

This Day in History

(November 27)

Today is Thursday; 6th of the Iranian month of Azar 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 4th of the Islamic month of Safar 1436 lunar hijri; and November 27, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1412 solar years ago, on this day in 602 AD, Roman Emperor Maurice was murdered by the usurper Phocas days after his overthrow, and before being beheaded was forced to watch his six sons executed. His eldest son and designated heir, Theodosius, fled to the Sassanid court for aid, prompting the Iranian Emperor Khosrau Pervez, who years earlier had sought asylum in Constantinople and regained the throne in Ctesiphon with the aid of Maurice by defeating Bahram Chubin, to launch a massive invasion of the Roman Empire. Maurice, during his 20-year reign, had successfully brought to an end the intermittent wars between the Iranians and Romans, and his backing of Khosrau Pervez had yielded rich rewards, since for the first time in nearly two centuries the Romans were no longer obliged to pay the Persians millions of pounds of gold annually for peace. Thus, the seizure of power by Phocas renewed the traditional wars, and resulted in the loss of Syria, Egypt and all of modern day Turkey, right up to the gates of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) to the Iranians. Phocas was eventually killed and replaced by Heraclius who successfully ended the 25-year war that proved cataclysmic for both the empires, which within the next five years were overrun by Arab Muslims, thereby completely changing the demography and history of the region.

313 solar years ago, on this day in 1701 AD, Swedish physicist, Anders Celsius, was born in Uppsala in an academic family. His father and grandfather were mathematicians. He was placed in charge of the observatory of Uppsala. In 1742, he invented the thermometer; hence the temperature is called Celsius. The Celsius fixed scale (often called centigrade) for measuring temperature defines zero degrees as the temperature at which water freezes, and 100 degrees as the temperature at which water boils. The Celsius degree was internationally accepted in 1948.

198 solar years ago, on this day in 1816 AD, US soldiers attacked an Amerindian village in Florida and began the First Seminole War that lasted till 1819. The Seminole Wars, also known as the Florida Wars, were three conflicts in Florida between US army and the Seminole — the collective name given to the amalgamation of various groups of native Americans and the blacks who settled in Florida in the early 18th century. The Second Seminole War lasted from 1835 to 1842, and the Third Seminole War from 1855 to 1858. These were the largest conflicts in the United States between the War of 1812 against the British and the American Civil War of 1861-65. The first war with the Seminoles arose out of tensions relating to General Andrew Jackson's attack and destruction of Negro Fort in Florida. Jackson also attacked the Spanish at Pensacola. Ultimately, Spain ceded Florida. The US has a bloody record of expansionism and genocide.

188 solar years ago, on this day in 1826 AD, English pharmacist, John Walker, invented the first practical, strike-anywhere, friction match. He used 3-inch splints of wood, tipped with potassium chlorate, antimony sulfide, and gum Arabic. The match head was ignited by drawing it through a fold of fine glass paper. It soon developed into the present day safety matches.

146 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, US Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry killed Amerindian Chief, Black Kettle, and slaughtered about 100 Cheyenne (mostly women and children) on the Washita River near present day Cheyenne, in Oklahoma State.

119 solar years ago, on this day in 1895 AD, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the Swedish chemist, engineer, innovator, and armaments manufacturer, signed his last will at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, setting aside his estate to establish the Nobel Prize. He deposited the huge amount in a bank in Stockholm. In it, he provided for most of his fortune to be put in trust to establish the Nobel Prizes. As the inventor of new, more powerful explosives used in the weapons of war, especially whose use in the killing of fellow humans he deeply regretted, he left a legacy to reward those persons who provided benefits to mankind in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology, literature and peace. Unfortunately, in violation of his will, the peace prize has been politicized and given to warmongers and those leaders with a criminal record of massacre of fellow humans, as part of the West's domineering, divisive, exploitative and murderous policies.

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, German troops lost the fierce battle of tanks against Soviet forces in Kursk near Moscow during World War II, triggering the start of the Nazi army's failure on the Russian front.

67 lunar years ago, on this day in 1369 AH, the great Gnostic, Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Ali Shahabadi, passed away in Tehran at the age of 77. He groomed many students at the Qom Seminary including the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Ayatollah Shahabadi wrote a large number of books and treatises including "al-Insaaan wa'l-Khataa'at"

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, the Bahamas ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, bringing to 141 the number of signatories. The treaty, which bans all nuclear explosions, will not enter into force until it has been ratified by all 44 states listed in an annex that participated in a 1996 disarmament conference and had nuclear power or research reactors at the time. Only 34 countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have ratified the pact. Those who have not include the nuclear powers: US, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

This Day in History (November 28)

Tomorrow is Friday; 7th of the Iranian month of Azar 1393 solar hijri; corresponding to 5th of the Islamic month of Safar 1436 lunar hijri; and November 28, 2014, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

885 lunar years ago, on this day in 551 AH, the theologian, physician, astronomer, and mathematician, Kamal od-Din Ibn Yunus, was born in Mosul, in Iraq. In addition to Islamic knowledge, he was an expert on other religions, to the extent that Jews and Christians referred to him for explanation of passages of the Torah and the Evangel. He was a poet as well, and had studied under the Iranian astronomer, Sharaf od-Din Muzaffar ibn Mohammad Tusi, and in turn taught mathematics and astronomy to the celebrated Iranian Islamic genius, Khwaja Naseer od-Din Tusi. He wrote several books including "Asraar as-Sultaniyyah" on astronomy.

550 lunar years ago, on this day in 886 AH, Mahmood Gawan, the able Grand Vizier of the Bahmani kingdom of Iranian origin of the Deccan in south India, was unjustly executed at the age of 73 by Mohammad Shah II, after being falsely accused of treason by his rivals at the court. Born in the Caspian Sea Province of Gilan in northern Iran, Mahmood Gawan was a man of letters and a successful merchant plying the lucrative route from the Persian Gulf port of Gombroun (presently Bandar Abbas) to the Konkan coast of India with cargos of silken fabrics, pearls, Arabian horses, etc, for the Bahmani capital of Bidar — where Persian culture was prevalent and where earlier the elders of the Ne'matollahi Sufi order of Kerman (adhering to the path of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt) were settled. On one such visit at the age of 42, he was given the title of "Malik-ut-Tujjar" (Chief of Traders) by Feroze Shah and offered a post at the court. He stayed in India, and in the reigns of the subsequent kings, he steady rose in the administrative hierarchy because of his efficient management, earning the titles "Wakeel os-Saltanah" and "Khwaja-e Jahan" or Prime Minister — a post that he held for almost two decades, during which he carried out many reforms, strengthened the military, increased the revenues through proper utilization of the agricultural lands, and eradicated corruption. As a great patron of arts and literature, he was in correspondence with the political elite and literati of the other parts of the Persianate World, ranging from Central Asia to the Ottoman Sultanate and the Subcontinent. He authored several books such as "Riyaz al-Insha" and built a magnificent college in Bidar, where scholars from Iran, Iraq, and Arabia used to teach. This aroused the jealousy of his rivals, who by bribing his servants obtained Gawan's seal, affixed it on a blank paper and forged a letter inviting the Rajah of Orissa to attack the Bahmani Kingdom. The letter was shown to the king in a drunken state and he promptly summoned Gawan and executed him. The end of this scholar statesman brought about the decline of the kingdom, which in the next two decades splintered into five independent sultanates.

219 solar years ago, on this day in 1795 AD, the newly founded United States of America had to pay \$800,000 and a frigate as tribute to the powerful rulers of Algiers and Tunis in order to carry out trade in the Mediterranean Sea.

194 solar years ago, on this day in 1820 AD, German philosopher, Friedrich Engels, was born. A close friend of his compatriot, Karl Marx, who coined the theory of Marxism, he fled to Britain in 1850 due to his political views. He and Marx jointly wrote "Communism Manifesto."

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD, Leaders of the US, Britain, and Soviet Union held a summit in Tehran during World War 2 to work out joint strategy against Germany, following the US entry and the opening of new fronts against the Nazi army. During the 4-day conference, US President Roosevelt, British Premier Churchill, and Soviet Leader Josef Stalin, issued a joint statement and also agreed that the Allied forces would leave Iran's soil on termination of War II.

64 lunar years ago, on this day in 1372 AH, the religious scholar, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ma'soumi, passed away in the city of Behbahan, in southern Iran at the age of 84. He was a product of the famous Islamic seminary of the holy city of Najaf in Iraq, where he reached the status of ijtehad. His works strongly defend the tenets of Islam and the interests of Muslims. He authored several books, including "Sharh-e Lum'a", and "Nejat al-Ebaad".

43 solar years ago, on this day in 1971 AD, with the withdrawal of British troops from Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunbs, Iran restored its sovereignty over these Persian Gulf islands —strategically located near the Strait of Hormoz. Britain had seized these islands in 1887.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, almost two months after the start of the 8-year war imposed on Iran by the US through Saddam, Iran's Navy defeated the Iraqi navy, destroying a large number of vessels and inflicting huge damage on al-Bakr oil platform at the headwaters of the Persian Gulf. The Iraqi navy was virtually eliminated, and to mark this great victory, this day has been marked over the past 31 years as Navy Day in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

Iran, Italy Discuss New Ways of Expanding Environmental Cooperation



Iran's Vice-President and Head of Department of Environment Masoumeh Ebtekar (L) and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni (R)

ROME (FNA) - Senior Iranian and Italian officials, in a meeting on Wednesday, exchanged views over enhancement of bilateral ties, particularly in the environmental sector.

In a meeting between Iran's Vice-President and Head of Department of Environment Masoumeh Ebtekar and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni in Rome, both sides voiced their willingness to pave the ground for further development of their cooperation in environmental fields.

Gentiloni underlined the importance of regional and international cooperation in tackling environmental problems.

Pointing to the friendly ties between the two countries, Ebtekar said Iran and Italy could have close

cooperation in environmental issues in addition to politics and economy.

Ebtekar arrived in Rome on Tuesday for a two-day stay upon the invitation of her Italian counterpart to explore avenues to further boost bilateral cooperation.

In December, 2013, Ebtekar voiced Tehran's willingness to overcome environmental problems through using other countries' experiences in this field.

Speaking at a meeting with former Italian Foreign Minister Emma Bonino in Tehran at the time, Ebtekar said that Iran-Italy cooperation in the field of environment will boost following the removal of challenges facing the sector.

Minister of Culture Meets Members of Irano-Kuwait Friendship Society

TEHRAN (Farhang.gov.ir) - Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in a meeting with members of Irano-Kuwait Friendship Society said this society plays an important role in two countries relations.

Mr. Ali Jannati said relations between people of two coun-

tries are the cornerstone of political and diplomatic ties among countries. He added that efforts made by members of Irano-Kuwait Friendship Society is admirable adding that Iranian government is for unlimited promotion of relations with Ku-

wait and we are ready to work for tackling any conceivable challenges. Mr. Jannati said Iranian and Kuwaiti nations have always had friendly relations and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran has been very instrumental in this respect. Iranian Minister

of Culture and Islamic Guidance by calling for expansion of art and cultural relations between Tehran and Kuwait and said cultural ties can contribute immensely for development of political and economic relations among nations.

Turkey Hosting Sacred Defense Cinema

ANKARA (IRNA) - Universities of Istanbul are hosting a film week of Iran's resistance cinema.

The movies are screened in Istanbul University's faculty of medicine as well as the city's Marmara, Technical and Boğaziçi universities.

Istanbul University's students had interesting points to say after they watched 'A long summer' directed

by Ali Khazaei Far.

Mrs. Amineh said that Iran's cinema gives her a good feeling. Compared to American films, Iran attempts to introduce humane values and culture.

Hakan, a medical student, talked about the difference of Iran's cinema with others saying that Iranian cinema is born from a national

resistance. He specifically pointed out to the imperialism of the United States and added that Iranian cinema is standing for its people's identity and culture.

Some other students talked about patriotic ideas emphasizing that the process of Iranians' battles shows that their sprites are strongly rooted in their beliefs.

'A long summer' is a narration of nationalistic spirits and caring for the values of the Islamic revolution.

The cultural attaché of Iran's consulate in Istanbul Javad Amini was the only official who watched the film.

The film week kicked off without any special ceremony.

China's Rich Want to Send Children Abroad for Education

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- An overwhelming majority of China's richest people are likely to send their children abroad for education, the United States and the United Kingdom being their first choices, according to a Hurun Report on education.

The report said that some 80 percent of the country's rich people have plans to send children abroad, the highest ratio in the

world. By contrast, Japan has less than 1 percent and Germany has less than 10 percent of its rich people having such plans, said the report.

The rich people are most likely to send their children to the United States and the United Kingdom while other countries such as Australia, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand, Singapore, France and

Germany attract most of the rest.

The report also found that the students tend to get younger. The average age of the millionaires' children is 16 years old when they were sent abroad.

Rupert Hoogewerf, publisher of the report, said ten years ago, Chinese rich people could only send their children to Canada and Australia because large number

of Chinese people there. "Now, the Chinese rich people have a much broader social network, as a result of which they can find trusted people anywhere in the world and can rest assured sending children to any country."

"Long time overseas study of these students can definitely do good to the globalization of China's economy," said Rupert.

Saudi Universities to Continue Hiring Foreign Professors

RIYADH (Arab News) -The Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Mohammed Al-Ohaly confirmed that Saudi universities will continue to hire foreign academics due to the need for various experiences and expertise. He pointed out that the scholarship program sends students to 24 countries which require a high quality of exchange of experience for Saudi students on these programs.

"The public and private universities prioritize social responsibility among students to help them contribute to their families, community and the homeland. At the same time, the concept of social responsibility has begun to take on a wider and a more diverse meaning in Saudi universities, Al-Ohaly said during a session of the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum in Jeddah.

Stressing the importance of higher education in the Kingdom, he said: "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah has raised the financial budget of the education sector as part of the national strategy to develop the knowledge community which requires advanced knowledge and skills provided by foreign human resources."

Picture of the Day



Bazaar of Zanjan - Zanjan Province in northwestern Iran

Courtesy: CHN