

This Day in History

(July 28)

Today is Monday, 6th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 30th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1435 lunar hijri; and July 28, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1564 solar years ago, on this day in 450 AD, Eastern Roman Emperor, Theodosius II, died at the age of 49 in a riding accident. He presided over the outbreak of two christological controversies, Nestorianism and Eutychianism, and fought an almost two-year inconclusive war with the Sassanid Empire of Iran. In 421, Bahram V succeeded his father Yazdegerd I, who shortly before he had been killed, began a persecution of Christians as reprisal for attacks against Zoroastrian temples by Christians during his reign. Bahram continued this persecution, and among those killed was his father's Christian counselor, James Interciscus, who was cut to pieces. This incident, along with friction in trade ties and border issues, made Theodosius declare war on Persia in 421. The conflict raged across the borders of the two empires in southeastern Turkey, northern Syria and to some extent in Armenia. In 422, the Romans and the Iranians signed the peace treaty that returned everything to the situation before the war. Both sides agreed to reject Arab defectors of the other party, as well as to guarantee liberty of religion in their territories.

719 lunar years ago, on this day in 716 AH, the 8th ruler of the Ilkhanid Dynasty of Iran-Iraq-Afghanistan-Caucasus-and Anatolia, Sultan Oljeitu Khodabanda, died at the age of 36 after a reign of 12 years and ten months, and was buried in the famous mausoleum of Soltaniyeh that he had built for himself near Qazvin in northwestern Iran. Born a Buddhist and baptized as Christian, he became a Muslim along with his elder brother and predecessor, Sultan Mahmoud Ghazaa. In the 6th year of his reign, following a lively debate at his court among the scholars of the Shafei, Hanafai, Hanbali, Maliki and Ja'fari schools of Jurisprudence, during which the celebrated theologian Allamah Hilli proved the rationality of the School of the Ahl al-Bayt, Oljeitu became a staunch Shi'ite Muslim and decreed that henceforth this would be the official creed of his dominions. In Shiraz, he founded a Dar as-Siyadah for descendants of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and endowed it with an income of 10,000 Dinars a year. Another Imami scholar who impressed Oljeitu was Sheikh Maitihm al-Bahrani and his rationalistic philosophical school of Bahrain. Oljeitu fought for control of Syria with the Mamluks of Egypt and after an unsuccessful bid to hold on to Damascus, he withdrew his forces from the Levant.

264 solar years ago, on this day in 1750 AD, the German musician and composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, died at the age of 65 years. Many of his songs are religious, and he also played a pivotal role in the progress and perfection of German music. Later in his life he went blind. He has composed numerous works, including a number of carols.

220 solar years ago, on this day in 1794 AD, with the execution of Maximilien Robespierre and a group of his supporters, the Reign of Terror in France came to its end. This one-year period started when upon the order of parliament, which administered the affairs of France following the victory of the Revolution, a court was set up to counter the anti-revolutionaries. Robespierre, who was one of the main leaders of the revolution, intended to gain absolute authority in France, and executed many of his opponents, to this end. During the Reign of Terror, more than 120,000 summary executions took place, and many prominent persons were killed such as the chemist, Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, and poet, Andre Marie Chenier.

193 solar years ago, on this day in 1821 AD, Peru gained independence from Spain rule. Home to the Inca Empire and Civilization that dominated northwest South America from the 12th to the 16th centuries, Peru and its rich culture were destroyed by the Spanish invaders, who ruthlessly massacred the indigenous people.

136 solar years ago, on this day in 1878 AD, the Treaty of Berlin was signed by representatives of Russia, France, Britain, and Austria as well as other German-speaking states (forming the federation of Prussia), at the end of the Berlin Congress called by German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, to determine the national identity of Germany.

100 solar years ago, on this day in 1914 AD, the Austria-Hungary Empire declared war on Serbia after it rejected the conditions of an ultimatum on July 23 following the assassination of crown prince, Archduke Francis Ferdinand. This started World War I, with the Austria-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires on one side, and the Russian and British Empires on the other.

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD during World War II, Operation Gomorrah launched by the British air force on Hamburg caused a firestorm that killed 42,000 German civilians.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1976 AD, a major earthquake shook the East Chinese city of Tangshan claiming 600,000 lives and leaving millions injured and homeless. This 7.8 degree trembler was the second major earthquake that jolted China in the 20th Century.

25 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people, in a referendum, approved amendments to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution to increase the president's powers and eliminated the post of prime minister.

(July 29)

Tomorrow is Tuesday, 7th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1435 lunar hijri; and July 29, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Today is Eid-e Fitr, one of the major Islamic festivals. After the month-long fasting of Ramadhan, Muslims celebrate this day as thanksgiving to the Almighty Lord. The day starts with the special congregational Eid Prayer, which is indeed a glorious sight with rows upon rows of believers bowing and prostrating in unison.

1392 lunar years ago, on this day in 43 AH, the Omayyad partisan and governor of Egypt, Amr Ibn al-Aas, died at the age of 93 in a state of acute mental agony while recalling his crimes against Islam and humanity, including how he had tried to cheat Imam Ali (AS) of the caliphate by declaring Mu'awiyah Ibn Abu Sufyan as the caliph. Born out of wedlock in Mecca to a morally-loose bondswoman, named Layla bint Harmalah and called "Nabigha", his paternity was open to doubt in those freewheeling days of Jahiliyya because of his mother's promiscuous relations with at least five persons at the same time, including Abu Sufyan and Aas Ibn Wa'el. Although Amr greatly resembled the stingy miser Abu Sufyan in appearance, his mother by citing the issue of maintenance claimed that the rather generous Aas had fathered her child. With the advent of Islam, Amr showed bitter hostility toward Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and when the latter migrated to Medina, he was involved in almost all the battles imposed upon Muslims by the pagan Arabs of Mecca. Earlier, when a group of persecuted Muslims led by the Prophet's cousin, Ja'far Ibn Abu Taleb, sought asylum in Abyssinia he led an unsuccessful mission to the court of the Christian king, Negus, for the handover of the refugees. In 8 AH, two years before the passing away of the Prophet and on the eve of the surrender of Mecca to the Muslims, Amr, sensing the end of the days of paganism, came to Medina along with that other avowed enemy of Islam, Khaled Ibn Waleed, to profess conversion to Islam, although none of his deeds ever supports his claim to be a Muslim. After the Prophet, when the neo-Muslim Arab armies swept across Syria and Palestine, he led the attack on the Roman province of Egypt. When Mu'awiyah built his powerbase in Syria, he joined him as advisor in Damascus and was the evil mind in most of the plots against Imam Ali (AS) including the raising of copies of the holy Qur'an on spear-points during the War of Siffien in order to deceive Muslims and evade a definite defeat. Earlier during the battle, to escape certain death from the flashing blade of Imam Ali (AS), Amr while fleeing, shamelessly disrobed himself, making the Imam turn away from an abhorred sight. In 38 AH he again attacked Egypt and martyred its legal governor, Mohammad Ibn Abu Bakr. Thus during his agonizing death, he felt as if the Mountain of Redhwa was hanging upon his neck and he was being dragged through the eye of a needle.

1110 solar years ago, on this day in 904 AD, Greek Muslim admiral, Raseq al-Wardami, sailing from Syria, took control of Thessalonica, the second largest city of the Byzantium Empire. After a week's stay, during which he seized some 60 ships and forced the Christians to free over 4,000 Muslim prisoners, he sailed back to the Levant. Born as a Christian, and named Leo by his parents, he was an officer in the Byzantine navy, before discovering the truth of Islam and joining the Muslims. Also known as Ghulam Zurafa, three years later in 907, he sailed up the Dardanelles and for a while besieged Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. In 912, he and his fellow Greek Muslim admiral, Damian of Tarsus, known by his Muslim name, Ghulam Yazman, decisively defeated the Byzantine admiral, Himerios, off the island of Chios, in retaliation for an attack by Christians on the Arabs of Cyprus.

1042 lunar years ago, on this day in 393 AH at-Ta'i-Lillah, the 24th caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died twelve years after he was deposed and replaced by his cousin, al-Qader-Billah, by the Iranian Buwayhid ruler, Baha od-Dowlah Daylami. The Buwayhids had installed him as caliph on the death of his father, al-Muti-Lillah, who also owed his caliphate to this powerful dynasty ruling Iraq and Iran. During the caliphate of at-Ta'i, the Abbasid dominions further shrunk in size, with the Hijaz and over half of Syria falling to the Fatimid Shi'ite Ismaili Dynasty of Egypt, while the Turkic chieftains vied for power in the rest of Syria.

320 solar years ago, on this day in 1694 AD, Shah Sulaiman I, the 8th Emperor of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran, died after a reign of 28 years, and was succeeded by his son, Shah Sultan Hussain. Crowned as Shah Safi II on the death of his father, Shah Abbas II, he was brought up in the harem and had little experience of the world outside. He also suffered from poor health. The first year of his reign was markedly unsuccessful. A series of natural disasters, combined with devastating raids by the Cossack Stenka Razin on Iran's Caspian Sea coast, convinced court astrologers that the coronation had taken place at the wrong time, and the ceremony was repeated on March 20, 1667, with the Shah taking the new name of Sulaiman I. He had little interest in administrative affairs, and left political decision-making to his grand viziers, as a result of which, corruption became widespread and discipline in the army was dangerously lax.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1957AD, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was set up by the United Nations for supervision to guarantee the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to prevent its usage for military purposes or production of weapons of mass destruction.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, Iran adopted a new flag, a year after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. It is a tricolour comprising equal horizontal bands of green, white, and red. The Iranian parliament, as per the 1980 constitution, changed the flag and seal of state, replacing the Lion and Sun emblem in the centre with the Word "Allah" (the Almighty Creator). Designed by Hamid Nadimi, and approved by the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), this Emblem is a highly stylized composite of various Islamic elements: a geometrically symmetric form of the Word "Allah" and overlapping parts of the phrase "la ilaha il-Allah" (there is no deity but God), forming a monogram in the form of a tulip it consists of four crescents and a line. The first crescent is the letter "Alif" (A), the second crescent is the first "Laam" (L); the vertical line is another "Laam", and the third and fourth crescents together form the "heh" (H). Above the central stroke is a "tashdid" (a diacritical mark indicating gemination) that resembles "w". The tulip shape of the emblem as a whole memorializes those who have given their life for Iran and symbolizes the values of patriotism and self-sacrifice, building on a legend that red tulips grow from the shed blood of martyrs.

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

Eid ul-Fitr

By: Dr. Hassan Najafi

*Congratulations to all the Muslims worldwide
Great many wishes in this great feast hide.
Eid ul-Fitr is the icing to the cake of Ramadhan's fasts,
If we true to our faith, its blessing lasts,
Unity among Muslims is the prime condition,
That paves the way to Ghadir - faith's perfection!
Once we stood in solidarity even under swords
Unmoved by fear nor lost to gold in hoards,
We were invincible on the battlefields
Enemies quaked; except for God's mercy nothing shields.
So sincerely honest we were to religion
Hence, hailed on us succour from heaven.
Alas, we became divided and split our ranks,
Shunned the shores of divine mercy and the blessed banks,
The devilish enemies pounced upon us,
Sowed seeds of discord through sectarian fuss,
Wahhabis, Takfiris & Salafis, the creation of imperialists,
Tarnish the image of Islam, these dastardly terrorists,
The Zionist have unleashed on Gaza genocide,
A holocaust in the making to burn Palestinian pride,
Our disunity has given them the courage
If united once again, the devils will be in cage.
Still blooming with hope
We stick to God's Rope.
Hoping this Eid ul-Fitr for glories of the past,
This time, by God's Grace, it shall forever last.*

ECO Member States Holding Tourism Meeting in Mazandaran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) heads of chambers of commerce, foreign and health ministers here Saturday welcomed Iran's proposal to hold ECO Health Tourism Conference in Iran's green northern Mazandaran province.

Deputy Head of Iran ECO Office Ahmad Asghari-Ghajar said in Sari, northern Iran that the decision was made by 70 political, economic and health officials from the foreign and ministries and head of the chambers of commerce of the ECO member states.

He said that holding the ECO Health Tourism Conference in Mazandaran will provide a good opportunity for the northern Iranian province to introduce both its

medical and its natural attractions to the other ECO member countries.

'The ECO member states are in need of Iran's medical technology, participation, and cooperation in curing their patients,' he added.

Asghari-Ghajar said that in the field of health tourism capacities, Mazandaran province has invested greatly in construction of modern hospital and has a large number of highly qualified physicians that will be introduced to the ECO countries as the potentials of this beautiful Iranian province in health tourism.

The 10 members of ECO today include Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The Head of ECO Tourism Commission, Mohammad Kaveh, too, who is in charge of the ECO Health Tourism Exhibition said that that specialized exhibition that was initially scheduled to be held in Amol City will be held in Ramsar instead, with 73 booths.

He said that the exhibition will be comprised of 10 booths allocated to food stuff, five to medical herbs, ten to medical equipment, three to health and healthcare services, and the rest to introduction of the special tourism attractions of Mazandaran province.

Kaveh said that the medical science universities of Mazandaran and Babol play decisive and eye-catching roles in the Health Tourism Conference.

'The opening ceremony of Babo Ultra Specialist Hospital is in the schedule of the Health Tourism Conference,' he added.

Medical tourism or health tourism is the travel of people to another country for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment in that country.

English Speaking Tourists Visit Imam Reza's Shrine

TEHRAN (MNA) - A group of English speaking student-tourists have visited Imam Reza's shrine during the last days of Ramadan.

Seventy students from England, Canada and US universities traveled to Iran and visited AQR (Astan Quds Razavi) library and museum. They also visited the holy shrine of Imam Reza - Shias' 8th Imam - in city of Mashhad.

Visitors included students of different fields of studies and during the visit the tour leaders showed them many historical heritages and exquisite works in addition to ancient Quranic manuscripts in the AQR museum.

An American student among the tourists said that exquisite works displayed in the museum add to the awareness of the Muslims about Quran. He added that great number of documents on Islamic theology presented in the museum would help to save any Muslim from deviation.

Another student in the group said that even non-Muslims would learn a lot from the invaluable works of the Astan Quds Razavi Library.

Another American student held that heritages would help us today for better understanding of the history and added that such valuable works are in nowhere in Europe or US so such sources in Mashhad are so precious treasure.

Imam Reza is believed by Shia Muslims as the 8th successor of Prophet Mohammad and passed away in Iran's Toos (Today Mashhad).

In the holy shrine of this passionate Imam, there is a large and worthy museum in addition to a rich library.

Quran Exhibition and Festival Opens in Qeshm Island

Venue of Qeshm hosts the Quran exhibition and festival until August 5 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. local time.



The opening ceremony of the 5th edition of Quran exhibition and festival in Qeshm Island

TEHRAN (IQNA) - The 5th edition of Quran exhibition and festival in Qeshm Island was opened.

It has been held in cooperation with Qeshm Free Zone Authority and Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Some 6000 Quranic titles, Quranic software products and religious works have been presented at 50 sections of the exhibition.

The exhibition also includes children and teenagers section, as well as sections of calligraphers, Quran teachers and experts, Efaf and Hijab.

Quran memorization contest, Tawasheeh, Quran recitation, religious and ritual poetries and photography are various parts of the festival, he added.

The International Exhibition

Picture of the Day



Shir Abad Khan Jungle - Golestan Province- Iran

Courtesy: Tasnim