

This Day in History

(February 24)

Today is Tuesday, 5th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 5th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1436 lunar hijri; and February 24, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1431 lunar years ago, on this day in 5 AH, the first granddaughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born in Medina to the proud parents, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) and Imam Ali (AS). She was named by the Prophet as **"Zainab"**, meaning "Ornament of the Father", and grew up along with her elder brothers, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS), as the epitome of virtue. Her piety, wisdom, knowledge, patience, courage and eloquence, was ably displayed during the tragedy of Karbala and its equally tragic aftermath when, she, along with her younger sister, Hazrat Omm Kulthoum (SA) and nephew, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), exposed the hypocrisy of the tyrannical Omayyad regime, despite being forced to stand as enchained prisoners in Damascus in the court of the despicable Yazid. Hazrat Zainab (SA), whose two youthful sons attained martyrdom in Karbala, universalized and immortalized the mission of her tragically martyred brother, Imam Husain (AS), and thus nursed back to life the pure and pristine Islamic message of her grandfather, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1114 lunar years ago, on this day in 322 AH, Qahter-Billah, the 19th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, was deposed after only two years of rule; and when in the state of drunkenness he refused to abdicate, his eyes were blinded, and he was cast into prison. Eleven years later he was freed, and was sometimes seen in beggar's rags and wooden sandals – a sad contrast to his high-sounding title "al-Qahter-Billah" which means "Victorious by the Will of God." He died in poverty in 339 AH at the age of 54, six years after his release from prison and 17 years after losing the caliphate. The caliphate was given to Qahter-Billah when his profligate brother Muqtadir-Billah was deposed, beaten and killed by the courtiers, who feared that the latter's son might avenge his father's death. Qahter turned out to be even worse, and went to every excess of cruelty and extortion. He tortured his stepmother (mother of Muqtadir) to squeeze wealth from her. He then walled alive his nephew, the son of Muqtadir, in order to remove any rival. Qahter was succeeded by a nephew who survived, named Raazi-Billah, who during his 7-year rule returned the vast orchard of Fadak to the direct descendants of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Fadak was the personal property of the Prophet and was situated north of Medina near Khaybar. The Prophet had given it to his daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA), who used its revenues for the upkeep of the poor and destitute. After the Prophet passed away, the regime in Medina seized Fadak by forging a hadith alleging that Prophets do not leave inheritance and whatever they leave is the property of Ummah. Hazrat Fatema (SA) defended her rights by citing the ayahs of the holy Qur'an which speak of Prophet Solomon inheriting Prophet David, and Prophet Yahya inheriting Prophet Zachariah.

712 solar years ago, on this day in 1303 AD, the Battle of Roslin took place during the First War of Scottish Independence – lasting from the invasion by England in 1296 until the de jure restoration of Scottish independence with the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328 (de facto independence was established in 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn). England under Edward I attempted to establish its authority over Scotland while the Scots fought to keep English rule and authority out of Scotland. The Second War of Scottish Independence was fought from 1332-to-1357 against English encroachment. In 1603, James VI of Scotland inherited the thrones of the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Ireland, and thus became King James I of what later came to be known as the United Kingdom. The Scots have always resented the English domination of their homeland. The Scottish National Party, which supports Scottish independence, won an overall majority in the 2011 general election. A referendum was held September, with independence-seekers polling 45% of the 85% voter turnout.

711 solar years ago, on this day in 1304 AD, the renowned Muslim worldwide traveler, Shams od-Din Mohammad bin Abdullah, known as Ibn Battuta, was born in the northwest African city of Tangiers – in today's Morocco. As a young man he started his initial journey to perform the Hajj, but after the pilgrimage to Mecca, he kept on travelling, visiting over a period of thirty years, most of the Islamic world as well as many non-Muslim lands in the three continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. His journeys including trips to North Africa, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe in the West, and to West Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and China in the East, cover a total of 75,000 miles or 121,000 km, surpassing by threefold the travels of his near-contemporary Marco Polo of Venice. In Iraq, he visited the shrine in holy Najaf of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), and has related how people seek intercession with God through the First Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and are cured of their ailments. Ibn Battuta then travelled all over Iran, and after visiting the Byzantine Empire, Europe and Russia, he arrived in India, where he was appointed the Qazi of Delhi by Sultan Mohammad bin Tughlaq. On his return to his homeland Morocco, he also served as Qazi. He dictated to scribes the details of his travels in his book titled **"ar-Rehla"**, and died at the age of 66.

490 solar years ago, on this day in 1525 AD, the Portuguese poet, Luis Vaz de Camoens, was born in Lisbon. His most important work is **"The Lusads"**, which some compare to the renowned Iranian Poet Ferdowski's masterpiece **"Shahnamah"**. He died in 1580.

454 lunar years ago, on this day in 982 AH, the exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Mohammad Mostafa Imadi, popularly known as Abu's-Saud passed away. Born in the vicinity of city of Istanbul, in western Turkey, he was fluent in Turkish, Persian, and Arabic. He also wrote poetry in both Persian and Arabic. He focused upon the social topics of his community, and wrote numerous books, including **"Tafsir Abi's-Saud"**, **"Du'a Namah"**, and **"Qanoun Namah"**.

184 solar years ago, on this day in 1831 AD, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, went into effect, as part of the US policy of ethnic cleansing of native Amerindians in Mississippi, and resulted in the seizure of 11 million acres of the lands of the Choctaw by the White settlers of European origin. It was first treaty in accordance with the Indian Removal Act passed by the Congress. The US is notorious for its ethnic discrimination, genocide, wars and massacres.

167 solar years ago, on this day in the year 1848 AD, King Louis Philippe of France was forced to abdicate and go into exile, three days after start of the Second French Revolution that led to proclamation of the Second Republic of France. In French history this ruling system is referred to the rule of journalists, because eleven republican journalists, led by the French poet and author, Alphonse de Lamartine, were part of the administration.

159 solar years ago, on this day in 1856 AD, Russian mathematician, Nikolay Ivanovich Lobachevsky, died at the age of 64. He served as Chancellor of Kazan University in Tataristan. He gained fame due to his researches and for rejection of the 5th principle of Euclidean geometry. He conducted extensive research on the features of spherical surfaces.

118 solar years ago, on this day in 1897 AD, Henri Frankfort, the Dutch-American archaeologist who established the relationship between Egypt and Mesopotamia, was born. He completed a thoroughly documented reconstruction of ancient Mesopotamian culture and art. The excavations he directed in Egypt (1922, 1925-29) and Iraq (1929-37) were conducted with exemplary archaeological scholarship.

98 solar years ago, on this day 1917 AD, during World War I, the US ambassador in London was given by British intelligence the decoded Zimmermann Telegram, in which Foreign Secretary of the German Empire, Arthur Zimmermann, had messaged to the German ambassador in Mexico, Heinrich von Eckardt, to persuade the government of Mexico to ally itself with Germany in case the US entered the war on the side of Britain. Germany pledged to ensure the return of New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, California and the entire southwest to Mexico that the US had seized in the 19th century. The proposal was intercepted and decoded by British intelligence. Revelation of the contents made the US openly declare war on Germany in April that year. Mexican President Venustiano Carranza assigned a military commission to assess the feasibility of liberation of the said territories from US occupation. The general concluded that it would not be possible for Mexico, which was in the midst of a revolution and far weaker militarily, economically and politically, to defeat the US.

82 solar years ago, on this day in 1933 AD, East African academic and political scientist, Professor Ali Mazrui, was born in Mombasa, Kenya. On completing higher education in Britain, he taught at the University of Uganda in Kampala, and after expulsion by the dictator Idi Amin, he settled in the US, where he taught as professor in several universities. An expert writer on African and Islamic studies as well as North-South relations, he was critical of African socialism and all strains of Marxism. He argued that communism was a Western import just as unsuited for the African condition as the earlier colonial attempts to install European type governments. At the same time he was a prominent critic of the current world order. He believed the capitalist system was deeply exploitative of Africa, and that the West practiced global apartheid. He opposed the West's interventions in the developing world, such as the US war on Iraq, and was against the policies of the Zionist entity, Israel – one of the first to link the treatment of Palestinians with South Africa's apartheid. Mazrui was also a well-known commentator on Islam and Islamism. He rejected violence and terrorism and praised the anti-imperialist sentiment that plays an important role in the modern world. He maintained that the dynamism of the sharia law is compatible with democracy. Mazrui wrote several books, including on his native Swahili language and culture. In October 2014, he died in New York, where he was Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University. As per his will, his body was taken to his native Mombasa and buried in his ancestral graveyard according to Islamic rites.

66 solar years ago, on this day in 1949 AD, the first manmade rocket reached outer space. The two-stage rocket was launched from the White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, US. It was the first to carry telemetry transmitting technical information to ground stations, including high-altitude temperature measurements. It reached a speed of 5,150 mph and an altitude of 244 miles.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1968 AD, the discovery of a pulsar (a pulsating radio source) was announced. Pulsars prompted studies in quantum-degenerate fluids, relativistic gravity and interstellar magnetic fields.

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

Iran to Open Branch of Medical Sciences Univ. in Iraq

TEHRAN (MNA) – **During a meeting with Iraq's Minister of Education and attended by various Iranian top universities, Iran's Minister of Health announced University of Medical Sciences will open a branch in Iraq.**

Seyed Hassan Hashemi maintained various good deals have been struck in the fields of pharmaceuticals, medical facilities, investment in the construction of hospitals and health tourism during the meetings with Iraqi

Minister of Health. He also expressed hope Iranian pharmaceutical industry and medical facilities factories would be established in Iraq in the near future.

"Currently we have 5200 research centers and 120 specialized communities in Iran that can participate in holding joint conferences and specialized courses such as heart, liver, intestines, and eyes transplantation as well as fellowship courses," he said.

Hashemi also noted Iran was pre-

pared to admit some 2000 Iraqi students in three forms of government scholarships, private scholarships and scholarships from Iraq's Ministry of Science.

"Iran is currently home to 91 medical universities and each year many applicants do not get the chance to be admitted. However, this issue could be easily tackled by establishing in Iraq other branches of top Iranian universities such as Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti and Shi-

raz," he said. According to the report, the meeting was attended by heads of medical sciences university's of Tehran, Shahid Beheshti, Shiraz, Ahvaz, Mashhad and Hamedan. During the meeting, it was decided that a joint committee comprising heads of both countries' medical sciences university's be formed to study the process of establishing a university in Iraq as well as other bilateral cooperation within a span of three months.

Persian Language Links Iranian Ancient Civilization, Culture

BELGRADE (IBNA) - **Visiting University of Belgrade, Iran's Cultural Attaché to Serbia expressed his satisfaction of the great number of students studying Persian Language at the philology school, saying that Persian language links the Iranian ancient civilization and culture.**

Quoting from the Public Relations of Sa'di Foundation, Mahmood Shaluae, the Iranian Cultural Attaché to Serbia, visited one of Persian Language classes and got informed on the trend of holding final tests in that department while visiting and talking with students.

He addressed the students saying: "Your acquaintance with



One of Persian Language classes

Persian language is not just a mere learning but can serve as a key to access the great treasure of over a thousand years of written literature in Persian."

He then referred to the advisory cultural programs in Belgrade and the formation of 4 accredited university centers in Serbia as well as the grants given to top students and their referring to extracurricular courses at Sa'di Foundation in Iran and invited the students to visit the Iranian Cultural Center to access the Library, Film bank and the cultural and instructional programs available in the Center.

First Portuguese-Chinese Bilingual High School in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (Xinhua) -- **Sitting in the classroom of Brazil's first Portuguese-Chinese bilingual high school, 14-year-old Joao Victor is obviously excited: he finally gets the chance to learn the Chinese language at school, something he believes will give him a great boost when seeking employment in the future.**

Victor is among the first 72 students selected from hundreds of applicants for the recently-opened bilingual school named after Brazil's famous mathematician Joaquim Gomes de Sousa.

Divided into three classes, these students will be taught by 20 local teachers who were recruited after a fierce competition: only one in ten high school teachers who applied for the job was chosen.

Currently they also have two Chinese teachers dispatched by China's Hebei Normal University, according to school authorities.

Before coming to this school located in Rio's sister city of Niteroi across Guanabara Bay, Vitor didn't know much about the Chinese language and only learned a few phrases through Kungfu movies.

In his opinion, the hand-writing of Chinese is very difficult, but Vitor still thinks he should try hard to learn since "mastering Chinese will be a great advantage for future employment in Brazil."

When addressing the first three classes at the bilingual high school, Chinese Consulate General Song Yang congratulated them for being the first students there.

Noting that China and Brazil are the largest developing countries respectively in the eastern and western hemispheres, the Chinese diplomat said the Chinese language is an essential tool to strengthen bilateral cultural exchanges and enhance friendship between the two sides.

"To learn Chinese is not a challenge but to open up future opportunities," said Song, who also encouraged students to seize the

opportunity and study hard. He revealed that the Chinese embassy will provide outstanding students in the school with scholarships and opportunities to study in China.

When launching the school, Antonio Nunes, director of Rio's Department of Education, said the state government of Rio is always dedicated to establishing bilingual schools as they provide new methods for education in Brazil.

"This Portuguese-Chinese high school is the 27th in our 'bilingual school' project, and also a symbol of cultural exchanges between Brazil and China," Nunes said.

Who Is Muhammad Art Initiative Celebrates Prophet's Inspiration

LONDON (IRNA) - **Ahlan Art gallery, an Islamic Art gallery in London, has launched the first-ever campaign to showcase art inspired by Muhammad (peace be upon him).**

Muhammad (PBUH) is an inspiration to over a billion people across the world, and Ahlan Art has been calling on creatives to show how his character has inspired and continues to inspire them.

Hassan Mawji, founder of

Ahlan Art gallery, said, "In the few weeks since the launch of the campaign, we've received some extraordinary art pieces, truly highlighting the impeccable and inspirational nature of Muhammad."

Some of the most popular submissions include, Muhammad, My Beloved by Raanaz Shahid, Al Wada by Kung Pik Liu and Ummah of Rasulallah by Wasie-la Noorsjamsi, according to Aq-ula-style.com.

Picture of the Day



The 1st Kish International Sculpture Symposium opened on the southern Iranian island.

Courtesy: Tasnim