

## This Day in History

(July 10)

Today is Monday; 19<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Tir 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 15<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1438 lunar hijri; and July 10, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1879 solar years ago**, on this day in 138 AD, Roman Emperor Hadrian, died at the age of 62. Of mixed Spanish-Italian ancestry, he succeeded his father's cousin Trajan as Roman Emperor in 117 and ruled for 21 years till his death in 138 AD. Hadrian joined Trajan's expedition against Iran's Parthian Empire. During the war when the Romans were repelled from Mesopotamia (Iraq) by the Iranians, Hadrian surrendered Trajan's gains in Mesopotamia. There was almost a war with Parthia around 121, but the threat was averted when Hadrian succeeded in negotiating a peace with Emperor Osroes I (Khosrow). He is best known for the Hadrian's Wall he built in Britain for defence of Roman possessions against the Picts of what is now Scotland.

**1435 lunar years ago**, on this day in 3 AH, the Battle of Ohad was imposed on Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) by the Arabs of Mecca led by Abu Sufyan, near Medina at Mount Ohad, for avenging the defeat they had suffered a year earlier at Badr. Ohad was a setback for Muslims, whose ranks were infiltrated by hypocrites. In the initial encounter, the heavily-armed Arabs were repelled, but ignoring the Prophet's instructions the guards at the mountain pass, left their positions to join in seizing the camp baggage of the fleeing Meccans. At this, an infidel leader, named Khaled bin Waleed, who lay in ambush, burst upon the Muslims, martyring several of them and forcing most of the companions of the Prophet to flee the battlefield. The Prophet himself was injured and lost some of his teeth. However, thanks to the valour of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), the day was saved for the Prophet and for Islam, although in the process the Prophet's brave uncle, Hazrat Hamza (AS), was martyred by the Abyssinian Wahshi, who as ordered by his mistress, Hind bint Utbah, the wife of Abu Sufyan (mother of Mu'awiyya and grandmother of Yazid), tore out his victim's liver and brought it to her for chewing. Islam is indebted to Imam Ali (AS), in whose praise on the Day of the Battle of Ohad the angels were heard chanting: *"There is no braver youth than Ali, and no sharper sword than Zu'l-Feqar."*

**1435 lunar years ago**, on this day in 3 AH, the Islamic poet and preacher, Abu at-Tufail Amer Kan'ani, was born. As a steadfast follower of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), his poems are in praise of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the blessed Ahl al-Bayt.

**1186 lunar years ago**, on this day in 252 AH, Seyyed Abdul-Aziz al-Hasani, a prominent descendant of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in Rayy, where his shrine is a site of pilgrimage for people from all over the world. A pious scholar of repute, he was fifth in descent from the Prophet's elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS). Born in Medina, he had the honour of companionship of the 8th, 9th and 10th Infallible Imams - Imam Ali ar-Reza (AS), Imam Mohammad al-Jawad (AS), and Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS). He was sent as a missionary to Iran to enlighten the people about the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt. He authored several books including a collection of the eloquent sermons of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), predating by over one-hundred-and-fifty years the compilation of the *"Nahj al-Balagha"*.

**1162 lunar years ago**, on this day in 275 AH, the prominent Iranian Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Abu Dawud Sulayman Ibn al-Ash' as Sijistani, passed away in Basra. Born in Sistan, he studied in Herat, Balkh, Marv, and Naishapur - the centres of learning in Khorasan - before travelling to Rayy and thence to Baghdad, Damascus, Hijaz, and Egypt, to collect hadith. His collection focuses mostly on narrations of legal nature. Of the 500,000-odd so-called hadith he collected from whomsoever he encountered, he chose 4,800 as *"Sahih"* (authentic) in his book *"Sunan Abi Dawud"*, which Sunni Muslims regard as the third of their six "canonical" hadith collections, although after due scrutiny modern scholarship amongst the Sunnis has ruled many of his hadith as "weak". He has acknowledged the unsurpassed merits of the Ahl al-Bayt, but did not have any direct access to the Infallible Imams or their disciples, the true repositories of the authentic *"Sunnah and Sirah"* (Practice and Behaviour) of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**918 solar years ago**, on this day in 1099 AD, the Spanish warlord, Rodrigo Diaz de Viva, known as "El Cid" - corruption of the Arabic word "al-Seyyed" (Lord) - was slain in Valencia, while fighting against the al-Murabetoun (Almoravid) Muslim army. A Castilian who was fluent in Arabic, he became famous for his military prowess in the battles he fought for Christian kings as well as Muslim emirs. When exiled by King Alfonso, he took up service under the Muslim rulers of Zaragoza, whom he helped to repel the attacks by Christian mercenaries. He was also victorious against the Muslim rulers of Lerida and their Christian allies, as well as against a large Christian army under King Sancho Ramirez. In 1086, when Alfonso was defeated by the al-Murabetoun, he lured El Cid to his side. Over the next several years, El Cid set his sights on Valencia and by 1092 increased his control over that city at the expense of its Muslim ruler, al-Qader. He, however, was not a match for the al-Murebetoun who defeated him several times.

**716 solar years ago**, on this day in 1301 AD, the strategic Rantambhore Fortress in what is now the Rajasthan State of India was captured by Sultan Ala ud-Din Khilji. Built on a mountain peak, the Muslims first took it in 1226 under Sultan Altamash. Ten years later the Rajputs seized it, and managed to retain it for the next 65 years. In 1559, it passed into the hands of the Mughal Emperor, Jalal od-Din Akbar. Today this massive fortress is part of the World Heritage Site.

**276 solar years ago**, on this day in 1741 AD, Alaska was discovered by Danish explorer, Vitus Bering. Bound for Russia in his ship, he discovered Alaska, northwest of Canada. Oil-rich Alaska was part of Czarist Russia until the year 1867, when it was sold for \$7 million to the US.

**211 solar years ago**, on this day in 1806 AD, the Indian *'sepoy'* (English corruption of the Persian word *'sipahi'* for soldier), rose against the British East India Company in Vellore, south India, in the first instance of large scale resentment against European colonial rule in the Subcontinent. The Vellore Uprising, though brief and brutally crushed by the British.

**190 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1248 AH, the scholar Shaikh Mohammad Taqi Isfahani, passed away in Isfahan. He groomed at least 300 scholars, and wrote several books.

**166 solar years ago**, on this day in 1851 AD, French artist, Louis-Jacques-Mande Daguerre, who invented the daguerreotype - the first practical process of photography - died. The first permanent photograph was made in 1826/27 by his compatriot, Joseph-Nicéphore Niepce.

**161 solar years ago**, on this day in 1856 AD, Serbian-American inventor, Nikola Tesla, best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system, was born in village of Smiljan, in present day Croatia. He migrated to the US in 1884, where he made his inventions.

**146 solar years ago**, on this day in 1871 AD, French novelist Valentin Louis Georges Eugene Marcel Proust, was born near Paris. He authored *"A la Recherche du temps Perdu"* (In Search of Lost Time).

**104 solar years ago**, on this day in 1913 AD, Rumania entered the Second Balkan War and four days later the Ottoman Empire joined the general assault on Bulgaria. Bulgarian armies were defeated and Sofia sued for peace. Atrocities were widespread. For example, Greek forces systematically burnt to the ground all Macedonian villages they encountered, mass-murdering their entire populations. Nor did the Serbian "liberators" lag behind in destruction and wanton slaughter throughout Macedonia.

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1947 AD, Leader of the All India Muslim League, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, considered the Founder of Pakistan, was recommended by British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, as the first Governor-General of the new country to be born on August 14 the same year. Born in Karachi into an Ismaili Khoja Shi'ite Muslim family of Gujarati origin he later became an Ithna Ash'ari (Twelver). Revered as *"Qa'ed-e Azam"* (Great Leader), his portrait still adorns Pakistan's currency notes.

**44 solar years ago**, on this day in 1973 AD, the Bahamas Islands in the Caribbean Sea gained independence from 190 years of British occupation.

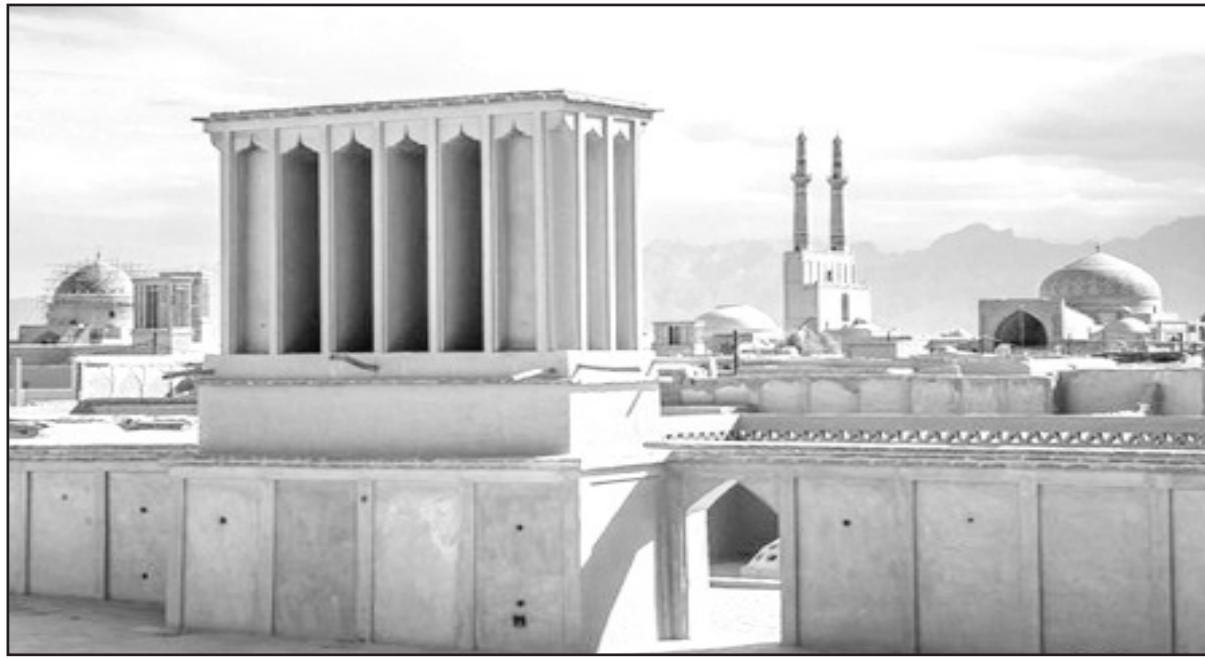
**37 solar years ago**, on this day in 1980 AD, dedicated Iranian military personnel, who a day before had discovered the US attempt to stage a coup through its agents in the armed forces, completely foiled the plot and arrested the conspirators.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, Iran test-fired more long-range missiles overnight in a second round of exercises meant to show that the country can defend itself against any attack.

**One solar year ago**, on his day in 2016 AD, Iranian poetess, Mahdiah Elahi-Qomshei, penname "Atesh", passed away at the age of 79 in Tehran. Daughter of the gnostic Sheikh Mahdi Qomshei she initially studied under her father, and helped him in classifying the verses of Persian poets in accordance with the ayahs of the holy Qur'an. She published her own poems under various titles, such as *"Spring of Devotion"*, *"Temple of Devotion"*, and *"Karbala the Valley of Devotion"*.

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

# Yazd City Registered as World Heritage Site



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has adjoined the ancient city of Yazd in central Iran to the list of world heritage sites, it was reported on Sunday.

The historical site was inscribed as a world heritage during the 41st session of UNESCO's World

Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland.

Yazd is a blocked land located between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

According to the UNESCO website, the historical structure of Yazd is a collection of pub-

lic-religious architecture in a very large scope comprising of different Islamic architectural elements of different periods in a harmonious combination with climatic conditions.

With its winding lanes, forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways and centuries of history,

Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The city has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Iran had submitted its request for the addition of Yazd to the world heritage list back in 2007.

Up to now, Iran has listed over 50 historical and natural sites on the UNESCO tentative list of world heritage sites, which are up for inscription within the years ahead.

Amongst the entrees are Alisadr Cave, Arasbaran Protected Area, Bazaar of Qaisariye in Laar, Cultural Landscape of Alamout, Firuzabad Ensemble, Hamoun Lake, Harra Protected Area, Ensemble of Qasr-e Shirin, Imam Reza (AS) Holy Complex, Industrial Heritage of Iranian Railway, Persian Caravanserai, and Salt Domes of Iran.

## "Daughter" Screened in Fiuggi Int'l Film Festival



TEHRAN (ISNA) - Iranian film "Daughter" directed by Reza Mirkarimi will be screened in the competitive section of the Fiuggi International Film Festival.

The 10th Fiuggi International Film Festival which is due to be held from July 24-29, 2017 in Italy will be the host of Iranian movie "Daughter" in the competitive section.

The Iranian movie will be screened in the international event along with movies from France, Estonia, Norway, UK and Sweden.

The movie won Best Film and Best Actor at the 47th International Film Festival of India, grand prix and the award for best actor in a leading role at Mons International Love Film Festival and 'CinéFemme' and the International Confederation of Arts and Compilation awards.

Daughter is a family drama. It brings out the intergenerational conflict between a strict father and a young daughter.

## 'Lunch Time' Awarded Best Short Film in Interrobang Festival

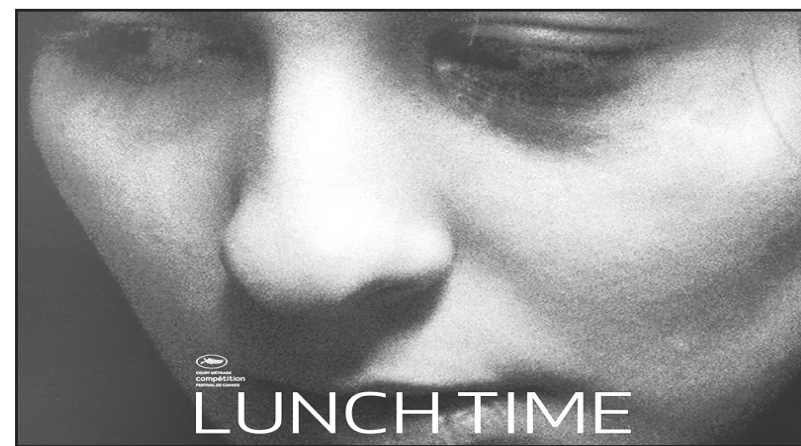
TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian film "Lunch Time" directed by Alireza Ghasemi has been selected as the best short film at the Interrobang Film Festival held in Des Moines, the capital city of the U.S. state of Iowa.

The 9th Interrobang Film Festival, which is part of the 20th Des Moines Arts Festival, was held from June 25 to 28 with the participation of 75 short films.

In the international festival, the Lunch Time managed to win the title of the "Best Short Film".

The 15-min film is about a high school girl who goes to the hospital to identify the body of her mother who has recently passed away.

Earlier, 'Lunch Time' had become the official selection of Cannes Court Metrage (Cannes Short Film Corner) with the selection com-



mittee receiving 4843 short films from which 9 films from Finland, France, United Kingdom, Denmark, Greece, Iran, the U.S., Poland, China, Colombia, and Sweden were chosen.

Khorshid Cheraghpour, Rooya

Bakhtiari, Amir Taghdiri, Peyman Naemi, Siavash Cheraghpour, Bahram Emrani, Pouria Akhavan, Mohammad Hadadi, Alireza Ghasemi, Mahdi Yegane, Arash Ghasemi are some of the cast members.

## Picture of the Day



Alavian Dome in Hamadan, west of Iran, is located in a garden of the same name. The structure was initially a mosque built by the Alavian family during the Seljuq era (1038-1118) and later became a family crypt.

Credit: Tasnim News Agency