

# This Day in History

(March 19)

Today is Thursday; 28<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 28<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1436 lunar hijri; and March 19, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1780 solar years ago**, on this day in 235 AD, Roman Emperor Alexander Severus, who suffered a series of disastrous defeats in the Levant and Armenia at the hands of the rising power of the Sassanid Dynasty of Iran, was assassinated, along with his mother Julia Mamaea, by legionaries near modern Mainz in Europe.

**1153 lunar years ago**, on this day in 283 AH, the acclaimed Arabic poet, Ali ibn al-Abbas ibn Jurayj, known popularly as Ibn ar-Roumi, passed away at the age of 62. Born in Baghdad, he was the son of an Iranian mother and a half-Roman Muslim father, which explains his surname Ibn Roumi. By the age of twenty he earned a living through his poetry which would culminate in his masterpiece Diwan. His political patrons included the Taherid ruler of Khorasan, Obaydallah ibn Abdullah, the Abbasid Caliph's Persian minister, Ismail ibn Bulbul, and the politically influential Nestorian family of Banu Wahd. He was a Shi'ite Muslim. He died of illness, although some have suggested that poison may have been the cause.

**736 solar years ago**, on this day in 1279 AD, a Mongolian victory at the Battle of Yamen ended the Song Dynasty in China, and established the Yuan Dynasty that lasted till 1368. Its greatest ruler was Kublai Khan, a grandson of the fearsome Mongol marauder Chengiz Khan.

**609 solar years ago**, on this day in 1406 AD, the Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, passed away in Cairo at the age of 74. Born in Tunis into an affluent Spanish Arab family that had settled in North Africa because of Christian onslaughts, he is regarded as one of the forerunners of modern historiography, sociology, and economics. He travelled widely around Egypt, North Africa and Spain, where the Muslim ruler of the emirate of Granada sent him on a mission to the Christian King of Castile, Pedro the Cruel. He returned to Egypt, whose Mamluk sultan sent him to negotiate with the fearsome Turkic conqueror, Amir Timur, during the siege of Damascus. In his autobiography, Ibn Khaldun has mentioned his discussions with Timur, who asked him in detail about North Africa and Spain. Among his many works is a voluminous universal history, but his fame rests on the detailed *“Muqaddemah”* or Introduction, which is considered a unique work in itself.

**366 solar years ago**, on this day in 1649 AD, the prominent Hanafi jurist of Syria, Abdul-Ghani al-Nabulsi, was born in Damascus. A prolific writer who wrote several books, he was a member of both the Qaderiyya and Naqshbandi Sufi orders. Once, after visiting the shrine of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) granddaughter, Hazrat Zainab (SA) on the outskirts of Damascus, he expressed doubts on whether this was actually the holy site at which the Heroine of Karbala had been laid to rest. No sooner did he leave the place he fell from his mount and broke his leg. He realized his error and in that very condition of pain he dragged himself towards the blessed tomb in a state of repentance with the following rhymed phrases on his lips:

*“Zainab bint Haider, ma’dan al-’ilm wa’l-huda,  
‘Indaha Bab Hitta, fa adkhulu al-baab sujada.*

*“(Zainab the daughter of Haider, the Mine of Knowledge and Guidance,*

*Her threshold is Door of Repentance, so enter it [head bowed] in prostration.)”*

At that very moment Shaikh Abdul-Ghani Nabulsi felt his broken leg miraculously cured and he stood up relieved of pain as if nothing had happened to him. Among his books is *“Shifa as-Sadr fi Fadha’il Laylat-an-Nisf min Sha’ban wa Laylat-al-Qadr”* (Curing the heart on the Virtues of the Night of 15<sup>th</sup> Sha’ban and the Night of Qadr). He passed away at the ripe age of 90 and was buried in Damascus.

**276 solar years ago**, on this day in 1739 AD, the defeated, captured, and subsequently released Moghal Emperor, Mohammad Shah, entered Delhi, followed the next day by the victor of the Battle of Karnal, Iran’s Nader Shah Afshar. A few days later an insurrection broke out in the city and led to the killing of several Iranian soldiers by miscreants, prompting Nader Shah to order a bloody massacre that was stopped when the sagacious Moghal Vizier, Qamar od-Din Khan Nizam ul-Mulk Asef Jah (founder of the Asef Jahi Dynasty of Haiderabad-Deccan) intervened and urged the Iranian monarch to stop the senseless bloodletting. Nader Shah returned to Iran with considerable booty including the famous Peacock Throne, the Koh-e Noor Diamond and the Tent of Pearls.

**210 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1226 AH, the prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Mullah Ali Mirza Khalili, was born. He honed his skills in theology, jurisprudence, and mathematics, and spent his life on research, study, and writing of books. His works include *“Khaza’in al-Ahkam”*. He passed away in 1297 at the age of 71.

**132 solar years ago**, on this day in 1883 AD, the English chemist, Norman Haworth, was born. He conducted extensive scientific research about hydrocarbons and succeeded in presentation of a new design for the molecular structure of sugar, which was named after him. He conducted major studies on Vitamin C, whose molecular structure is similar to sugar, and prepared its industrial type, naming it Ascorbic Acid. Due to these studies and discoveries, he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1937. He passed away in the year 1950.

**117 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1319 AH, the great Islamic scholar, Allamah Mirza Mohammad Hassan Ashtiani Tehrani, passed away. He authored a number of books on various Islamic sciences, and published the lectures and thoughts of the celebrated scholar, Ayatollah Sheikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli. He, along with other combatant and courageous ulema, opposed monopolization of tobacco trade, which was granted to a British company by the Qajarid King, Nasser od-Din Shah. Allamah Ashtiani was a firm believer that no falsehood can approach the holy Qur’an. He says in his book *“Bahr al-Fawa’ed”* that “all leading Mujtahideen and Usoolieen widely believe that the Holy Qur’an has not been distorted. In fact, many have even cited a consensus of opinion or *ijma’* in this regard, and there is in particular a complete consensus of opinion that no additions have been made to the Qur’an. Thus, the narrations that point to deletions being made to the Qur’an contain weak chains.” He also wrote the valuable book *“Mabahas al-Alfaaz”*.

**115 solar years ago**, on this day in 1900 AD, the French physicist and chemist, Frederic Joliot, was born in Paris. Following the completion of his academic studies, he worked as the assistant of the physicist and discoverer of radium, Marie Curie. He married to Marie Curie’s daughter Irene, and with the assistance of his wife managed to find out the makeup of the new radioactive materials.

**71 solar years ago**, on this day in 1944 AD, Palestinian Christian activist, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who in a revolutionary style execution shot dead US presidential candidate, Robert F. Kennedy, in Los Angeles, was born in Bayt al-Moqaddas. A staunch opponent of the illegal Zionist entity, he had decided to shoot Kennedy for pledging to send 50 advanced bombers to the illegal entity called Israel, in order to further terrorize and kill Palestinians, on becoming president. Sirhan had moved to the US after a life in refugee camps on usurpation of his homeland by illegal Zionist migrants from Europe. He is serving a life sentence in the US, and his supporters defend his killing of Kennedy as a justified act in support of his occupied homeland.

**28 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, the last member of the generation of modern physics founders, Louis de Broglie, died at the age of 95. He catapulted to fame with presentation of the theory about the particle-wave nature of light. With the presentation of this theory, major accomplishments were made in the science of physics. He managed to win the Nobel Prize for Physics in the year 1929.

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

# 12 Christian Tourists Convert to Islam at Imam Reza Holy Shrine

TEHRAN (ABNA) -**Director of non-Iranian pilgrims Affairs of Imam Reza (AS) Holy Shrine said on Tuesday that 12 foreign Christian tourists converted to Islam at the holy shrine in the outgoing Iranian year.**

Mohammad Javad Hasheminejad said that eight of them were ladies from Germany, Sweden, Belarus, Poland, US, Denmark and Russia

and four men from Norway, Cameroon, The Netherlands and Ireland.

He said that the new Muslims are between 21 and 51 years old and none of them are living in Iran, except for spouses of three of them are living in Iran.

The director of the holy shrine added that all of these persons have academic education and by

reasons such as personal interests, studying Islamic books, curiosity about Islam and having Iranian or Malaysian friends, visiting the holy shrine and feeling the spirituality of the holy shrine were encouraging to convert to Islam.

Hasheminejad said that 4,500,000 non-Iranian tourists have visited the holy shrine this year, among them around

100,000 tourists were not Muslim.

He stressed that the latest developments in the Middle East region, encouraged the interest in paying pilgrimage to the holy shrine and the number of pilgrims has been on a growing trend.

Around 25 million pilgrims visit Mashhad, venue of Imam Reza (AS) Holy Shrine, annually.

## Iran, Australia to Boost Science, Training Cooperation

CANBERRA (ISNA)- **Iran and Australia plan to expand cooperation on science, training and research fields.**

An Iranian high-ranking dele-

gation headed by Iranian Deputy Minister of Health Iraj harirchi and the team comprised of some Iranian lawmakers and senior directors of Iranian Health Ministry paid a five-

day visit to Australia.

The delegation met with members of Australian Parliament, parliament speaker and head of Senate.

The Iranian delegation also be-

came familiar with Australian human resources, family physician, medication management, electronic health, and patient management, payment systems, planning and

## Qatar Hosts Persian Music Night

DOHA (IRIB) - **A special music program ‘A Night with Persian Music’ was held in Qatar with famous Iranian musicians Keivan Saket and Salar Aqili in attendance.**

Saket, a renowned virtuoso on the traditional instrument ‘tar’, had composed pieces for the concert, while vocalist Aqili gave live performance, according to Mehr News Agency.

The instrumentalists accompa-

nying them were Ali Akbar Khadem-Sheikh (tonbak), Javad Tayrani (santour), Vahid Soleimani-Nejad (kamancheh) and Mehdi Gholami (daf).

The event, which was organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, was held at Katarai’s Opera Hall.

Iranian nationals, Qatari cultural personalities and officials as well as a number of European ambassadors to Qatar attended the event.

## Iran, Bulgaria Planning to Promote Tourism Ties

SOFIA (FNA)- **Iranian and Bulgarian officials voiced their enthusiasm for utilizing the existing capacities on both sides to boost Tehran-Sofia tourism relations.**

In meeting between Iran’s Ambassador to Sofia Abdollah Norouzi and Bulgarian Minister of Tourism Nikolina Angelkova on Tuesday, Norouzi said that at least 15,000 Iranian tourists visited Bulgaria last year, and meantime, 10,000 Iranian trucks crossed Bulgaria in the same period which signals cordial relations between Tehran and Sofia.

## Remains of Don Quixote Author Cervantes Found



*This handout picture released on January 26, 2014 by Sociedad de Ciencia Aranzadi shows people sifting through material discovered in a crypt that could help confirm the final resting place of the late Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes at the Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians in Madrid.*

MADRID (Press TV) - **The remains of Spanish literary giant Miguel de Cervantes have been discovered almost four hundred years after his demise, archaeologists and anthropologists say.**

“He’s there,” said historian Fernando de Prado, referring to fragmented bones found in the floor of a crypt in Madrid, the Guardian reported on Tuesday.

The search for the remains of one of the world’s most famous literary figures began last April with a team of almost 30 scientists scouring the soil of Madrid’s Convento de las Monjas Trinitarias Descalzas with 3D scanners, infrared cameras, and ground-penetrating radar.

During their search, the team identified 33 alcoves, where the remains could have been stored, inside one of which the team located a number of adult bones.

The team said that based upon historical and archeological evidence they were confident that some of the bones were those of Cervantes and his wife, Catalina de Salazar.

Moreover, the writer’s initials “MC” were found on one of the coffin lids.

## China to Hold Iranian Cultural Month

BEIJING (IRNA) - **Iran is to hold a cultural month in the Chinese province of Zhejiang from April 11, 2015 in cooperation with the Iranian cultural center in Shanghai.**

Behnam Azad, Iran’s cultural attaché in China said two cultural and tourism meetings are to be held during the 30-day period, Mehr News Agency reported.

‘In the first meeting, the former Chinese ambassador to Iran and the Iranian cultural attaché in China will deliver lectures on Iran’s history, culture, people, development and ad-

vances.’

The second meeting, he noted, will pertain to talks between officials from the tourism sectors as well as those from the investment and planning centers to facilitate visits by tourists from Shanghai and Zhejiang to Iran.

Azadi said the 30-day event will feature expos showcasing photos of Iranian historical sites and natural scenes, paintings and miniatures, stamps, coins, banknotes, carpets, pictorial carpets, handicrafts, foodstuff and Iranian cuisines, a movie week and a three-day performance of Iranian music.

## Iran, Turkey to Boost Ties on E-Tourism

TEHRAN (MNA) – **During the Tuesday meeting between Iran’s Minister of Communication and Turkish Minister of Development, the two sides stressed a boost in e-tourism.**

During the closing ceremony of Iran-Turkey joint commission held on Tuesday, Mahmoud Vaezi and Cevdet Yilmaz agreed on boosting cooperation on tourism and e-tourism.

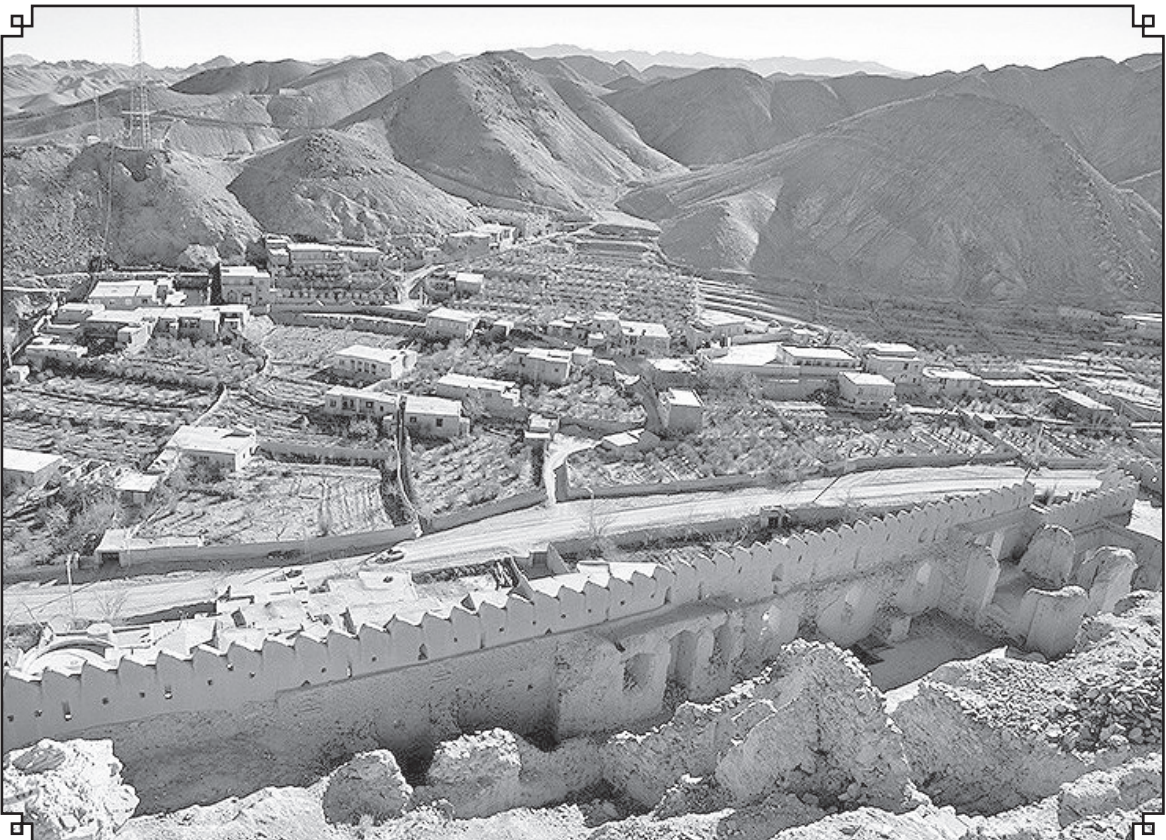
“The negotiations held in this round of Iran-Turkey joint commission have been very fruitful and acceptable results were reached on issues such as transportation, customs, banking and commerce,” said Vaezi.

He also noted that the development of political and economic relations between the two countries would lead to the development of the whole region.

Turkish Minister of Development, for his part, maintained that Tehran and Ankara will improve their relations in all arenas, adding talks with Vaezi had been very helpful.

He also asserted that the two sides have agreed on increasing the amount of investment from the \$14bn of last year.

## Picture of the Day



*The Citadel of Furg, or Arg e Furg, is a citadel from the 12th century, located in South Khorasan, in Iran, near Birjand.*

Courtesy: Tasnim