritrea and Somaliland. Despite the modern military equipment of the Italian army, the Abyssinian forces triumphed and inflicted major fatalities and financial losses on the aggressors. Italy, under Fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, occupied Ethiopia from 1936 until its defeat in 1941 during World War 2.

**50 solar years ago**, on this day in 1968 AD, during the Vietnam War, the Battle of Lima Site 85, resulted in the largest single ground combat loss of United States Air Force members during the American aggression.

**43 solar years ago**, on this day in 1975 AD, during the Vietnam War, the Ho Chi Minh Campaign was launched by North Vietnamese troops on Ban Mê Thuôt, South Vietnam, as a prelude to the capture of Saigon on the final push for victory over the US-supported secessionist state of South Vietnam.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1989 AD, Iranian astronomer and mathematician, Dr. Abbas Riazzi Kermani, passed away at the age of 72. Following completion of his academic studies, he left for France. In Paris, he continued his studies in mathematics and astronomy and got a PhD in Astronomy from Sorbonne University. After returning to Iran, he started lecturing at Tehran University and other higher education institutes. In 1966, he prepared Iran's official calendar. He wrote several books, including: "Moqadama bar Nujoum-e Aali" (An Introductory to Astronomy).

**28 solar years ago**, on this day in 1990 AD, Pakistani poet, Dr. Abdul-Hamid Irfani, passed away at the age of 80. He played a leading role in reviving the Islamic culture and countering the West's cultural invasion, as one of the prominent students of the acclaimed philosopher-poet of the subcontinent, Allamah Iqbal Lahori. Dr. Irfani compiled more than 40 books in different fields; several of which have been published in Iran.

**12 solar years ago**, on this day in 2006 AD, the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime attacked with firearms and tear gas, thousands of peaceful protestors in Manama, capital of the Persian Gulf Island state of Bahrain, demanding restoration of their birthrights and release of prisoners. Over a dozen people were injured.

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

# ‘Saad’s Olive Tree’ to Vie for Top Award at 16th Garden State Festival



TEHRAN (MNA) – Ahmad Zayeri's film, which tells the story of a Syrian child, will compete in the 16th annual Garden State film festival in New Jersey, United States.

“Saad’s Olive Tree” film directed by Iranian director Ahmad Zayeri tells the story of a Syrian child who lost his sight in a mortar

explosion. The child imprisons himself at home while his mother and the neighbors try to give him some hope.

The Iranian director’s film has so far won awards in different international competitions including the Best Short Film Award in 2017 Eearl’s Court Film Festival in London, UK and the best screenplay of the 14th edition of the Kinofilm Festival in Manchester, UK.

Founded in 2002, the Garden State Film Festival is a film festival in the United States held in Asbury Park, New Jersey which showcases over 150 independent films annually over four days each spring.

The 16th edition of the festival will start on March 22 and will last until March 25, 2018.

## Regular Exercise Slows Down Aging



LONDON (Dispatches)-The results of a recent research shows that those who exercised regularly defied the aging process, having the immunity, muscle mass, and cholesterol levels of a young person.

Researchers at the University of Birmingham and King’s College London have found that staying active keeps the body young and healthy.

The researchers set out to assess the health of older adults who had exercised most of their adult lives to see if this could slow down ageing.

The study recruited 125 amateur cyclists aged 55 to 79, 84 of which were male and 41 were female. The men had to be able to cycle 100 km in under 6.5 hours, while the women had to be able to cycle 60 km in 5.5 hours. Smokers, heavy drinkers and those with high blood pressure or other health conditions were excluded from the study.

The participants underwent a series of tests in the laboratory and were compared to a group of adults who do not partake in regular physical activity. This group consisted of 75 healthy people aged 57 to 80 and 55 healthy young adults aged 20 to 36.

The study showed that loss of muscle mass and strength did not occur in those who exercise regularly. The cyclists also did not increase their body fat or cholesterol levels with age and the men’s testosterone levels also remained high, suggesting that they may have avoided most of the male menopause.

More surprisingly, the study also revealed that the benefits of

exercise extend beyond muscle as the cyclists also had an immune system that did not seem to have aged either.

An organ called the thymus, which makes immune cells called T cells, starts to shrink from the age of 20 and makes less T cells. In this study, however, the cyclists’ thymuses were making as many T cells as those of a young person.

## ‘No Date, No Sign’ Awarded at Belgrade Festival

TEHRAN (Dispatches)-Iranian movie ‘No Date, No Sign’ directed by Vahid Jalilvand received the jury’s award at Belgrade annual film festival “FEST”.

The film depicts the story of a forensic pathologist Dr Nariman, a principled and virtuous man, has an accident with a motorcyclist and his family, and injures his 8-year-old son. He pays compensation to the man and offers to take the child to a clinic nearby. The next morning, he finds out that the same little boy has been brought in for an autopsy. Dr. Nariman faces a dilemma now: is he responsible for the child’s death due to the accident or he died of food poisoning according to other doctors’ diagnostic?

According to the statement of the jury, ‘No Date, No Sign’ has questioned such concepts as sin,



The 46th edition of FEST was held from Feb 23 to March 4.

crime and responsibility but in a simple and rich story.

## Picture of the Day



Ali Gholi Agha, one of the high ranking court officials at the last Safavid king Shah Sultan Hussein, built a bathhouse, bazaar and mosque in the quarter with the same name in Bidabad district of Iran’s central province of Isfahan.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency