

This Day in History

(April 14)

Today is Wednesday; 25th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1400 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1442 lunar hijri; and April 14, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Today marks the First Day of the blessed fasting month of Ramadhan – the month of revelation of the Holy Qur’an and the season of divine blessings. In description of the grandeur of this month, Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny) has hailed its days and nights as the best days and nights of year, while calling on Muslims to benefit from the blessings of Ramadhan. The Night of Qadr marks the night that the Holy Qur’an was revealed. The martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet’s 1st Infallible Successor, Imam Ali (AS) and the birth anniversary of his elder son, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the 2nd Infallible Imam, are the other important events of Ramadhan. We call on God Almighty to assist us to make use of the spiritual blessings of the fasting month of Ramadhan in the best possible manner.

1234 lunar years ago, on this day in 208 AH, the virtuous lady Seyyedah Nafisa passed away at the age of 63 in Fustat in what later became Cairo in Egypt, while engrossed in the recitation of the holy Qur’an. Daughter of Hassan al-Anwar and granddaughter of Zayd al-Ablaj, a son of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) – the Prophet’s elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir – she was born in Medina and was the wife of Seyyed Ishaq al-Mo’tamen, a son of Imam Ja’far as-Sadeq (AS), the Prophet’s 6th Infallible Heir. In 193 AH, she had visited Damascus, Syria, for pilgrimage to the shrine of the Heroine of Karbala, the Prophet’s granddaughter Harzat Zainab (peace upon her). Seyyedah Nafisa, like her husband, was considered an authority on Hadith, and people would flock to the classes that she held in Egypt for acquainting the people with the religious sciences of the Ahl al-Bayt. She performed the annual Hajj pilgrimage some thirty times and was known for her piety and miraculous powers that included curing the ill and saving Egyptians and the Nile River from drought. She was mother of Seyyed Qasim and Seyyedah Omm Kolthoum, while her equally pious niece, Seyyedah Zainab (daughter of her brother Seyyed Yahya), also has a much-visited shrine in Cairo, which some people wrongly think to be the resting place of the Heroine of Karbala, Hazrat Zainab (peace upon her). The shrine of Seyyedah Nafisa is among the most visited pilgrimage centres in Egypt. Today, especially on Sundays and Thursdays, thousands of people visit her shrine. It is also a custom to hold wedding ceremonies near there. Each year on the birth anniversary of Hazrat Nafisa on the 11th of Rabi al-Awwal, ceremonies are held in Egypt.

1014 lunar years ago, on this day in 428 AH, Abu Ali Hussain Ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina, the prominent Iranian Islamic genius, who was a physician, mathematician, philosopher, and astronomer, passed away at the age of 58 in Hamedan. Among his valuable books, mention can be made of the book: “*Shafa*” on philosophy; and “*al-Qanoun fi’t-Tibb*” on medicine.

895 solar years ago, in 1126 AD, Spanish Muslim philosopher and polymath, Mohammad Ibn Ahmad Ibn Rushd (known as “Averroes” to medieval Europe), was born in Qurtuba (Cordoba) In Islamic Spain in a family with a long tradition of legal and public service. His well-known book in medicine is “*Kitab al-Kulliyat fi’t-Tibb*”, whose Latin translation known as “*Colliget*” aroused much interest in medieval Europe. His philosophical masterpiece is “*Tahafut at-Tahafut*” (“Incoherence of the Incoherence”), which is a refutation of the Iranian Shafei theologian, Ghazali’s “*Tahafut al-Falasefa*” (“Incoherence of the Philosophers”).

710 lunar years ago, on this day in 732 AH, the Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, was born in Tunis into an affluent Spanish Arab family that had settled in North Africa because of Christian onslaughts. Among his many works is a voluminous universal history, but his fame rests on the “*Muqaddemah*”, which is considered a unique work. He died in Cairo in 808 AH at the age of 76 years.

322 solar years ago, on this day in 1699 AD, Sikhism was formalized in India’s Punjab region as the Khalsa of Sant-Sipahis (Brotherhood of Saint-Soldiers) by Guru Gobind Singh.

205 solar years ago, on this day in 1816 AD, the Bussa Revolt started on the Barbados Island against the British. It was led by Bussa, who was kidnapped by Europeans off the coast of West Africa and sold as slave in the Caribbean Sea.

149 solar years ago, on this day in 1872 AD, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, the translator of the holy Qur’an into English, was born in Bombay to an Indian merchant family. His best-known work is “*The Holy Qur’an: Text, Translation and Commentary*”, published in 1938 by Shaikh Muhammad Ashraf Publishers in Lahore, India (later Pakistan). Unfortunately, in the later, revised editions of this book, the author’s notes on the exclusive God-given virtues of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – that is, Imam Ali, Hazrat Fatema Zahra, Imam Hasan and Imam Husain (peace upon them) – have been removed by the publishers, including those pertaining to ayah 107 of Surah Saffaat, where Abdullah Yusuf Ali had explicitly explained the term “*Zibhin Azim*” (Great Sacrifice) that ransomed Abraham’s offering of Ishmael.

140 solar years ago, on this day in 1881 AD, Husain Salah od-Din, the Maldivian writer and an influential poet and scholar of English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and the local Dhivehi language of the Maldives archipelago, was born.

132 solar years ago, on this day in 1889 AD, British historian, Arnold Toynbee, was born in London. His 12-volume analysis of the rise and fall of civilizations, titled “*A Study of History*”, took 27 years to complete.

131 solar years ago, on this day in 1890 AD, the Pan American Union, which later on changed its name to The Organization of American States (OAS), was founded.

60 solar years ago, on this day in 1961 AD, Cuban anti-revolutionaries with the help of the US, attempted a diversionary landing near Baracoa, Oriente Province, prior to the full scale invasion of Cuba through the Bay of Pigs waterway on April 17, but were swiftly defeated by forces led by Fidel Castro. On April 19, the Bay of Pigs invasion collapsed and Cuba’s success greatly discredited the US.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, hailstones as large as one kg fell on the Gopalganj district of Bangladesh, killing 92. These are the heaviest hailstones ever recorded.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, the Soviet Union signed an agreement in the Swiss Capital, Geneva, for withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan after ten years of occupation.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, the tyrannical Ba’th minority regime of Saddam, formally admitted the use of internationally-banned chemical weapons against Iranian combatants, thereby validating Iran’s official complaints to the UN and related international bodies of Iraq’s frequent use of such weapons throughout the 8-year imposed war. Western powers, especially Germany, had supplied Saddam with these internationally banned toxic weapons which the Ba’thists used at least 3,500 times against Iran, including 30 times on Iranian residential areas.

25 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, the prominent Iranian historian, philologist, and researcher, Dr. Mohammad Javad Mashkour, passed away at the age of 77 in his hometown Tehran.

Farvardin 25 is commemorated every year in the Islamic Republic of Iran as National Day for the acclaimed Persian poet and mystic, Farid od-Din Attar Naishapuri, who was killed during the Mongol massacre of the inhabitants of the city of Naishapur sometime in April 1221, at the age of 76. One of his valuable prose works is “*Tazkerat al-Awlia*” on the status of mystics. His poetical masterpieces manifest the power of imagination as is evident by the versified book (Discourse of the Birds). He composed several volumes of poetry. Attar, who in some of his poems also pays tribute to the peerless personality of Imam Ali (AS), had a profound influence on the great Persian poet, Mowlana Jalal od-Din Balkhi Rumi.

Big Success ‘Bandar Band’ Wins Grand Award in Seoul



Iranian feature ‘Bandar Band’.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian feature ‘Bandar Band’ has grabbed NETPAC award at the 6th edition of the Ulju Mountain Film Festival

(UMFF) in South Korea.

Directed by Manijeh Hekmat, the film experienced its fourth international presence at the South Korean

festival.

Produced by Hekmat and Mahshid Ahangarani, ‘Bandar Band’ is a road movie that depicts

flooded landscapes of Iran. The movie is filled with music.

The cast of the film includes Reza Koulqani, Amir-Hossein Taheri, Mahdieh Mousavi, and Pegah Ahangarani.

The movie has participated in number of international film festivals, including the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival in Canada, the 2021 Dhaka International Film Festival in Bangladesh, the 2021 Kolkata International Film Festival in India, and the 2021 Boston Festival of Films in the U.S.

According to the official website of the UMFF, “It is the first international mountain film festival in South Korea, dedicated to present and promote films & culture dealing with the mountains, adventure, and exploration, nature and environment”.

The latest edition of the festival was held on April 2-11, 2021.

Award-Winning ‘The Recess’ Goes to Spanish Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The Ali-cante International Film Festival in Spain is set to host Iranian short film ‘The Recess’.

Written, produced and directed by Navid Nikkhah-Azad, ‘The Recess’ is on the list of International Shorts competition section of the festival’s 18th edition.

The film tells the story of a 17-year-old school-girl who runs away from school to watch the football match of her beloved club.

Sahar, along with three of her friends, is planning to exit the



A scene from Iranian short film ‘The Recess’.

Iran, France Production Takes Part at Côté Court Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short film ‘Eclipse’ will be screened at the 30th edition of the Côté Court Festival in France.

Directed by Raha Amirfazli, Alireza Ghasemi, ‘Eclipse’ has been a joint product of Iran and France.

The synopsis of ‘Eclipse’ reads, “Saaghi and her two friends have come to the largest park in Tehran to take pictures of the one-in-a-century total eclipse announced later in the afternoon. Mischievous and rebellious, they steal a camera stand, lie to their parents and discuss boys as well as an upcoming party. Their wanderings lead them to a remote part of the park. As the sun disappears, Saaghi sees something that should have stayed hidden.”

The cast includes Faraz Modiri, Payman Naimi, Anita Bagheri, Paniz Esmaili, Khorshid Cheraghipour.

For 29 years, Côté court has identified the filmmakers and artists of today and tomorrow through short forms: short fiction films, essay films,

experimental films, video art, animated films and documentaries of less than 60 minutes.

The 30th edition of the festival will be held on June 16-22 in France.



A still from Iranian short film ‘Eclipse’.

Picture of the Day



Talkhak and Ghandak” is currently on stage at Shahrzad Theater Complex.

Courtesy of Honaronline