

This Day in History

(August 21)

Today is Thursday; 30th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1393 solar hijri corresponding to 24th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1435 lunar hijri; and August 21, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1224 lunar years ago, on this day in 211 AH, the Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Abdur-Razzaq San'ani, passed away in Yemen at the age of 85. He was from San'a, and traveled to Mecca, Medina, Syria and Iraq for study. It is obvious that he failed to approach the Infallible Imams of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) Ahl al-Bayt for authentic hadith, contenting himself with the narrations handed down from the Sahaba (Prophet's companions), though he has admitted some of the merits of the Ahl al-Bayt. He went blind in the last years of his life.

883 solar years ago, on this day in 1131 AD, Baldwin II the self-styled 3rd king of the illegal Latin kingdom of Jerusalem died after a rule of 13 years during which he was constantly involved in wars and killings of Muslims. Earlier as Count of the occupied Syrian-Mesopotamian city of Edessa (currently in southeastern Turkey), he was captured in the Battle of Harran by the Seljuq Turks and was not released until four years later in 1108. The Latin kingdom set up by the Crusaders of Europe collapsed in 1187 after 88 years of illegal existence in Palestine, as a result of an attack by a united Muslim army of Kurds, Turks, Arabs and Iranians, while the Egyptian navy effectively blocked the Mediterranean Sea to prevent any aid from Europe.

438 solar years ago, on this day in 1576 AD, Ismail II ascended the Safavid throne of Iran as the 3rd king of the dynasty and launched a campaign of fratricide in his brief 15-month reign that ended with his murder at the age of 40. Imprisoned by his father Shah Tahmasp I for plotting to seize the throne he was freed and declared king by a faction of the powerful Qizilbash guard in the dispute that ensued on the death of Shah Tahmasp. The Qizilbash were split between him and his younger brother Haydar Ali. The pro-Haydar faction was briefly successful in placing their candidate on the throne but Haydar was killed in the ensuing fight between supporters and opponents that made his tutor, the great scholar, Mir Momin Astarabadi to leave Iran for the safety of the Deccan in southern India, where he became Prime Minister of the Qotb-Shahi Dynasty of Iranian origin of Golkandeh and helped found the city of Hyderabad. Another faction tried to make a third son of Tahmasp as king, but was thwarted by Ismail's supporters. It seems the almost 20-year imprisonment of Ismail at the fortress of Qahqaha had affected his mind. As well as executing members of the faction that had opposed him, he also turned on his own supporters. He killed or blinded five of his own brothers and four other Safavid princes. He is known in Iranian history as "Ismail-e Murted" (Ismail the Apostate) for turning away from the path of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The Qizilbash began to regret their choice and plotted to assassinate Ismail with the help of his own sister Pari Khan Khanum. Ismail died after consuming poisoned opium on 24 November 1577 and was succeeded by his almost blind brother, Mohammad Khodabandah, the father of Shah Abbas the Great.

393 solar years ago, on this day in 1621 AD, the famous scholar, theologian, astronomer, and mathematician, Baha'od-Din Mohammad bin Hussain Ameli, popularly known as "Sheikh Bahai", passed away in Isfahan at the age of 78. Born in Ba'lbak in Lebanon, in a family descended from Harres al-Hamdani, a loyal disciple of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), his father, Sheikh Hussain bin Abdus-Samad, was one of the prominent scholars who migrated to Safavid Iran with his young son. Given his sublime talents, the young Bahai soon honed his skills in sciences, such as theology, jurisprudence, Exegesis of the Holy Qur'an, hadith, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, literature, and history. He travelled extensively through Syria, Palestine, Hijaz, Egypt, Iraq, Azarbaijan and Khorasan. Because of his creative talents, he had actually become a walking encyclopedia. He is the first jurisprudent who wrote a handbook on Fiqh for simple layman in Persian language titled "Jame' Abbasi". In spite of his diverse interests, he trained great Fuqaha like Mullah Sadra Shirazi, Muhaqqiq Sabzevari, Fazel Jawad, and Mullah Mohammad Taqi, known as Majlisi the First, since he was the father of the famous scholar, Allamah Mohammad Baqer Majlisi, the author of the encyclopedic work, "Behar ul-Anwaar". After the death of his father-in-law, Sheikh Ali Minshar, he was made the Sheikh al-Islam of Iran. He wrote some 100 books and treatises.

284 lunar years ago, on this day in 1151 AH, the pious scholar Mir Mohammad Hussain Ibn Mohammad Saleh, passed away. He was the maternal grandson of the celebrated scholar, Allamah Mohammad Baqer Majlisi. Among his works is "Miftah al-Faraj".

244 solar years ago, on this day in 1770 AD, Captain James Cook formally claimed eastern Australia for Britain, naming it New South Wales. The British soon occupied the whole of the continent seizing lands from the native aborigines and settling convicts and Irish revolutionaries exiled from their homeland. Today, although Australia has its own elected government with only nominal allegiance to the British crown, it serves as an outpost in the east of the decadent western civilization, heavily discriminating against people of non-European background and blindly following the dictates of London and Washington.

183 solar years ago, on this day 1831 AD, Nat Turner led the enslaved black people as well as the free blacks in a rebellion against the White oppressors of the US, a week after he saw a solar eclipse and interpreted it as a sign of God to launch an uprising against the Anglo-Saxon racists. Turner, who was descended from highly civilized people of Ghana and kidnapped by Europeans and sold in the Americas, started his uprising in Southampton County, Virginia, by freeing many African people from slavery. The uprising was brutally crushed after a few days by the White racist government. Turner survived in hiding for over two months afterwards, but was hunted down and hanged. His corpse was flayed, beheaded and quartered by the white Americans who went on to massacre over 200 black people in the southern states, where state legislatures passed new laws prohibiting education of the so-called slaves as well as free black people.

74 solar years ago on this day in 1940 AD, Russian Marxist leader, Leon Trotsky, was assassinated in exile in Mexico by agents of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who had expelled him from the communist party. He was one of the ideologues of the Bolshevik Revolution and wrote several books including "History of the Russian Revolution" and "The Revolution Betrayed".

45 solar years ago, on this day in 1969 AD, fire was ignited in Islam's former Qibla (focal point of prayer), the al-Aqsa Mosque in Bayt al-Moqaddas by the Zionists. The usurper state of Israel attributed the arson attack to Australian tourist, Denis Michael Rohan, and detained him, but a court in Tel Aviv released him on the pretext of being mentally ill. Muslims throughout the world held protest rallies, compelling heads of Muslim states to establish the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to counter the threats against Islamic sanctities.

One solar year ago, on this day in 2013 AD, terrorists, supported by the US and Arab reactionary regimes, used internationally banned chemical weapons to kill hundreds of men, women, and children in the Ghouta region of Syria near the capital Damascus.

(August 22)

Tomorrow is Friday; 31 of the Iranian month of Mordad 1393 solar hijri, corresponding to 25th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1435 lunar hijri; and August 22, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1286 lunar years ago, on this day in 148 AH, Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), the 6th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in Medina through poisoning by the Abbasid caliph, Mansour Dawan-iqi. Imam Sadeq (AS) needs no introduction, since it was he who bequeathed to posterity the dynamism of the genuine practice and behavior of his ancestor the Prophet that stands out as the "Shari'ah" or proper way of guidance for the believers. During his 34-year imamate, he trained for the benefit of humanity as many as 4000 scholars in various branches of science, including the Father of Chemistry, Jaber ibn Hayyan, who was known to medieval Europe as Geber. The "Fiqh al-Ja'fari" or the Ja'fari School of Jurisprudence is his immortal legacy, which unlike jurisprudential schools, is based on rationality and intellect.

898 lunar years ago, on this day in 536 AH, the hadith scholar and author, Ahmad Heravi, passed away. He was one of the prominent lecturers of the Nizamiyyah Academy in the Khorasani city of Balkh, which is in present day Afghanistan. His most renowned student was Rashid od-Din Watwaat, the prominent Iranian literary figure.

753 lunar years ago, on this day in 681 AH, the Spanish Muslim Arabic grammarian and Islamic law expert, Abdur-Rahman bin Abdullah as-Suhayli, died at the age of 73 in Marakesh, three years after coming to Morocco on the invitation of Sultan Abu Yusuf Ya'qub al-Mansur of the al-Muwahidin dynasty. He was born in Fuengirola, which was known as Suhayl during Muslim rule in Spain. He also wrote a commentary on the Prophet's biography by Ibn Hisham.

517 lunar years ago, on this day in 917 AH, Muzaffar II of Gujarat in western India received an embassy from Shah Ismail I, the Founder of the Safavid Empire of Iran. The ambassadorial delegation from Tabriz arrived with rich presents to congratulate Muzaffar Shah II on his accession and also to announce the grand victory of the Iranian forces over the Uzbek ruler Mohammad Khan Shaibani at the Battle of Merv on 30th Sha'ban 916 AH. At first, the Persian envoy was honorably received, but subsequently his entourage was attacked and his property destroyed by a mob inflamed either by anti-Shi'ite feeling, or, according to one version, by the machinations of Saheb Khan, the exiled prince of the Malwa. Muzaffar Shah was compelled to pay heavy compensation for the losses suffered by the Iranian envoy. Iranians from different walks of life migrated and settled in Gujarat, both during the 175 years of its existence as an independent sultanate and its subsequent role as a Mughal province.

375 solar years ago, on this day in 1639 AD, Madras (now Chennai), was founded by the British East India Company on a sliver of land bought from local Nayak rulers in the district of Chennapatnam which was leased from King Abdullah Qutb Shah of the dynasty of Iranian origin of Hyderabad-Deccan. The area was added to the Qutb Shahi dominions by the Iranian statesman and adventurer, Mohammad Sa'eed Ardestani of Isfahan, titled "Mir Jumla", who later went over to the Mughal court in northern India and was made governor of Bengal. Madras is derived from the Arabic word "Madrasah" (school), since there were several Islamic schools in the area. Currently it is the capital of the Tamil Nadu State of India.

223 solar years ago, on this day in 1791 AD, the enslaved black African people rose against the French colonialists on Saint-Domingue Island, an event known as the Haitian Slave Rebellion. It culminated in the elimination of slavery and the founding of the Republic of Haiti. The Haitian Revolution was the only slave revolt which led to the founding of a state. It ended in November 1803 with the French defeat in the Battle of Vertieres. Haiti won independence in January 1804.

166 solar years ago, on this day in 1848 AD, the US, as part of its expansionist policies, annexed New Mexico. In the 1830s, it had occupied Texas and in 1846 had seized from Mexico the large region of California including what are now the southwestern US states.

165 solar years ago, on this day in 1849 AD, the first air raid in history was launched by Austria through pilotless balloons against the city of Venice.

66 solar years ago, on this day in 1950 AD, Egypt's Hassan Abdur-Rahim, the first Muslim to swim the English Channel between Britain and France, did it for the 3rd time and won the Daily Mail race. In all, he swam across the English Channel four times - 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951.

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

Martyrdom of Imam Sadeq (AS)

By: Dr. Hassan Najafi

*In his name the surest bliss to find
Caters virtue to one's mind,
We trust in your love though we have a feeble ray
Zahra's pearls have more worth than they.
No faults at all - merits if to scan
It's generosity to give before charity began.
He guided the people to heaven without delay
Allured to the brighter world and led the way
You organised what was shattered and torn
To each field decided its corn.
Your teachings became a school
Your services to Islam are as water to a pool.
Angels befriending you, since virtue's friend
Your labour still moves to make better the end.
See how your martyrdom is commemorated every year
Tell me what you did, mankind holds you so dear.
To revive a wretched, is to you a pride
Your every deed manifests virtue's side.
You wept for the people and the deeds done
Shouldered their pain, showed how heaven is won.
To surrender to poison is ease and calm
You are the Sixth Imam.*

Tehran Street Named After Gaza Children

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Islamic City Council of Tehran has renamed a main street in the Iranian capital to commemorate the defenseless people of the Gaza Strip.

The boulevard located in northeastern Tehran hosts United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. It was previously named Shahrzad.

The decision was made on Tuesday during the 87th public session of Tehran City Council, based on a proposal from the foreign ministry, the Chairman of the Council Ahmad Masjed Jamei said.

Masjed Jamei said the proposal was approved given the fact that murdering children is the most heinous crime in the Zionist regime's onslaught on Gaza.

After the Israeli military unleashed merciless attacks on the densely-inhabited Gaza Strip on July 8, Iranian students have on multiple occasions staged gatherings in front of the UN offices in Tehran and Mashhad to protest against the Zionist regime's aggressions.

Iranian Scientist Selected Member of COMEST



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Azam Irajzad, faculty member of Sharif University of Technology Physics Department was selected as member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

According to Public Relations Department of National Elites Foundation, she is the first Iranian scientist admitted to the commission.

COMEST is an advisory body and forum of reflection that was set up by UNESCO in 1998.

It is composed of eighteen leading scholars from scientific, legal, philosophical, cultural and political disciplines from various regions of the world, appointed by the UNESCO Director-General in their individual capacity, along with eleven ex officio members representing UNESCO's international science programs and global science communities.

The Commission is mandated to formulate ethical principles that could provide decision-makers with criteria that extend beyond purely economic considerations.

COMEST works in several areas: environmental ethics, biodiversity, water and disaster prevention; the ethics of nanotechnologies along with related new and emerging issues in converging technologies; ethical issues relating to the technologies of the information society; science ethics; and gender issues in ethics of science and technology.

MP Underlines Enhanced Iran-Croatia Academic Ties



Jabbar Kouchakinejad (R) - Striebor Keric (L)

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - An Iranian legislator said Iran and Croatia can unleash their scientific potential in a bid to serve the interests of the two nations.

"Employing the two countries' capabilities, particularly in the scientific, educational and academic fields, will serve the interest of the two nations," Jabbar Kouchakinejad, head of Iran-Croatia parliamentary friendship group said in a meeting with the European country's new ambassador to Iran, Striebor Keric, here in Tehran.

The lawmaker also voiced the parliamentary group's backing for the broadening of ties between Tehran and Zagreb in diverse arenas.

The European envoy, for his part, emphasized that the Croatian government and parliament both care about development of relations with Iran.

Earlier in June, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a meeting with Keric had said the economic relations between Tehran and Zagreb are far from "desirable", expressing the hope for a jump in the trade ties between the two nations.

"Iran is ready to cooperate with Croatia in the bilateral and international spheres," the president said.

After Croatia declared independence in June 1991, Iran became the 7th country to recognize the newly independent Southeastern Europe nation. Since April 1992, the two countries have had diplomatic relations.

Ilam Hosts Souvenir Exhibition

TEHRAN (CHN) -- Iranian artisans from western provinces of the country launched a handicraft and souvenir exhibition in Ilam city.

Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh, the head of Ilam's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department, said artists from 12 provinces are participating in the event.

The official added that 25 kinds of handicrafts and souvenirs, which were produced by the residents of Zagros Mountain Range, have been displayed in 110 pavilions.

"The latest Iranian handmade artworks have been showcased in 30 stalls," he said, adding that the expo is held with the aim of introducing the tourism capabilities of Ilam.

Shanbehzadeh said visitors will be able to enjoy live traditional music performances.

"Ilam, with its monuments and unique handicrafts, has a 6,000-year-old civilization," he said.

"The region has many kinds of handicrafts, including carpet, jajim, and embossed kilim and felt products."

Picture of the Day



Painting Workshop in support of the oppressed people of Gaza by 30 artist - Tehran - Iran

Courtesy: IRNA