

# This Day in History

(February 27)

Today is Saturday; 9<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1399 solar hijri; corresponding to 15<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Rajab 1442 lunar hijri; and February 27, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1749 solar years ago**, on this day in 272 AD, Constantine I, who imposed the Pauline Creed on the Roman Empire, was born in Dardania in the Balkans. Constantine has earned lasting notoriety for persecuting Arianism and the purely monotheistic followers of Prophet Jesus. The form of Christianity he imposed is actually the innovation of Paul the Hellenized Jew, who was a fierce opponent of Prophet Jesus, but after him, claimed to be his follower in order to distort the monotheistic message of the Messiah, by coining the weird concept of Trinity that was more closer to the Roman pantheon of deities.

**1641 solar years ago**, on this day in 380 AD, the Edict of Thessalonica was issued by Roman Emperor Theodosius I, with co-emperors Gratian and Valentinian II, forcing all Roman citizens to convert to the Trinitarian form of Christianity, or else be branded as heretics subject to punishment. This weird concept of 'godfather', 'godson' and the 'holy ghost' – an invention of Paul the Hellenized Jew who was a staunch opponent of Prophet Jesus and after him feigned to be his follower – was designed to suit the polytheist beliefs of European pagans, in opposition to the monotheist message of the Virgin-born Messiah.

**1449 lunar years ago**, on this day, 7 years before his migration from Mecca to Medina, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) instructed a group of early Muslims, suffering from the persecution of pagan Arabs, to migrate to Abyssinia (present-day Ethiopia), across the Red Sea, where the ruler, King Negus (Najashi) was a justice-loving monotheist. The 15-member group made up of 11 men and 4 women was led by the Prophet's trustworthy companion Othman bin Madh'oun. A year later, the second migration of Muslims to Abyssinia took place when the Prophet instructed his paternal cousin, Ja'far ibn Abi Taleb (AS) to lead a group of some 88 persons. The pagan Arabs, alarmed at the hospitality accorded to the Muslims in Abyssinia, and resenting the spread of Islam, sent a delegation to King Negus, led by the notorious disbeliever, Amr ibn Aas, to extradite the believers. It is a well-known fact of history, how Hazrat Ja'far (later *at-Tayyar*) refuted the accusations of the pagan Arabs in the Abyssinian court and by providing proof from the holy Qur'an of the prime position in Islam of Prophet Jesus (AS) and his virgin-mother, Mary (SA), convinced King Negus of the righteousness of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) universal mission. Hazrat Ja'far (AS) returned to Arabia for good thirteen years later in 7 AH, incidentally on the day the impregnable Jewish fortress of Khayber was single-handedly conquered by his younger brother, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS). He attained martyrdom a year later in the Battle of Mu'ta against a joint force of the Byzantine Empire and its Christian Arab allies, the Ghassanids, in what is now Jordan. His elder son, Abdullah was married to Imam Ali's (AS) elder daughter, the Prophet's granddaughter, Hazrat Zainab (SA).

**1440 lunar years ago**, on this day in 2 AH, upon God's command, the "qibla" or focal point of worship for Muslims changed from the direction of Bayt al-Moqaddas in Palestine to the holy Ka'ba in Mecca. The change of direction happened when Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was leading the prayers in Medina in the mosque known till this day as "Zu-Qiblatayn" or Mosque of the Two Qiblahs.

**1379 lunar years ago**, on this day in 63 AH, Hazrat Zainab (SA), the venerable granddaughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in a garden outside Damascus by an enemy of the Ahl al-Bayt who struck a fatal blow on her head with a pickaxe. The Heroine of Karbala who bequeathed to posterity the life-inspiring mourning ceremonies of Moharram and Safar for her brother, Imam Husain (AS), needs no introduction.

**1166 lunar years ago**, on this day in 276 AH, the Iranian philologist of Arabic, Abu Mohammad Abdullah bin Muslim ibn Qutaybah ad-Dinawari, passed away in Baghdad. He is regarded by Sunni Muslims as an authority on hadith. Among his works are "Gharib al-Qur'an" on its lexical issues, "al-Imama wa al-Siyasa" in which he has exposed the deviation of the caliphate from its goals, and "ash-She'r wa'sh-Shu'ara" on poetry and poets.

**730 lunar years ago**, on this day in 712 AH, the Iranian mystic and poet, Najm od-Din Zarkoub Tabrizi, passed away. He is the author in Persian of the "Futuwwat-Namah", on the rites of "Jawan-mardi" or chivalry into which Sufis are initiated for serving the cause of God and humanity.

**512 solar years ago**, on this day in 1509 AD, nine years after the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese explorer, Pedro Alvarez Cabral, Portugal formally established its hegemony on this large swathe of South America.

**330 solar years ago**, on this day in 1691 AD, English publisher, Edward Cave, who founded "The Gentleman's Magazine" in 1731, was born in Newton near Rugby in Warwickshire. The famous lexicographer Samuel Johnson's first regular employment as a writer was with "The Gentleman's Magazine".

**214 solar years ago**, on this day in 1807 AD, American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was born in Portland, Maine. His famous poems include "The Children's Hour", "Evangeline" and "What is time?" He died in 1882.

**177 solar years ago**, on this day in 1844 AD, Dominica, which the Haitian revolutionary leader, Toussaint Louverture, had seized from the Spanish in 1801, declared its independence.

**125 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1317 AH, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Abu'l-Qasim Musavi Khoei, was born in Khoi in Iran's West Azarbaijan Province. Among his valuable books are "Lectures in the Principles of Jurisprudence", in 10 volumes, "Islamic Law" in 18 volumes, and "Mu'jam Rijal al-Hadith" in 24 volumes. The last named is an authoritative work on evaluation of narrators of hadith.

**119 solar years ago**, on this day in 1902 AD US novelist John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California. His works are: "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men".

**89 solar years ago**, on this day in 1932 AD, neutron was discovered by Dr. James Chadwick at Cambridge University of Britain.

**79 solar years ago**, on this day in 1942 AD, during World War II, major air strikes of Japanese warplanes against the Allied Powers' naval units started. These operations took place in the Sea of Java and destroyed many US, Australian and British warships.

**45 solar years ago**, on this day in 1976 AD, the Spanish occupied territory of Western Sahara, declared its independence under auspices of the Polisario Front as the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

**19 solar years ago**, on this day in 2002 AD, anarchists torched a train, the Sabarmati Express, in Godhra in Gujarat state of India, while it was returning from Ayodhya in the state of Uttar Pradesh, where the Hindus were campaigning for building a temple on the ruins of the criminally destroyed Babri Mosque, and then blamed on the Muslims the incident in which 59 Hindus were reportedly killed, in order to ignite flames of communal violence. Hindu anarchists went rampaging throughout Gujarat state and in the following days slaughtered some 3,000 Muslim men, women and children, as the state government of Chief Minister Narendra Modi – currently the prime minister of India – not just mutely watched the massacre, but its police and security forces helped the anarchist mobs.

**15 lunar years ago**, on this day in 2007 AD, Chairman of Iran's Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Faiz Meshkini, passed away at the age of 86.

**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2011 AD, former Turkish premier, Najm od-Din Erbakan, passed away at the age of 84.

# Iran's Second Vaccine Goes Into Clinical Trial

TEHRAN (FNA)- Head of Iran's Razi Serum and Vaccine Research Institute Ali Eshaqi said that the second Iran-made coronavirus vaccine, COV-Pars, produced by the Institute has been licensed by the Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) to start clinical trial on volunteers.

"The license for conducting phase one of the clinical trial of the recombinant vaccine of Spike Covid-19 protein (Razi COV-Pars) made by Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute has been issued by the IFDA," Eshaqi has said.

Meantime, Mohammad Esmayeel Motlaq, a senior advisor to the Iranian deputy health minister, said that the vaccine which is being produced by Barekat foundation, COV-Iran, is able to contain the British coronavirus mutation, and mentioned that mass-production of the vaccine is expected to



start in April.

Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that the country will start mass-production of its home-made coronavirus vaccine in April, adding that Iran will start

vaccine exports after satiating domestic needs.

"We anticipate production of the national vaccine to start in April and we will turn into an exporter of the vaccine in the region after

meeting internal needs," Namaki said.

He, meantime, underlined continued imports of COVID-19 vaccine, adding that 250,000 doses of the vaccine will be imported soon.



A still from the short film 'Angels Do Not Die'.

## Applauded Film Granted Two Awards at Brazilian Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – The short film "Angels Do Not Die" directed by Alireza Biglari won two awards at Brazil International Monthly Film Festival (BIMIFF).

Written and directed by Alireza Biglari, The Iranian short film Angels Do NOT Die, has managed to win two awards for the Best Actor in the leading role and Best Director at Brazil International Month-

ly Film Festival (BIMIFF).

In the final section, Biglari's "Angles Do NOT Die" competed with the United States, Italy, Argentina, Canada, Chile, and Puerto Rico, winning the awards.

"Angels Do Not Die" has won awards in several festivals and Alireza Biglari has dedicated his film to all medical staff who are trying to save human lives.

## 'Carnivore' Makes It to Busan Film Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian short flick 'Carnivore' has been shortlisted for the competition at the 38th Busan International Short Film Festival (BISFF) in South Korea.

Directed by Amir-Hossein Mohseni, the short flick will vie along with 39 other titles at the International Competition section of the BISFF.

The film is about a man who encounters a drowned person in the marshlands.

He sends the corpse to the water's depth, and comes the next day to recover the body as a rescue diver. He later receives a reward for his work.

'Carnivore' is starring Mehrdad Bakhshi.

The BISFF has been launched in 1980 as the Korean Short Film Festival. It was the first short film festival to appear in Korea.

The festival aims to discover and introduce out-

standing short films from around the world.

The 38th edition of the BISFF will take place on April 21-26, 2021.



Iranian short flick 'Carnivore'.

## Picture of the Day



Iranian play 'Amineh' directed by Saeed Mostafaei is currently on stage at Tehran's Mehrab Hall.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency