

## This Day in History

(July 03)

Today is Monday; 12th of the Iranian month of Tir 1396 solar hijri, corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1438 lunar hijri; and July 3, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1066 lunar years ago**, on this day in 372 AH, the greatest ruler of the Iranian Buwayhid dynasty of Iran-Iraq-Bahrain-Oman, Adhud od-Dowla Daylami, passed away in Baghdad and was laid to rest in holy Najaf in the mausoleum of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

**709 solar years ago**, on this day in 1308 AD, Sultan Ala ud-Din Khilji laid siege to the famous fort of Siwana, situated on a hilltop in the Marwar region of what is now Rajasthan state of India. Two months later he captured the fort. Ala ud-Din, the second ruler of the Persianized Turkic Dynasty, known as Khilji, because of its origin from Khilji in Afghanistan, ruled the greater part of the subcontinent for 20 years, after succeeding his uncle, Sultan Jalal ud-Din Firuz. He was a brilliant strategist and an outstanding military commander, although a ruthless person.

**499 solar years ago**, on this day in 1518 AD, Li Shizhen, Chinese polymath, who was a mineralogist, medical doctor, scientist, pharmacologist, herbalist and acupuncturist of the Ming dynasty, was born. His major contribution to clinical medicine was his 27-year work, which is found in his scientific book Bencao Gangmu (Compendium of Materia Medica). He is considered to be the greatest scientific naturalist of China, and developed many innovative methods for the proper classification of herb components and medications to be used for treating diseases.

**263 solar years ago**, on this day in 1754 AD, during the French and Indian Wars, George Washington, the future first president of the US, who was then a British officer, surrendered to the French forces what is now Pittsburg in southwestern Pennsylvania and which was called Fort Necessity. This left the French in control of the Ohio Valley, and marked the beginning of the French & Indian War also called the 7 Years' War.

**194 solar years ago**, on this day in 1823 AD, Ahmed Vefeeq Pasha, Ottoman statesman, diplomat, playwright, and translator of the "Tanzimaat" during the first Constitutional Period, was born in Istanbul, in a family of Greek extraction from the island of Crete.

**184 solar years ago**, on this day in 1863 AD, during the US civil war, the Battle of Gettysburg ended around the town of the same name in Pennsylvania, in a disastrous defeat for the Confederates, because of General Robert E. Lee's strategic blunder in ordering his forces to mount the Pickett's charge against the Union army, despite the advice of his commanders of the impracticability of such an operation. It is the largest military conflict in North American history. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire 5-year war and is often described as the war's turning point.

**136 solar years ago**, on this day in 1881 AD, Hasan Tahsini, Ottoman Albanian astronomer, mathematician, and philosopher, passed away in Istanbul at the age of 70. Tahsini, who had the support of the famous Iranian pan-Islamic activist, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi, was the target of attacks by conservative ulema for his modern views. His lectures were banned and Istanbul University temporarily closed. Nonetheless, he continued his scholarly activities and as one of the most prominent 19th century scholars of the Ottoman Empire, wrote the first Turkish language treatise on psychology titled "Psychology or the Science of Soul". He also wrote the first Turkish-language book on modern astronomy being also the first popular science book in Turkish.

**134 solar years ago**, on this day in 1883 AD, the Czech author, Franz Kafka, was born in Prague. Given that he had a tough childhood, Kafka had a pessimistic viewpoint and was a Nihilist, which is completely evident in his books. His famous works include "The Metamorphosis", and "The Trial".

**114 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1324 AH, the first issue of daily "Majlis" was published in Iran by Constitutional Movement activist Mirza Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq Tabatabai. Following announcement of the freedom of press, several papers were published in different Iranian cities, but "Majlis" was the first daily circulated after opening of Iran's first parliament. It focused in detail on debates during parliamentary sessions.

**113 solar years ago**, on this day in 1904 AD, Theodor Herzl, the founder of the racist and terrorist outfit, Zionism, died at the age of 44. Born in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, and named Benjamin Ze'ev Herzl, he later took up residence in Austria, where in 1895 he wrote the controversial book titled "Jewish State" in which he bragged about the so-called racist superiority of the Jews. In 1897, Herzl and his co-thinkers in a gathering in Switzerland formally called for occupation of the Muslim land of Palestine. He died in 1904.

**99 solar years ago**, on this day in 1918 AD, Mohammad V, the 35th and penultimate Ottoman Sultan and the 29th self-styled Turkish caliph, died at the age of 74 and was succeeded by his half-brother Mohammad VI.

**94 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1344 AH, Wahhabi brigands from the desert region of Najd desecrated the sacred Jannat al-Baqie Cemetery of Medina, destroying the tombs of venerable Islamic figures including the majestic holy shrine that housed the tombs of four of the 12 Infallible Successors of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), that is, Imam Hasan Mojtaba, Imam Zain al-Abidin, Imam Mohammad Baqer, and Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace upon them). The Chief Wahhabi Judge, Sheikh Abdullah bin Balhid, issued the blasphemous decree for destruction of the sacred and historical shrines of Medina. The brigands wanted to destroy the Prophet's shrine as well, but were prevented by the people. These seditious elements also destroyed in the same year the tomb of the Prophet's uncle, Hazrat Hamza (PuH) and the other martyrs of the Battle of Ohad, as well as the holy mausoleums in the sacred Jannat al-Mu'alla Cemetery of Mecca, where repose in eternal peace, the Prophet's loyal wife, the First Lady of Islam, Omm al-Momineen or Mother of True Believers Hazrat Khadija, the Prophet's infant son, Hazrat Qassem the Prophet's uncle and guardian, Hazrat Abu Taleb, the Prophet's grandfather, Hazrat Abdul-Mutalleb and other members of the monotheistic Bani Hashem clan (peace upon them).

**93 solar years ago**, on this day in 1924 AD, Iranian poet and political writer, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Kordestani, popular as Mirzadeh Eshqi, was killed at the age of 31 in his own house in Tehran by unknown gunmen, believed to be agents of the British-imposed premier, Reza Khan (later Pahlavi), whom he used to bitterly criticize in his newspaper articles.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, the US in a blatant act of terrorism, shot down an Iranian Airbus passenger plane en route from Bandar Abbas to Dubai, by firing two missiles from the warship Vincennes that had ventured into Iranian coastal waters in the Persian Gulf. All 298 passengers and crew on board were killed. The regular four-days a week Iran Air Flight 655 was deliberately shot down by the US in a show of Washington's support for Saddam who was suffering defeat after defeat in his US-instigated 8-year war against the Islamic Republic. The US lied to the world media regarding the incident and tried to depict it as a mistake, but soon in an insult to the Iranian nation, the US President granted a medal of bravery to Captain Will Rogers for his cowardly act of terrorism in downing the Iranian passenger plane.

**4 solar year ago**, on this day in 2013 AD, Egyptian president, Mohammad Morsi, was toppled by a military coup led by General Abdul-Fattah as-Sisi, exactly a year after he had been elected in the country's first and only fair and free elections. A member of the Muslim Brotherhood, who failed to solve the political and economic problems of the country, had ironically promoted Sisi to the post of the topmost military commander. Although he called himself Islamist, he supported the scandalous Camp David Treaty with the illegal Zionist entity, and allowed Takfiri elements to terrorize Egypt's Christian and Shi'ite Muslim minorities. He also adopted a wrong regional policy by supporting terrorists in Syria and relying on Saudi Arabia, which betrayed him by openly backing the coup plotters.

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

# Iran Photo Collection Stands Top in Int'l China Festival



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The photo collection and documentation of Iran's native silk of 100 top collections. According to the Public Relations

Office of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT), the list has been selected by the jury at the Humanity Photo Awards (HPA) in China.

The photo collection which was arranged by Babak Sadiqi in cooperation with the Research Institute of Anthropology and the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism was selected from among 7,848 collections.

The HPA Festival is the most prestigious international photo festival in the world in the field of subjects related to culture and is held biennially.

It should be noted that photos of the research work had already been awarded a plaque of honor by the Tokyo International Foto Awards (TIFA).

## 7th Edition of Islamic Film Market Opens in Mashhad



TEHRAN (ISNA) - The seventh edition of the Islamic Film Market kicked off in Iranian holy city of Mashhad with the managers of networks and stations of the Islamic radio and television union in attendance.

The ninth meeting of General Assembly of the Islamic radio and television union, the seventh edition of the Islamic Film Market and the sixth exhibition of equipment and technology media kicked off on Saturday in Mashhad as the cultural capital of the Islamic world with their managers in attendance.

Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Italy, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Pakistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Oman, Kuwait, the UK and India are representing a total of 800 new TV shows on the market.

According to the previous edition of the event, the Islamic Film Market aims to introduce cinema and television productions of the Islamic countries.

Iranian radio and TV channels and institutes, including Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Farabi Cinema Foundation, the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and

Young Adults (IIDCYA), and the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) offer their latest productions at the market to help increase the exposure of productions in the international arena.

## Air Pollution Linked to Premature Death



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Long-term exposure to airborne fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone increases the risk of premature death, according to a new study in the U.S.

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health researchers found that men, blacks, and low-income populations had higher risk estimates from PM2.5 exposure compared with the national average, with blacks having mortality risks three times higher than the national average.

The results showed that if the level of PM2.5 could be lowered by just 1 microgram per cubic meter (ug/m3) nationwide, about 12,000 lives could be

saved every year. Similarly, if the level of ozone could be lowered by just 1 part per billion (ppb) nationwide, about 1,900 lives would be saved each year.

"This is a study of unprecedented statistical power because of the massive size of the study population. These findings suggest that lowering the NAAQS for fine particulate matter will produce important public health benefits, especially among self-identified racial minorities and people with low incomes," said Francesca Dominici, principal investigator of this study and professor of biostatistics at Harvard Chan School and co-director of the Harvard Data Science Initiative.

## Picture of the Day



Iranian National Orchestra Concert, led by Fereydoun Shahbazian, was held at Chehelstun Mansion of Isfahan. Courtesy of Mehr News Agency