

This Day in History

(October 26)

Today is Sunday; 4th of the Iranian month of Aban 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Moharram 1436 lunar hijri; and October 26, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Several thousand years ago, on this day, Prophet Idris was raised to the heavens on completion of his mission to restore monotheism to mankind after people had deviated from the worship of the One and Only God, and taken to weird forms of polytheism including fire-worship. His name was Anoukh (Enoch in the Bible) and he is believed to be 7th in line of descent from the Father of the human race, Adam. The reason he was called Idris is because of possessing great wisdom and knowledge, which he used to teach others. According to exegesis he taught to mankind the art of weaving cloth and sewing garments, since before his time people used to wear animal skins. He was the first man to invent writing and use the pen, as well as being the first to record and measure the movement of the stars and set up scientific weights and measures. He was the great-grandfather of Prophet Noah and his house was the Sahla Mosque that today lies outside the city of Kufa in Iraq. Idris is often called the “Prophet of the Philosophers” and a number of works are attributed to him. He built many cities including monuments in western Egypt. Interestingly, the Sahla Mosque will be the home of Imam Mahdi (AS), the 12th and Last Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) when he reappears in the end times to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice.

1442 lunar years ago, on this day, in the 6th year before Hijra, the pagan Arab leaders of Mecca, fearful of the spread of the monotheistic liberating creed of Islam, signed an accord to impose economic-social sanctions on Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), thereby banning all trade ties and any relations with the fledgling Muslim community. The Prophet’s uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb (AS) took the Muslims under his care and retired to a gorge outside Mecca which still bears his name as Sh’eb Abi Taleb. During this 3-year period, the Muslims suffered acute hardships, and in order to ease their economic plight, the Prophet’s wife, Omm al-Momineen Khadija (SA), spent all her vast wealth on their basic needs, to the extent that she passed away in poverty for the sake of Islam. It was the duty of the Prophet’s young cousin and ward, Imam Ali (AS) to procure grains for the besieged Muslims by risking his life and limbs. As the sanctions and boycott failed to have their effect, the frustrated Arab pagans lifted the siege three years later, and when they unlocked the box containing the accord, they were surprised to see that all its contents, except the Name of God, had been eaten by termites. Sadly, just before the lifting of the siege and sanctions, the Prophet became a widower as his one and only wife of twenty-five long years, the Mother of all True Believers, Hazrat Khadija (SA) passed away, leaving as orphan her young daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA).

1416 lunar years ago, on this day in 20 AH, the ancient land of Egypt was liberated by Muslim forces from the oppressive rule of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire. Most of the Egyptians welcoming the Muslims as liberators renounced Christianity and accepted Islam.

1355 lunar years ago, on this day in 81 AH, Mohammad al-Hanafiyya passed away at the age of 66. He was a son of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), while his mother was Khowla, whom the Imam had married a couple of years after the martyrdom of his beloved wife, the Prophet’s daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). Known for his piety, courage and rectitude; during his father’s caliphate he was one of the four chief lieutenants, and distinguished himself in the Battles of Jamal and Siffin. Due to ill health he did not accompany his brother, Prophet Mohammad’s younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS), to Karbala, and after the tragedy, he was considered head of the House of Imam Ali (AS), since his nephew Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) preferred to keep a low profile. It was in Mohammad al-Hanafiyya’s name that Mukhtar Ibn Abu Obaida Saqafi launched the uprising in Kufa to avenge the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS).

1089 solar years ago, on this day in 925 AD, the famous Iranian Islamic physician and chemist, Mohammad ibn Zakariyya Razi, passed away at the age of 60. Born in Rayy, he followed his father’s profession of goldsmith before turning to chemistry and honing is skills in medicine, geometry, logic, and philosophy. He has compiled almost 250 works in different scientific courses, including “*al-Hawi*”, “*al-Mansouri*”, and “*Sayrat al-Falsafiyah*.”

804 lunar years ago, on this day in 632 AH, the Iranian Shafei mystic, Shehab od-Din Omar Ibn Mohammad Suhravardi, passed away. Born in the village of Suhravard, near Zanjan, 300 km northwest of Tehran, in a family descended from the Martyr, Mohammad Ibn Abu Bakr – the adopted son and governor of Egypt of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) – he expanded the Suhravardiyya Sufi order founded by his paternal uncle, Abu Najib Suhravardi. He wrote the mystical work, “*Awara’ al-Ma’aref*” (Gifts of Deep Knowledge) and among his disciples was the famous poet, Shaikh Sa’di Shirazi. It is worth noting that Qamar od-Din Khan Asef Jah Nizam ul-Mulk the Founder of the Asef Jahi Dynasty of Haiderabad-Deccan in India, was a direct descendent of Shehab od-Din Suhravardi the Mystic – who should not be confused with his namesake, compatriot and contemporary, the philosopher of the Illuminationist School.

424 lunar years ago, on this day in 1011 AH, the scholar Shaikh Hassan Ibn Zain od-Din, passed away at the age of 52 in his homeland Lebanon. He was the son of the famous “*Shaheed Thani*” (Second Martyr), and was a product of the Najaf Seminary in Iraq. He wrote the famous book “*Ma’ale’ al-Usool*”. In Lebanon he groomed numerous students.

348 solar years ago, on this day in 1666 AD, the Safavid Emperor of Iran, Shah Abbas II, died in Khosru-Abad near Damghan at the age of 34 after a reign of 24 years. His rule was relatively peaceful and was free of any Ottoman attack. In 1648 he retook Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan from the Mughals of India. The early death of this capable ruler was a great blow to Iran. He was succeeded by his inefficient and superstitious son, Shah Sulayman

325solar years ago, on this day in 1689 AD, General Enea Silvio Piccolomini of Austria, while leading an army against the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans, burned down Skopje – presently the capital of the Republic of Macedonia – on the pretext of stopping the spread of cholera, but this did not prevent his own death soon from cholera affliction. The fire lasted two days, burning much of the city. The population fell from around 60,000 to around 10,000.

201 solar years ago, on this day in 1813 AD, Canadians and the native Mohawks joined together to defeat the Americans in the Battle of Chateaugay, when the US tried to invade and occupy Canada. The plan of US Secretary of War, John Armstrong, was to capture Montreal, which would have led to the conquest of all Upper Canada. But the resistance by the Canadians and Amerindian natives, coupled with British counterattacks defeated the Americans and forced them to abandon their expansionist designs, although they did succeed in sabotaging the prospect of an independent Amerindian state in the Midwest. The war lasted from 1812 to 1815 during which the Americans conducted genocide of Amerindian tribes, while the British captured and burned Washington, in addition to seizing New York, before defeat and withdrawal that led to the formal recognition of the USA by London.

141 solar years ago, on this day in 1873 AD, the noted statesman of the Subcontinent, Abu’l-Qassem Fazl ul-Haq, known as Sher-e-Bangla (Tiger of Bengal), was born in what is now Bangladesh. He was a senior figure of the Congress Party, but as Muslim in the 1920s, he organised the Muslim League which was later led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He played a crucial role in drafting and presenting the Lahore Resolution and had active public position in British India advocating for the Pakistan Movement in the 1940s. After establishment of Pakistan, he was appointed Chief Minister of East Pakistan in 1952, and in 1955 became the Interior Minister of Pakistan. Sher-e-Bangla founded several educational and technical institutions for Bengali Muslims, including Islamia College in Calcutta and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka. Today throughout Bangladesh, educational institutions, roads, neighbourhoods, and stadiums have been named after him. In Islamabad, Pakistan, the Fazl ul-Haq Road is named after him. He passed away at the age of 89 in Dhaka.

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1947 AD, following the independence of the subcontinent from British colonial rule and its partition into India and Pakistan, the strategic Muslim land of Jammu and Kashmir was annexed by India against the wishes of the Kashmiri people, on the pretext that the British-installed Hindu minority ruler prefers to accede to India. This prompted Pakistan to send troops into Jammu and Kashmir and in the resulting war that ended through UN intervention calling for plebiscite, the land was split between the two neighbours, with two-thirds under Indian occupation, and the rest under Pakistan. The Kashmir question has dragged on with disastrous results for the Kashmiri Muslim people, the overwhelming majority of whom prefer independence. India and Pakistan fought two more wars over Kashmir in 1965 and 1971.

59 solar years ago, on this day in 1955 AD, following the plots hatched by Western regimes, Vietnam, which was struggling for liberation from French colonial rule, was divided into two parts. The goal was the US bid to gain foothold in the region on the pretext of stopping the spread of communism. The brutal war imposed by the US on the pretext of the fabricated incident of the Gulf of Tonkin, ended after over a decade in 1975, with the collapse of the artificial state of South Vietnam and the unity of the country.

50 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), on release from prison delivered a speech strongly denouncing the judicial immunity granted to US nationals in Iran by the Pahlavi regime. He also condemned the US and Israel. The remarks of the beloved Imam enlightened the people and angered the despotic regime, to the extent that it again detained him and a few days later sent him into exile.

35 lunar years ago, on this day in 1400 AH, some 300 men, led by Juhaimeen al-Otaiba seized Islam’s holiest site, the Masjid al-Haraam or Sacred Mosque that houses the holy Ka’ba in Mecca as part of their uprising against the British-created Saudi regime. The Wahhabi minority regime refused to listen to the demands for reforms by the group and after besieging them for two weeks in the Masjid al-Haraam it sacrilegiously stormed this holiest site with the assistance of non-Muslim French troops, resulting in a great bloodbath around the holy Ka’ba. At least 244 people were massacred. The captured were never brought before public or given a fair trial. Over a year-and-a-half later, 36 more people were beheaded by the Saudi regime.

19 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, Dr. Fathi Shazaqi, the Secretary-General of Palestine’s Islamic Jihad, and an active combatant against the illegal Zionist entity, was martyred by Mossad agents on the Mediterranean island state of Malta at the age of 44 years. He was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza, and studied medicine at Cairo University.

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

Tehran Univ. Hosts Refugee Children’s Painting Expo

TEHRAN (IRNA) - **Tehran University hosted a painting exhibition by refugee children on Friday which was attended by representatives of international agencies in Iran.**

The fair was organized by the World Food Program (WFP).

The executive secretary of the painting exhibition Amir Roshan said that the sale of the 38 exhibited paintings will be given to the refugee children themselves.

“The works were selected from 4000 paintings gathered from 16 camps

during nine months,” he added.

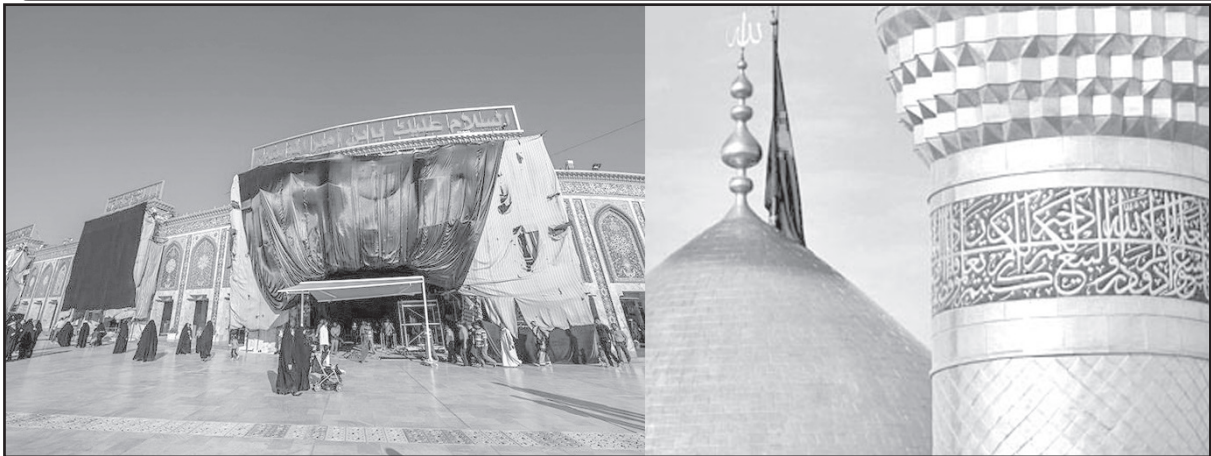
In a speech in the opening ceremony of the exhibition, the WFP representative in Iran, Negar Gerami said: “Despite their suffering, the world of refugee children is full of colors.”

The Islamic Republic is the 2nd

country known to host refugees, in particular, Afghan refugees which it is sheltering for nearly 30 years.

According to a report released by the WFP in the country, currently 840,000 Afghan and 45,000 Iraqi refugees live in Iran.

Flags of Mourning Raised on Holy Shrines in Karbala



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KARBALA (IQNA) - **On the eve of the first day of Muharram, first month on the lunar Hijri calendar, black flags have been put up on the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and Hazrat Abbas**

(AS) in Karbala, Iraq.

In a ceremony held Saturday morning, the red flags that were on top of the holy shrines’ domes were replaced with black ones.

This symbolizes that the time has come for mourning ceremonies commemorating the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

Iranian, Tajik Cultural Officials Discuss Expansion of Cooperation

DUSHANBE (FNA) - **Iran’s Cultural Attaché in Dushanbe Mohammad Hassan Sanati and Tajik Culture Minister Shamsiddin Orumbekov, in a meeting in the Central Asian country on Saturday, emphasized the need for both Tehran and Dushanbe to boost efforts to expand bilateral cultural ties.**

In a meeting, Orumbekov described Iran-Tajikistan’s ties as excellent, particularly in the cultural fields.

The Tajik official announced his country’s readiness to boost cultural ties with Iran, and said that the shared Persian language is a precious treasure for

cultural activities and relations.

Sanati, for his part, voiced Tehran’s readiness for promotion of cultural relation, and meantime, and submitted the formal innovation of the Iranian culture minister to visit Iran to discuss new avenues of broadening cultural ties.

Iran and Tajikistan have sped up expanding their ties and cooperation and observers believe that the good achievements gained in area of their mutual cooperation should be deemed as a result of the efforts made by the two countries’ officials.



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Iranian Musician Leads Iraqi Symphony Orchestra

BAGHDAD (IRNA) - **Iranian musician and conductor Arash Amini led the Iraqi Symphony Orchestra as a guest conductor in a special ceremony.**

Amini had been invited by Iraq’s cul-

ture ministry to conduct the orchestra.

This was the first step towards high-level cooperation between both states in the arts and culture fields.

The performance, which was in

two sections, featured compositions, such as ‘Romeo and Juliet’, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in the first part while works by the Iranian-Armenian composer Loris Tjeknavorian were

performed in the second part.

Pointing to his visit to Iraq, Amini said, “I hope this will be a turning point in bilateral cultural cooperation, and provide grounds for further robust ties in the future.”

American Tourists to Visit Iran in 2016

TEHRAN (ISNA) - **Manager of an American tourism company who arrived in Iran by Golden Eagle Danube Express said a group of tourists from the US would visit Iran in 2016.**

Jim Friedlander is Manager of Tourism Company in New York, established 37 years ago. Members and establishments affiliated to the US museums usually use the company for trips.

He has already brought members of Metropolitan Museum of Art to Iran.

Now Friedlander is in Tehran along with his wife to investigate conditions for the trip to Iran via the train and Iranian railroad.

“I came by the train to try this kind of trip. Because Americans plan to visit Iran by the train in the near future,” he said.

“We have made planning for Americans’ visit to Iran in 2016. Therefore, we need to investigate all conditions and make planning for the project to be carried out exactly and properly.”

Tourists from Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Denmark, Britain, Australia, Spain, Singapore and Turkey have already arrived in Iran in two 78-member groups via the train.

Picture of the Day



Laver ceremony is one of the oldest traditions and rites rituals during the month of Muharram in Ardebil province- Iran

Courtesy: IRNA