

This Day in History

(February 7)

Today is Saturday, 18th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 17th of the Islamic month of Rabi as-Sani 1436 lunar hijri; and February 7, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1080 lunar years ago, on this day in 356 AH, Moez od-Dowla Abu'l-Hassan Ahmad ibn Buyeh Daylami, the founder of the Buwayhiid Dynasty of Iran-Iraq-Oman, passed away in Baghdad after a 22-year reign, and was buried in the graveyard of the Quraish, adjacent to the holy shrine of Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). In 334, after taking Baghdad and reducing to a mere figurehead al-Mustakfi, the 22nd self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime (who a year later was deposed and replaced by al-Muti), he ruled as Amir al-Omara (Chief of the Nobles). For the first time he declared as public holidays the Day of Ghadeer (18th Zilhijja – the Prophet's proclamation of Imam Ali [AS] as vicegerent on God's commandment), and the Day of Ashura (10th Moharram – the tragic martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain [AS] in Karbala). He also ordered that on the walls of mosques and other main buildings of Iraq and Iran curses should be written against the Omayyad usurper Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan and other enemies of the Ahl al-Bayt. This practice was emulated in Aleppo and parts of Syria and what is now south-central Turkey by Sayf od-Dowla, the ruler of the Hamdanid Dynasty. Moez od-Dowla's elder brother Ali who was in control of central and southern Iran was given the title of 'Emad od-Dowla', while the younger brother Hassan, who gained control of northern Iran, took the title of 'Rokn od-Dowla'. Buwayhiid rule lasted over a century and was a period of great cultural revival and emergence of outstanding religious scholars, such as Sheikh Mufid, Seyyed Murtaza, Seyyed Radhi, Shaikh at-Tayefa Tusi, etc.

537 solar years ago, on this day in 1478 AD, Thomas More, English lawyer, social philosopher, author, and statesman, who coined the word "Utopia" in the novel of the same name, was born in London to the lawyer and judge, John More. He served as Councilor to King Henry VIII of England and was Lord Chancellor from 1529 to 1532. A bitter opponent of the Protestant Movement, he ridiculed the German Church reformer, Martin Luther, as a heretic in the book "Responso ad Lutherum", in which he also opposed the English monarch's separation from the Catholic Church and refused to accept the king as Supreme Head of the Church of England. As a result, he was imprisoned in 1534, and the next year was tried for treason, convicted on perjured testimony, and beheaded. In 1516 he had published "Utopia", a name he gave to an ideal and imaginary island state, the political system of which contrasts the contentious social life of European states with the perfectly orderly, reasonable social arrangements. In "Utopia", with communal ownership of land, private property does not exist; men and women are educated alike; and there is almost complete religious toleration. Utopia tolerates different religious practices but does not tolerate atheists, since Thomas More believed that if a person did not believe in God or in afterlife he/she could never be trusted. He also coined the English phrase "grasp at straws" to mean "desperately trying even useless things", in his book "Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation."

489 lunar years ago, on this day in 947 AH, India's Persian language historian, Mullah Abdul-Qader Bada'uni, was born. He was a court chronicler and translator from Sanskrit into Persian for the Mughal Emperor, Jalal od-Din Akbar Shah. He translated the Hindu epics, "Ramayana" and "Mahabharata", into Persian from Sanskrit. His famous work is the history in Persian titled "Muntakhab al-Tawarikh".

325 lunar years ago, on this day in 1110 AH, the Ottoman Turkish fleet defeated the Venetian fleet in a battle in the Mediterranean near Italy, thus ensuring Muslim supremacy over sea routes.

290 solar years ago, on this day in 1725 AD, in Isfahan, Mahmoud Ghilzai Hotaki, the Afghan occupier of Iran, brutally slaughtered 39 family members of the deposed Safavid monarch, Shah Sultan Hussain, including 11 princes. Mahmoud who had seized control of the Persian Empire in 1722 went mad and was killed in April 1725 by his cousin, Ashraf, who now styled himself king, until he was defeated in battle four years later in 1729 by Nader Quli Afshar (later Nader Shah), the commander of the army of the last Safavid king, Shah Timpasp II. The 6-year Afghan occupation of Iran was a period of great chaos. To the Safavid Dynasty that ruled Iran and adjoining lands for two-and-a-quarter centuries, goes the credit of giving Iran religious identity, national solidarity, cultural affinity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

203 solar years ago, on this day in 1812 AD, the English author and novelist, Charles Dickens, was born. He was founder of the Realism Style in English literature. His books include "Oliver Twist" and "David Copperfield" which brought him world fame. Among his other famous novels, mention can be made of "Great Expectations" and "The Tale of Two Cities".

159 solar years ago, on this day in 1856 AD, the Muslim Kingdom of Awadh (the granary of northern India) was annexed by the British, who imprisoned its ruler Wajed Ali Shah, after a 9-year reign and exiled him to Calcutta, thereby ending the 124-year rule of the Naishapuri Dynasty established in 1722 by Seyyed Mohammad Amin Musavi Sa'adat Khan Burhan ul-Mulk of Khorasan, the Nawab-Wazir or prime minister of the Mughal Emperor, Mohammad Shah. Before its migration to India, the family, which was descended from Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) had been settled in Naishapur by Shah Ismail I, the founder of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran. With the weakening of Mughal rule, the 7th ruler of Awadh, Ghazi od-Din Haider, crowned himself king of the region which is now part of the Uttar Pradesh and Utranachal Pradesh states of India. The dynasty followed the school of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt and adopted the Imami legal system of government that had been codified and successfully implemented for over 170 years in the Deccan (South India) by the Qutb Shahi Dynasty of Iranian origin of Golkandah-Haiderabad. The result was the spread of teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt and the emergence of outstanding ulema, writing in Arabic, Persian, and later Urdu – such as Ayatollah Dildaar Ali Naseerabadi and the celebrated Mir Hamed Hussain Musavi, the author of "Abaqaat al-Anwaar". With their capital, first in Faizabad and then in Lucknow, the rulers of Awadh gave distinct flavour to Indian Muslim culture, dress, arts, literature, cuisine, and the mourning ceremonies for the Martyrs of Karbala by building majestic Hussainiyyas, such as the Asefia Imambara. They also contributed to development projects in the holy cities of Najaf, Karbala and Kazemayn in Iraq. Wajed Ali Shah, during the 31 more years he was alive in exile, transformed the vast 4-mile long Matiaaborj area on the River Hooghly near Calcutta into a mini Lucknow, building a grand Hussainiyya and spending lavishly to recreate the pomp and splendour of his opulent days of kingship.

121 solar years ago, on this day in 1894 AD, the Belgian musician, Adolphe Sax, died at the age of 80. He was the son of a seller of musical instruments and invented the Saxophone.

102 lunar years ago, on this day in 1334 AH, the renowned Islamic scholar, Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammad Ali Nakhchivani, passed away in the holy city of Karbala in Iraq. A student of Ayatollah Fazel Iravani, he was from the Iranian region of Nakhchivan – presently in the Republic of Azerbaijan – and was Source of Emulation for Muslims of Caucasus and Azerbaijan. A master of logic and Arabic literature, wrote numerous books including "Ijtima al-Amr".

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1974 AD, the small island-state of Grenada in the Caribbean Sea gained independence from Britain. The first Europeans to occupy it were the Spaniard under Christopher Columbus in 1498. In 1674 it was seized by the French, and over a century later in 1783 it fell to the British. In 1979, five years after independence, Maurice Bishop formed a socialist government and established close relations with Cuba. In 1982, Grenada was attacked and occupied by the US, which brutally killed Bishop. It is now ruled by a US client regime.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, people of various walks of life thronged the residence of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), to pledge allegiance to him. The same day officers of the armed forces also came to the Beloved Leader, and in a moving ceremony hailed him as the "Saviour of Iran" by reciting a rhytmical anthem in his praise. In his speech to the audience the Imam insisted that the fugitive Shah be brought to justice, and once again called on Prime Minister Shapour Bahktiar to resign.

16 solar years ago, on this day in 1999 AD, King Hussein of the British created state called Jordan died at the age of 64 after a rule of 47 years. Son of Talal, who was deposed by Britain on grounds of insanity, a year after succeeding his assassinated father, Abdullah Ibn Sharif Hussein of Hijaz, he was known as the CIA king for his loyalty to London and Washington. Though claiming descent from Prophet Mohammad's cousin and divinely-decreed vicegerent, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), he was in secret league with the illegal Zionist entity Israel, and was a staunch opponent of the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt, as was evident by his support for the bloodthirsty Ba'thist dictator Saddam during the 8-year war against the Islamic Republic of Iran (1980-88) and the brutal suppression of Iraq's Shi'ite Arab majority in 1991. He son Abdullah – by a British Christian woman – succeeded him.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Iranian newspaper Hamshahri announced it would hold a competition for cartoons on the alleged Holocaust to test whether the West extends the principle of freedom of expression to this doubtful incidence, as it did to the insulting caricatures it attributed to the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio – <http://english.irib.ir>)

Iran's Handicrafts Rank First Worldwide in Variety

TEHRAN (IRIB) - Iranian handicrafts rank first in the world in terms of variety, said the deputy head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

Bahman Namvar-Motlaq put the number of handicrafts branches in Iran at 250, noting that Iran, India and China are the top three coun-

tries in this respect.

"No other industry has such a high job creation capacity. While, in other industries at least \$250,000 is required to create each job, in the handicrafts industry, the same is possible only with \$3,125."

Handicrafts represent the identity and indicate the historical back-

ground of the countries, he noted.

"They remind us of the traditions of our ancestors. Earlier, handicrafts made up a major portion of Iran's non-oil exports. However, due to a number of problems, Iran currently ranks 30th in the world in this respect."

Iran has a favorable position in

the world in term of the variety in handicrafts, he said.

"Unhealthy competition in foreign markets is one of the reasons for the decline in Iran's ranking compared to other exporters."

Namvar-Motlaq pointed out that Qom Province is a suitable market for Iranian handicrafts.

Iranian Official Urges Closer Cultural Ties With Egypt

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - A senior Iranian cultural official highlighted the importance of bilateral relations between Tehran and Cairo in the area of culture, saying that the two countries are "two large wings" of the Muslim world.

"The Muslim world has two large wings, Iran and Egypt," Director of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel said in a ceremony attended by a number of Egyptian academics in Tehran on Wednesday.

Both Iran and Egypt contributed to the promotion of the Islamic culture and civilization, he added.

"Throughout the history, the Iranians and Egyptians have had long-lasting relations and also today, the Iranian people like the Egyptians," Haddad Adel noted.

He also pointed to the problems facing the Muslim world, including what is happening in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tunisia and Libya and expressed the hope that peace and stability would be restored to all Islamic countries and the problems would be settled.

Back in December, Iran attended an international conference on fight against terrorism and extremism in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

The conference came a few weeks after hundreds of Muslim scholars from various sects, including Shiites and Sunnis, and from 83 countries, including Egypt, gathered in Iran's holy city of Qom on November 23 to take part in an international conference on dangers of Takfirism.

Iran Opens Inlay, Calligraphy Exhibition in Moscow

MOSCOW (MNA) - An exhibition in Moscow has opened on Wednesday to display Iranian inlay and calligraphic artworks.

The exhibition was held to mark the anniversary of Islamic Revolution of 1979. The exhibition hosts 50 inlay and calligraphic artwork by Mehdi Tousi and Hadi Rowshanzamir in the Russian Federation National Library Oriental

Literature Center main hall. The opening ceremony was attended by authorities and dignitaries of Russian culture and public interested in Iranian art and culture, and Iranian nationals residing in Moscow.

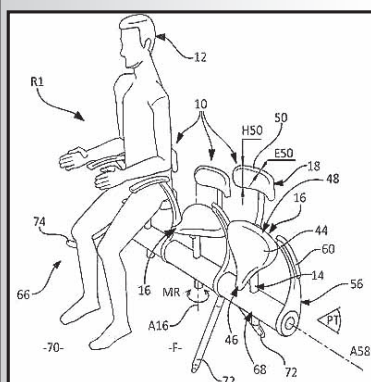
The artwork collection on display includes 18 calligraphy and writing paintings, 12 alphabet calligraphy, and 22 inlay art pieces.

Hybrid Bus Service for Tehran

TEHRAN (Tehran.ir) - A number of hybrid buses will join the public transportation system of Tehran in the near future.

The executive manager of the United Bus Company of Tehran, Peyman Sanandadji, said that in the first phase of the project five hybrid buses will be put into service within 45 days.

Would YOU Buy Standing Seat on a Plane?



Airbus filed a patent for a new seat that is similar to a bicycle saddle that flips up when it is not in use.

BEIJING (China National Radio) - Shanghai-based low-budget carrier Spring Airlines is once again trying to approve plans to offer cut-price tickets to passengers willing to stand up on flights.

The airline mulled over the idea back in 2008 as a way to accommodate more passengers over the Spring Festival holiday rush. Having passengers standing upright would increase capacity by around 40 percent, the airline said. The scheme never really took off; however, as aviation authorities raised concerns over safety issues.

A spokesman for spring told China National Radio that it was still hoping to offer the service. "We need many other conditions to make it work, like working together with airplane manufacturers, getting the approval from the authorities and having the consumers accept the idea," he said.

Passengers would still be strapped in during takeoff and landing, Spring Airlines president Wang Zhenghua previously told news reporters. "The safety belt is the most important thing," he said. "It will still be fastened around the waist."

Dublin-based low-cost airline Ryanair also showed interest in upright seats, and its CEO Michael O'Leary seems to think there is no need for the seatbelts at all.

The Skyrider "saddle" seat was unveiled in 2010 by the Italian

firm Aviointeriors, but has yet to be approved by aviation authorities.

Last year Airbus released this design, which looks even less comfortable.

The device is designed for short flights, rather obviously considering tray tables are non-existent, there is no sign of in-flight entertainment and seats don't appear to recline. "Reduced comfort remains tolerable for the passengers in as much as the flight lasts only one or a few hours," a spokesman told Telegraph Travel. It said it was "unlikely" the seats would



3 cabin hybrid bus

Sanandadji said that promoting green technologies and hybrid fuel vehicles is a priority for the overcrowded streets of the capital.

The introduction of hybrid electric vehicles, which combine a conventional internal combustion engine propulsion system with an electric propulsion system, for the public transport can significantly reduce different types of pollution in a city.

Picture of the Day



Representatives from various Iranian tribes attended a special festival in the southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad.

Courtesy: Tasnim