

This Day in History

(October 2)

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Today is Thursday, 10th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 7th of the Islamic month of Zil-hijjah 1435 lunar hijri; and October 2, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1321 lunar years ago, on this day in 114 AH, Imam Mohammad Baqer (AS), the 5th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in Medina at the age of 57, through poisoning by the Omayyad caliph, Hisham ibn Abdul-Malik. His epithet "Baqer al-Uloom" means Splitter and Spreader of Sciences and he spared no efforts to promote the pure and pristine teachings of Islam in an era when foreign ideas and thoughts were confusing Muslim minds. His period of imamate was 19 years, and he was descended on both sides from the Prophet.

1329 lunar years ago, on this day in 106 AH, the jurisprudent and narrator of hadith, Tawous ibn Kaysan al-Yamani passed away in Mecca. He is said to be of Persian stock from Hamadan and was a resident of Yemen. He has narrated the "munajaat" or whispered supplications to God Almighty of Imam Zayn al-Abedin (AS), the 4th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He is held in esteem by both the Shi'ite and Sunni scholars. The famous Iranian Sunni compilers such as Bukhari, Muslim Naishapuri, Tirmizi, have recorded hadith on his authority.

1256 lunar years ago, on this day in 179 AH, Imam Musa Kazem (AS), the 7th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), after being detained in Medina by the tyrannical Abbasid caliph, Haroun Rashid, was brought to the Iraqi port city of Basra and imprisoned in the palace of the governor, Eisa bin Ja'far. For a year he languished here and was taken to Baghdad to the house of Fazl bin Rabee' for imprisonment. In 183 AH, on the 25th of Rajab, Imam Kazem (AS) left the mortal world, a martyr, after his food was poisoned on the orders of Haroun, who knew that as long as the Prophet's rightful successor was alive, his claim to caliphate was under question.

1218 solar years ago, on this day in 788 AD, Hisham I became Emir of the Omayyad dynasty of Spain following the death of his father Abdur-Rahman Ibn Mu'awiya - the founder of the dynasty and a grandson of the tyrannical self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, Hisham Ibn Abdul-Malik. He ruled for 8 years from his capital Cordoba. During his 8-year rule, he was faced with rebellions from his brothers as well as the penetration south across the western and eastern Pyrenees by Carolingian Christians. In 793 he sent troops to Girona and Narbonne against the Franks. Hisham led a life of austerity shunning ostentation, but continued pressure on the northern Spanish Christian principalities by raiding them almost every year. In 794, he sacked Oviedo, forcing Alfonso II of Asturias to flee to the court of Charlemagne of France.

1072 lunar years ago, on this day in 363 AH, the scholar, orator, and historian, Ahmad ibn Ali ibn Thabet, known popularly as Khateeb al-Baghdadi, passed away in Baghdad at the age of 73. Born near Baghdad, he was the son of a preacher of Darzidjan and began studying at an early age with his father and other scholars. Although he studied other sciences but his primary interest was hadith. At the age of 20 he went to Basra to collect hadith. He then travelled east to Iran and made two trips to Naishapur in Khorasan, collecting in his journey more hadith in Rayy and Isfahan. Back in Baghdad, he acquired fame as a preacher and orator, and it is said that teachers and preachers of hadith would usually submit to him what they had collected before they used them in their lectures or sermons. Initially a follower of the Hanbali School of jurisprudence, he switched over to the Shafi'i school - a change that made Hanbalis his bitter enemies and heap accusations against him. This sectarian hostility forced him to leave Iraq for Syria and settle in Damascus, where he preached for 8 years, and before returning to Baghdad, spent a year in Tyre, Lebanon. He was a prolific writer and has authored several books, the most famous of which is the voluminous history titled "Tarikh al-Baghdad". He has quoted many of the hadith on the merits of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, especially Imam Ali (AS) and Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA).

827 solar years ago, on this day in 1187 AD, a memorable event occurred in Islamic history. A united Muslim army of Arab, Turks, Kurds, and Iranians, under command of the Ayyubid sultan of Egypt and Syria, Salaheddin the Kurd, liberated the Islamic holy city of Bayt al-Moqaddas after 88 years of occupation by the Christian Crusaders of Europe. He thus ended the illegal existence of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, which the European occupiers had set up in Palestine after massacring as many as 70,000 Muslim men, women, and children in Bayt al-Moqaddas in 1099 while seizing it from the Ismaili Shi'ite Fatimid Dynasty of Egypt-North Africa. The anniversary of this day is a reminder to world Muslims that God Willing, Bayt al-Moqaddas will again be liberated and the illegal Zionist entity will cease to exist.

462 solar years ago, on this day in 1552 AD, Kazan, the capital of Tataristan, was occupied after a long siege by Russia's Ivan the Terrible, who massacred as many as 110,000 Tartar Muslims, and forcibly converted to Christianity many others, after destroying mosques or turning them into churches. The fall of Tataristan was the culmination of almost a century of sea-saw struggle for domination of the region by the Muslims and Christians. The Tartar Khan Yadegar Mohammad was captured by the Russians. By 1593, mosques in the area were destroyed and Russia forbade the construction of new mosques, a prohibition that was not lifted until the 18th century. Today Tataristan is an autonomous republic within the Russian Federation and the overwhelming majority of its people are Muslims.

214 solar years ago, on this day in 1800 AD, Nat Turner, the black Afro-American who led the so-called "slave revolution" in the US, was born. In August 1831 after assembling the freedom-seeking black people of Africa who were enslaved in the US, he started an uprising in 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, but was seized and executed. The white Americans then massacred over 200 black people in the southern states, where state legislatures passed laws prohibiting education of the so-called slaves as well as free black-coloured people, as well as restricting rights of assembly and other civil rights for them.

145 solar years ago, on this day in 1869 AD, the leader of India's struggle for independence from British rule, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was born in Por-Bandar seaport of Gujarat. He went to London and trained as lawyer and also lived for sometime in British-ruled South Africa where he was discriminated against by the white authorities because of skin colour. On returning to India, he joined the Congress party and soon led the civil-disobedience movement for independence, as part of his policy of non-violence. Gandhi used to say and also wrote that the factor which inspired him to struggle against heavy odds was the immortal epic of Imam Husain (AS), the Martyr of Karbala. In 1948, he was assassinated by a Hindu terrorist.

117 solar years ago, on this day in 1897 AD, the famous Persian poetess of the Caucasus, Khurshid-Banu Natavan, passed away in Shusha at the age of 65. Daughter of Mahdi Quli Khan, the last ruler of the Qarabagh khanate, she is considered the best lyrical poet of what is known today as the Republic of Azerbaijan and which throughout history has been part of Iran, until its occupation by the Russians in the 19th century. Her ancestor Panah Ali Khan was appointed governor by the Safavid Emperor of Iran.

93 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, the police chief of Khorasan, Colonel Mohammad Taqi Khan Pesyaan, was killed by agents of the regime. He was a highly influential figure and strove for Iran's independence. Following the British-engineered coup to install the colonialist agent Reza Khan as prime minister of the Qajar king, he commenced his struggle against infiltration by foreign powers and their local lackeys. He was joined by officers in Khorasan and soon took charge of all provincial affairs in the name of the beleaguered government of Ahmad Shah Qajar. As a result battles started with Reza Khan's agents, leading to his martyrdom.

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, the Nazi German leader, Adolf Hitler, launched a second offensive on the Soviet Union during World War 2. In its first offensive, started on June 22, 1941, Germany occupied parts of the Soviet Union. The goal was to seize Moscow, prior to the onset of winter. The Soviet people and the army stoutly defended and foiled Hitler's bid.

22 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, a bloody massacre of prisoners took place in Carandiru Penitentiary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, when police stormed it to quell a prison revolt. It left 111 prisoners dead and is considered a major human rights violation in the history of Brazil.

Two solar years ago, on this day 2012 AD, Bahraini activist, 24-year old Mohammad Mushaima, attained martyrdom due to torture and medical negligence by jailors of the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime, prompting the international Human Rights Watch to call for an investigation. He was detained illegally in March 2011 for taking part in a peaceful rally and had been hospitalized since August 2011 because of acute torture.

This Day in History (October 3)

Tomorrow is Friday; 11th of the Iranian month of Mehr 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1435 lunar hijri; and October 3, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1375 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson and 3rd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), left Mecca via the plain of Arafat for Iraq, since he was loathe to see this inviolable land desecrated by bloodshed, as the tyrant Yazid had sent assassins to attack him. Four months earlier, the Imam had left his hometown, Medina after refusing to acknowledge the illegitimate rule of Yazid. In Mecca, the Imam informed people of the corrupt and oppressive nature of the Godless Omayyads. The reason he left for Iraq was the repeated invitation of the people of Kufa to resolve their affairs. His departure without completing the Hajj, made the Muslims aware of the anti-Islamic policies of Yazid.

1114 solar years ago, on this day in 900 AD, the Alawid Emir of Tabaristan, Mohammad Ibn Zayd, known as "ad-Da'i as-Sagheer" (the Younger Missionary), attained martyrdom, a day after he was mortally wounded in battle near Gorgan, while defending his realm of the Caspian Sea coast of Iran against the Samanid invaders. He was 6th in line of descent from Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The Samanid army decapitated his corpse and took his head to Bukhara, while the body was buried at the gate of Gorgan and soon became a centre of pilgrimage. His death ended the 36-year rule of the First Alawid state established in what are now the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan He rebuilt the holy shrines of Najaf and Karbala that were destroyed some forty years earlier by the Godless Abbasid tyrant Mutawakkel.

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

Iran to Hold German Cultural Week Events



Iran will hold German Cultural Week events.

TEHRAN (MNA) - German Cultural Week will take place at Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on October 3.

Director of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF), Majid Sarsangi, attended a press conference of Germany's Cultural Week in Iran and said, "IAF makes a great effort to hold international events. Since 2011, we have attempted to have intentional artists beside Iranian ones to attend IAF's programs and to exchange their artistic experiences by showcasing their works."

"IAF has had joint events with countries such as South Korea, India, Turkey, Afghanistan, Japan, Finland, Venezuela, Austria and Germany. After this cultural week with Germany, we will hold one with Afghanistan."

Sarsangi stressed the importance of international events and said, "Holding international cultural events helps Iranian artists get to know artists from other countries and exchange their experiences with one another. On the other hand, it can also help redeem the falsified

image of Iran which foreign media have broadcasted to the world. International cultural events have a significant role in introducing the real and civilized image of Iran to the rest of the world, and fortunately cultural activities both inside and outside of Iran have been able to clear some of other countries' misconceptions about Iran."

He pointed to Germany's Cultural Week and said, "Germany has a good position among European countries in the field of culture and art, cinema, theater, music, visual arts and architecture. With its prominent philosophers, Germany has been able to create a link between philosophy and culture which has had a great influence on forming German culture."

Germany's ambassador to Iran, Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, pointed to Iran and Germany's old and deep ties mostly in the economic area and said, "language and culture play a significant role in forming ties

and as of now we have formed strong cultural relations with Iran."

"This cultural event will take place in the sections of photography and cinema on October 3," German ambassador continued, "this is the first time that such a cultural event takes place which includes three main sections of cinema, literature, and photography."

"The Silk Road exhibition will run until October 7 at Silk Road Art Gallery and German photographers will be attending this exhibition. The photo gallery Time Leap will open on October 3 at Iranian Artists Forum. This exhibition showcases the works by two German photographers with the same subject but in two different periods of time."

"Other programs during this cultural week include story reading, film screening and art symposium of Germany between 1960 and 1980."

Germany's Cultural Week will take place at Iranian Artists Forum from 3-9 October.

Iran, Kuwait Sign MoU to Improve Tourism Cooperation

TEHRAN (ISNA) - Iran and Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a bid to boost cooperation in tourism industry. Kuwaiti cabinet approved the MoU to promote mutual tourism cooperation between the two neighbors.

The document was prepared in February as the two sides held joint high commission meeting, and was signed following Kuwaiti Emir's recent trip to Iran. Iran and Kuwait have sought to expand bilateral ties through exchanging several high-ranking delegations in the last few years.

In June, the two countries signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in different fields to pave the ground for the further expansion of their friendly relations and cooperation.

Iran and Kuwait also agreed to invest jointly in construction of a large steel mill in Iran's soil.

Iran-Poland Play Due on Oct. 5

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Poland are to stage a joint play titled 'Dresses' supported by the Artistic Creation Foundation of Niavaran Cultural House and the Polish Embassy in Tehran.

The play's director, Emilia Betlejewska, and one of its actresses, Anna Magalska-Milczarczyk, are from Poland. The play's other actress, Zahra Mehdi Maqouli, is from Iran.

The writer of the play's Polish section is a well-known director and playwright, Helmut Kaiser, and its Iranian section is written by Ali Afzal. The play, which will be on stage for two days in Tehran, narrates different lives of an Iranian woman and a Polish one. The director intends to show the Iranian woman's strength and resistance when faced with problems compared with the inability of the Polish woman in solving her own.

The play will be performed on October 5 and 6 at Niavaran Cultural House.

Mashhad to Host Quranic Exhibition

TEHRAN (IQNA) - The holy city of Mashhad, northeast of Iran, will host the 4th Quranic Tazhib (illumination) exhibition.

161 Tazhib works by 116 Iranian artists will be put on display at the expo, which is slated to kick off on Monday, October 6.

The exhibition will run at two art galleries, Rezvan and Bahar, until Thursday, October 16, Fars news agency reported.

The Quranic Tazhib exhibition is held in Iran every two years.

Tazhib (illumination or gilding) is an Arabic word which has been derived from "zahab" meaning "gold". Gilding currently means to draw beautiful patterns of plants or geometrical shapes on the margins of books, especially religious books.

At the beginning, golden color was used in this art and this is why they called it "tazhib" (gilding). Other colors like azure, blue, green, vermilion, and turquoise have also been used along with gold.

ISIL Committing Cultural Cleansing in Iraq: UNESCO

BAGHDAD (Press TV) -The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has warned that ISIL terrorist group is committing "cultural cleansing" in Iraq.

UNESCO Chief Irina Bokova said ISIL Takfiri militants have caused irreparable damage to Muslim shrines, churches and precious manuscripts in the cities of Mosul, Tikrit and other areas since June when the terrorist group occupied large swaths of Iraq.

She said that UNESCO had alerted all states as well as "the main museums around the world and the art market, Interpol, the World Customs Organization ... by calling for the utmost vigilance over objects that could come from the current looting of Iraqi heritage."

Experts, who gathered at UNESCO's Paris headquarters, also warned that ISIL terrorists are destroying and looting age-old heritage sites to sell valued artifacts on the black market abroad.

"There were explosions that destroyed buildings dating back to the Assyrian era," said Baghdad museum director Qais Rashid, referring to the once powerful, ancient empire.

"Assyrian tablets were stolen and were suddenly found in European cities," he added, warning that the money the terrorists gain by selling such artifacts would "finance terrorism."

"There are international mafias ... that inform ISIS (ISIL) of what can be sold," he said.

Rashid also said that ISIL militants "gathered over 1,500 manuscripts from convents and other holy places and burned all of them" in the middle of a square in Mosul.

The Takfiri militants have demolished several holy shrines and mosques belonging to Shia and Sunni Muslims as well as Christian sites in the militancy-riddled regions of Iraq and Syria.

The ISIL terrorists currently control parts of Syria and Iraq. They have carried out heinous crimes in the two countries, including mass executions and beheadings of people.



Largest passenger plane lands in Iran for the first time

Courtesy: Tasnim