

This Day in History

(May 18)

Today is Tuesday; 28th of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1400 solar hijri; corresponding to 6th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1442 lunar hijri; and May 18, 2021, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1190 lunar years ago, on this day in 252 AH, the 12th caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, al-Musta'in-Billah, was killed in the prison of Baghdad after being deposed and replaced by his cousin, Mu'taz ibn Mutawakkel, by the Turkic guards. The executioner brought the severed head to the capital Samarra at a time when the new caliph was playing chess, and told him: "Behold your cousin's head!" The heartless Mu'taz -who two years later was to martyr through poisoning Imam Ali an-Naqi (AS), the 10th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) - replied: "Lay it aside, till I have finished the game." Then having satisfied himself that it was really the head of Musta'in, he ordered 500 gold pieces be given to the assassin as reward.

973 solar years ago, on this day in 1048 AD, the Iranian Muslim mathematician, astronomer, and poet, Omar Khayyam, was born in Naishapur, Khorasan in northeastern Iran. Around 1074 AD, he set up an observatory and led work on compiling astronomical tables. To him goes the credit of reforming the Iranian solar hijri calendar on the basis of the Spring Equinox, which is still in use in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and parts of Central Asia, the Caucasus, Iraq, Anatolia, and the Subcontinent. This calendar is more perfect than the Gregorian Christian calendar that was imposed on Muslim countries by the colonialists after World War I. Among Khayyam's works, his book on algebra was until the last century taught as textbook in Iran. In geometry, he reformed the generalities of Euclid and contributed to the theory of parallel lines. His contributions to other fields of science included developing methods for the accurate determination of specific gravity. He is known to English-speaking readers for his "*Rubaiyyat*" (quatrains), published in 1859 by Edward Fitzgerald, although in the Islamic world he remains the astronomer and mathematician that he was, rather than a poet, since whatever he composed of poetry were casual expressions during his rare leisure hours after strenuous scientific studies and experiments. He died in 1131 AD at the age of 83 and was buried in his native Naishapur in the courtyard of the shrine of Imamzadah Mahruq, a descendant of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). A lunar crater "Omar Khayyam" was named after him in 1970. In 1980, a minor planet discovered by Soviet astronomer Lyudmila Zhuravlyova, was named: "*3095 Omarkhayyam*".

925 solar years ago, on this day in 1096 AD, during the First Crusade launched by the Christians of Europe against Muslims in West Asia, over 800 Jews were massacred in Worms, Germany by the European hordes on their way to Syria. Count Emich von Leiningen and his army swept through their own German homeland, murdering thousands of Jews, whom they had declared "*Murderers of Jesus*". When Emich arrived in the town of Worms in May, he slaughtered some 500 people who had taken shelter in a palace, and killed another 300 Jews.

753 solar years ago, on this day in 1268 AD, the Crusader state of Antioch in Syria, fell to the Egyptian Mamluk Sultan, Zahir od-Din Baibars, after he had taken Caesarea, Haifa, Arsuf and Galilee. By the time of his death in 1277 AD, he had confined the Crusaders to a few castles along the coast of Palestine. Three decades later, the Muslims succeeded in completely driving out these European invaders from Islamic lands.

730 solar years ago, on this day in 1291 AD, with the liberation of Acre by Muslim armies of the Mamluk Dynasty of Egypt, the illegal presence of European Crusaders ended in Palestine. The Mamluks were led by Sultan Ashraf Khalil, son of Sultan Qalawun, who had begun preparations for the siege but died in November 1290.

656 lunar years ago, on this day in 786 AH, Arabic poet and hadith scholar, Ismail ibn Mohammad Ibn Bardis, passed away. Born in Ba'lbak in what is now Lebanon, he pursued higher studies in Damascus before visiting several Islamic lands. He embarked on a career of teaching, and was known for his frank views. He wrote many books including "*Kashf an-Neqaab Amma Rawash-Shaykhaan lil-As-haab*".

523 solar years ago, on this day in 1498 AD, Portuguese navigator, Vasco da Gama, with the help of Arab navigators managed to discover the sea route around Africa, and reached the port of Calicut, India. Da Gama was a treacherous and murderous person, and killed many Hindus and Muslims, including the Arab navigator who had guided him.

217 solar years ago, on this day in 1804 AD, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself French emperor, thus reviving the monarchy 15 years after the French Revolution.

191 solar years ago, on this day in 1830 AD, France invaded Algeria by refusing to repay seven million Francs it had borrowed from the Algerian rulers. The Algerian people, inspired by Amir Abdul-Qader Jazaeri, fought against the French.

149 solar years ago, on this day in 1872 AD, the British philosopher and mathematician, Bertrand Russell, was born. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1950. He has left behind a number of books, including: "*A History of Western Philosophy*", "*The Principles of Mathematics*", and "*Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*". Russell died in 1970.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1944 AD, Muslim Tatars, who for six centuries had formed the overwhelming majority of the population of the Crimean Peninsula on the northern coast of the Black Sea, were deported en masse by Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, as a collective punishment on alleged charges of sympathizing with Germany during World War 2. Over 250,000 homes and hearths of the Tatars were occupied by Russian migrants, while these hapless Muslim men, women, and children, of whom many died during the long journey, were forced to settle in special camps in Uzbekistan and other distant parts of the Soviet Union, toiling as indentured workers in the cruel GULAG system.

47 solar years ago, on this day in 1974 AD, India conducted its first nuclear test in Rajasthan Desert, near Pakistan's border, becoming the 6th nuclear power after the US, Soviet Union, France, Britain, and China.

44 solar years ago, in 1977 AD, May 18 was designated as the International Day of Museums. The goal behind museums is to preserve and display the works of the past generations and the heritage of humanity.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1983 AD, Saddam of the repressive Ba'th minority regime of Iraq, imprisoned 90 members of the family of the Late prominent *marja'* of the seminary of holy Najaf, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohsin al-Hakeem, and after some days martyred six scholarly male members, followed by the execution of ten others a few days later. The Godless US-backed dictator was incensed at the establishment in Iran of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), by the Late Grand Ayatollah's son, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer al-Hakeem.

20 solar years ago, on this day in 2001 AD, a Russian-built Yak-40 plane crashed in Iran's Khorasan province and at least 29 people were killed. The dead included Rahman Dadman, the Transport Minister, and some members of parliament.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2012 AD, in Tehran tens of thousands of people, in solidarity with the oppressed people of the Persian Gulf island state of Bahrain, demonstrated in protest to a proposed union of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which actually means occupation by the Wahhabi regime.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, prominent Persian poet and scholar, Mohammad Qahraman, passed away at the age of 84 in holy Mashhad.

Ordibehesht 28, is commemorated every year in the Islamic Republic of Iran as National Day for the prominent Iranian Muslim scientist and poet, Omar Khayyam, who was born in 439 AH (corresponding to 1048 AD).

'Asak' Crowned Best at Vienna's Ethnocineca Festival



A still from Iranian documentary 'Asak'.

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian documentary 'Asak' has won an award at the Ethnocineca - International Documentary Film Festival Vienna.

The film directed by Mehdi Zamanpour-Kiasari, has grabbed the award for best international short documentary at the 15th edition of the Austrian event.

The documentary is about an 80-year-old blind man, who earns his own living from manufacturing handicrafts from stones he picks from the mountains.

'Asak' received the best film award at the 20th International Golden Saffron Documentary Film Festival in Turkey.

Ethnocineca is organized as an association and sees itself as a platform embedded into a network of cultural, scientific and social institutions and initiatives.

A mutual passion for ethnographic and documentary film is the drive and reason why Ethnocineca exists.

The 2021 edition of the festival was held on May 6-13.

Cinema Verite Invites Participants to Submit Work

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The 2021 edition of the Cinema Verite, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, has called for entries.

The 15th edition of the event has called for entries while the festival may launch physically in December.

The Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) organizes the festival every year which showcases the very best of the documentary world to bridge the gap what they term



between reality and truth.

Cinema Verite has several sections, including National, International, and Martyr Avini Prize, Entrepreneurship Documentary Competition, Coronavirus Special Section, Side Sections and commemorations.

The international section of the festival contains several non-competition sections such Special Displays, Mirror of a Festival, Portrait and Perspective of One Country Documentary Cinema.

Acclaimed Films Take Part at Rotterdam Festival

TEHRAN (Honaronline) -- A lineup of three Iranian films will go on screen in different sections of the 50th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the organizers have announced.

"The Crown Jewels of Iran", director Ebrahim Golestan's 1965 short, and "Chess of the Wind", Mohammadreza Aslani's 1976 drama have been selected to be showcased in Cinema Regained, a section dedicated to restored classics, documentaries on film culture, and explorations of cinema's heritage.

"The Crown Jewels of Iran" was commissioned and then banned by the culture ministry under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran's last monarch, featuring dazzling edits and camera movements and a charged narration assaulting economic disparities.

Starring Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz, "Chess of the Wind" is about the decadence of a family in the Qajar dynasty of Iran. The first lady of a noble house has died and now there is a conflict among the heirs for taking over her heritage.

The Cannes Film Festival has previously screened the film in its classics. It was restored by Cineteca di Bologna at L'Imagine Ritrovata and the Film Foundation's World Cinema Project.

"The Rain Falls Where It Will" by Majid Barzegar will be competing in Harbour, IFFR's newest program, which offers a safe haven to the full range of contemporary cinema that the festival champions. This section echoes Rotterdam's port city

identity.

Do we prolong life or death by trying to keep a dying family member with us as long as possible? This film is inspired by contentious medical-ethical concerns.

In the opening scene of "The Rain Falls Where It Will", nurse Sara decides it is time to euthanize her friendless patient. She calmly adds a drug to the intravenous line, just like she does with the other hopeless cases she encounters. However, everything changes on a new assignment. Is it truly this comatose man's last week? Sara talks to concerned family members and cares for her patient in

stylish shots that sometimes last minutes, thus lending this Iranian drama intimacy. Barzegar finds space for both melancholy and hope, mixed with a pinch of the supernatural.

Earlier, the festival announced that four movies from Iranian cinema had been selected for its 2021 lineup.

"The Deer" directed by Masud Kimiai, "The Son" by Nushin Meraji, "Silence" by Amir-Ali Navai and "Careless Crime" by Shahram Mokri will also be screened in various section of the festival.

The International Film Festival Rotterdam will take place in the Dutch city from June 2 to 6.



"The Rain Falls Where It Will" by Majid Barzegar

Picture of the Day



Mazandaran province is one of the main poles of garlic cultivation in Iran and its garlic has attracted many consumers due to its high durability and quality.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency