

This Day in History

(April 26)

Today is Sunday; 6th of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1394 solar hijri; corresponding to 7th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1436 lunar hijri; and April 26, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1131 lunar years ago, on this day in 305 AH, the Muslim scholar and literary figure, Ibn Tarara, was born in Iraq. Among his works mention could be made of the voluminous book titled “*al-Jalees as-Saleh al-Kafi wa'l-Anees an-Naseh ash-Shafi*”. He passed away in 390 AH.

504 lunar years ago, on this day in 932 AH, the Timurid ruler of Kabul, Zaheer od-Din Babar, defeated Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi of Hindustan or Northern Subcontinent, at the Battle of Panipat. He then took control of Delhi and Agra, thereby laying foundations of the Mughal Empire that would reach its zenith during the rule of the 6th and last “Great Mughal” Aurangzeb, encompassing what are now India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and eastern Afghanistan. After two centuries of glory, the Mughal Empire shrank to Delhi and its suburbs, ending in 1857 AD with the British capture of the last ruler, Bahadur Shah Zafar and his exile to Burma. Babur was born in Andijan in the Ferghana Valley in what is now Uzbekistan. He was the son of the local ruler Omar Shaikh Mirza, who in turn was a great-grandson of the fearsome Turkic conqueror Amir Timur. From his mother’s side he was a descendant of the Mongol marauder, Genghis Khan. A Persianized Turk, Babar, as a protégé of Shah Ismail I, the Founder of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran, had earlier succeeded in gaining brief control of Timur’s capital Samarkand, before being driven out by the Uzbeks. Babur’s army, which conquered Delhi also included Qizilbash Iranian fighters, who as one of the most influential groups in the Mughal court, would promote Persian language and culture in the subcontinent, as well as the teachings of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt, which until then were brutally suppressed in Northern India.

450 lunar years ago, on this day in 986 AH, the Battle of Jldir was fought in northeast Anatolia as the initial armed encounter of the 12-year war between the Ottomans and the Safavids for control of the Caucasus, thus ending the 23-year Peace of Amasya, two years after the death of Shah Tahmasb I of Iran and four years after the death of the Turkish sultan, Sulaiman – the two signatories to the peace treaty. These inter-Muslim hostilities were started by Murad III, who resenting the growing inclination of the Turkish tribes of Anatolia towards the school of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt, made a pact with France, stopped the Ottoman push into Europe, and massacred thousands of Shi’ite Muslims in his dominions. Although the Ottomans defeated the Persian army, seized Tiflis, the capital of Georgia from Iran, and went on to occupy Daghestan’s capital Derbend on the Caspian Sea, these areas were soon liberated by Shah Abbas I.

294 solar years ago, on this day in 1721 AD, a massive earthquake devastated the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz (centre of Azarbaijan), killing more than 80,000 people and destroying buildings, including many historical structures. The quake was interpreted as an omen of misfortune, or a demonstration of divine wrath, resulting in economic difficulties at a time when political chaos had gripped the border areas of the Safavid Empire, with Bahrain invaded by Oman, Lizzgis in revolt in the Caucasus, and Ghilzai Afghans in rebellion in Qandahar – all due to gross mismanagement from the capital Isfahan. As the Safavid Dynasty collapsed the next year after two centuries and over two decades of glorious rule, the Ottomans invaded and occupied quake devastated Tabriz, while Russia seized Daghestan and advanced into Azarbaijan.

210 solar years ago, on this day in 1805 AD, a regiment of US led a band of Greek and Arab mercenaries against forces of Tripoli to attack and occupy Derne, the capital of the North African province of Cyrenaica, during the First Barbary War which it imposed on the Ottoman lands of Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria. It was the first military expedition of the US abroad and met with mixed results as Muslims regrouped and defeated the American fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.

186 lunar years ago, on this day in 1250 AH, Mohammad Shah succeeded his grandfather, Fath Ali Shah, to the Peacock Throne of Iran as the third Qajarid King. Son of Crown Prince Abbas Mirza, who predeceased Fath Ali Shah by less than a year, he immediately sidelined his prudent premier, Mirza Abu’l-Qasem Qa’em Maqaam Farahani, and replaced him with Mirza Aqasi, who was a pawn of the British and the Russians. During Mohammad Shah’s reign, the parts of northwestern Iran in the Caucasus were occupied by Russia. Moreover, the rivalry of Russia and Britain for control of Iran increased. Hoping for assistance from Russia, Mohammad Shah deployed forces to control unrest in Herat, which was part of Iran’s soil and capital of Khorasan. However, due to Moscow’s breach of promise, coupled with London’s covert conspiracies, Herat was separated from Iran and annexed to British-controlled Afghanistan. Finally, this unwise Qajarid ruler died in 1264 AH, and was succeeded by his underage son, Nasser od-Din Shah.

163 lunar years ago, on this day in 1273 AH, the Treaty of Paris ended the Anglo-Persian War, which the British had imposed on Iran by attacking and occupying Bushehr on the Persian Gulf as well as Khorramshahr, in order to pressure Nasser od-Din Shah Qajar to surrender the city of Herat and its surroundings in Khorasan to their Afghan ally, Herat, the then capital of Khorasan, had been part of Iran from time immemorial till the war broke in 1272 AH when its rebellious governor declared independence and placed the area under British protection. As per the Treaty of Paris, the weakened government of Iran withdrew from Herat and was forced to drop all claims to this historical Iranian city and most of eastern Khorasan, which is now part of Afghanistan today. The British had launched their sea attacks on Iran from their naval bases in Mumbai by deploying battalions of sepoys (corruption for the Persian word “*sipahi*” for Indian soldiers), who earlier in the year had been used to overthrow Wajed Ali Shah of the Naishapuri Dynasty of Iranian origin of Awadh in northern India.

115 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, American seismologist, Charles Francis Richter, was born. He devised the Richter Scale that measures earthquake magnitudes which he developed with his colleague, Beno Gutenberg, in the early 1930s. The scale assigns numerical ratings to the energy released by earthquakes. Richter used a seismograph to record actual earth motion during an earthquake. That is an instrument generally consisting of a constantly unwinding roll of paper, anchored to a fixed place, and a pendulum or magnet suspended with a marking device above the roll. The scale takes into account the instrument’s distance from the epicenter. Gutenberg suggested that the scale be logarithmic so, for example, a quake of magnitude 7 would be ten times stronger than a 6.

89 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, Iran’s first radio transmission and wireless telegraph station became operational. Soon more such stations were set up the same year in Mashhad, Tabriz, Shiraz, Khorramshahr, and Kermanshah. The next year all Iranian cities were connected.

82 solar years ago, on this day in 1933 AD, the dreaded Gestapo organization was formed in Germany by Nazi Field Marshal, Hermann Goering – a senior aide of Adolf Hitler. Gestapo means state secret police. The goal was identification, detention, and execution of those who were against Nazism and Hitler. The most infamous head of Gestapo was Heinrich Himmler.

51 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, with the forced union of the Muslim populated Zanzibar Island with Tanganyika on the African mainland, following the overthrow of the Sultanate of Zanzibar and Pemba, the Republic of Tanzania was formed. Earlier in 1961 and 1963, the two countries of Zanzibar and Tanganyika had respectively gained independence from British colonial rule. Julius Nyerere who engineered the overthrow and annexation of Zanzibar is called the father of Tanzania, which is a federal republic. It covers an area of almost 950,000 sq km in eastern Africa and lies on the coastlines of the Indian Ocean. It shares borders with Kenya, Kongo, Uganda, Rwanda, Brunei, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. Some 50 percent of the people of Tanzania are Muslims, with many following the school of the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, a prominent figure of the Islamic Revolution, Hojjat al-Islam Mahdi Shahabadi, attained martyrdom at the warfronts against Saddam’s despotic Ba’th minority regime. Following completion of his Islamic studies, Shahabadi actively participated in the struggles against the Shah’s dictatorship. He was incarcerated by the Pahlavi regime on several occasions and was ruthlessly tortured. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he was elected as a lawmaker. With the outbreak of the imposed war, he left for the warfronts to defend the country. He would say: “*If martyrdom can safeguard our monotheist system; and if martyrdom can convey our Islamic thoughts to the world; we are prepared for martyrdom.*”

30 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, the UN Security Council condemned Iraq’s use of internationally banned chemical weapons against Iran during the war imposed by the US through Saddam, although it did not issue any resolution in this regard, because of pressure of western, eastern and Arab states. The condemnation was made possible in view of Iran’s sending the chemical victims to hospitals in Europe for treatment.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, in Pripyat in the Soviet Union on the borders of Ukraine and Belarus, one of the four reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear plant exploded in the world’s worst civil nuclear catastrophe. It sent a cloud of radioactive dust over Europe. The cause was an experiment that went wrong, causing the fourth reactor to explode and melt down. Thirty-one people, mostly firemen, were killed immediately after the explosion, and several thousand more - those involved in the clean-up and children - have since died from radiation-related illnesses. Ukraine says the health of millions of its people have been affected by the disaster.

26 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, the deadliest tornado in world history struck Central Bangladesh, killing upwards of 1,300, injuring 12,000, and leaving as many as 80,000 homeless.

19 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, the 16-day aggression of the Zionist entity on southern Lebanon, codenamed Grapes of Wrath, ended. During its savage attack from land, air, and sea, Israel destroyed most of the infrastructure of Lebanon as far as Beirut, martyring 180 men, women, and children, and wounding hundreds of others. The goal was to try to demoralize people and weaken the Islamic Resistance. Israel failed miserably and was forced to withdraw on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Four years later, Israeli and its surrogate, the South Lebanese Army, were humiliated by the legendary anti-terrorist movement, Hezbollah, and forced to flee from the Litani River and almost all of south Lebanon.

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

Mashhad, Islamic Cultural Capital

TEHRAN (CHN) - **Mashhad has been selected as the cultural capital of the Islamic world in 2017, which is a valuable opportunity for Iran to show its culture and civilization to the world, Ali Jannati, minister of culture and Islamic guidance said.**

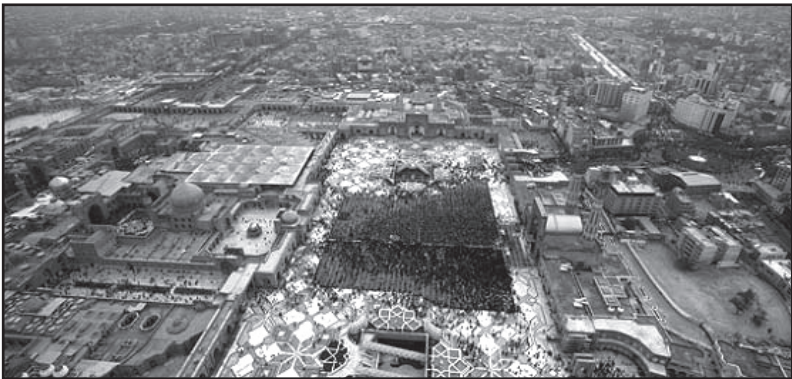
The opportunity will help further introduce our rich cultural capacities to the world,” said Jannati, noting: “Other cities had held this title earlier, and Islamic organizations together with the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) will manage the event.”

Isfahan had been selected earlier as the cultural capital in 2006, he

said, adding that: “We should use our earlier experience to optimize our cultural capacity.”

The relevant officials will dis-

cuss the cultural projects, following which appropriate funds will be allocated by the policymaking council. Arrangements should be



Mashhad from sky

Iranian Food Pyramid Published

TEHRAN 25, IRNA - **The Health Ministry has published the Iranian Food Pyramid to promote healthy eating, said Dr. Zahra Abdollahian, the head of the ministry’s Department for Diet Improvement.**

Abdollahian said the food pyramid sets guidelines to reduce salt, sugar and oil consumption, Iran Daily reported.

“The Iranian Food Pyramid has been devised based on World Health Organization’s recommendations issued on World Health Day themed ‘Food Safety: From Farm to Plate’ this year,” she said.

‘According to WHO, every individual must have a daily balanced diet and dietary diversity to have a healthy body and mind.’

Abdollahian noted that the Iranian Food Pyramid not only includes the

five basic food groups, but also foods with the same nutritional values that could replace the basic foods.

She said the five main foods are bread and whole grains, milk and dairy products, vegetables, fruits and meat.

‘Iranians are using too much oil, sugar and salt, and less milk and dairy products,’ she said, stressing that unhealthy eating is behind the surge in the number of people suffering from chronic diseases.

Abdollahian warned about the growing prevalence of obesity due to high consumption of fast foods.

‘Diabetes, high blood pressure, cancers and high blood cholesterol levels are blamed on obesity,’ she said.

The official said the Health Ministry will oversee food production in the current Iranian year (ending March

20, 2016) to ensure they are healthy and observe the guidelines of food pyramid with regard to the permissible amount of salt, sugar and fat.

‘Bakeries have been ordered to reduce salt since last year (ended March 20, 2015) and are obliged to continue to observe the policy this year,’ she said.

Abdollahian said every individual must consume at least 400 grams of fruits a day, as they contain high amounts of fiber and antioxidants essential to stay healthy and away from diseases.

10m have high blood pressure Deputy Health Minister Dr. Ali Sayyari said 10 million Iranians have high blood pressure and seven million are diabetic.

The official warned that 50 percent of individuals are not aware they

done for filming, authoring books and other works in art and cultural activities, “and if need be, the government will contribute to the program,” he said.

The Mashhad Municipality welcomed videos on the Islamic cultural capital, and offered to finance the programs up to 50%, said Mashhad mayor Alireza Rashidian, outlining the necessity of promoting the artistic and cultural heritage of the city, namely theatre, painting and photography.

Regular meetings should be held every two months in Tehran and Mashhad with the participation of the members of the policymaking council, he said.

have high blood pressure or diabetes.

‘Every year, 83,000 die as a result of high blood pressure, which could be prevented by eating right, pursuing a healthy lifestyle and undergoing regular and low-cost examinations,’ he said.

Sayyari said 25 million are either obese or overweight.

‘Obesity is the main reason for premature deaths,’ he said.

The deputy minister noted that smoking is another main cause of death among Iranians.

‘More than five million spend \$3 billion every year on smoking, who are at grave risk of cancers,’ he said.

Sayyari said between 3,000 and 4,000 slum dwellers will be covered by health insurance this year to receive free health services.

Botswana Students Showcase Chinese-Language Talent

GABORONE (Xinhua) -- **The Chinese Embassy in Botswana on Thursday hosted a Chinese proficiency competition for foreign college students in the capital city of Gaborone.**

The competition, co-hosted by Confucius Institute at the University of Botswana (CIUB) and University of Botswana (UB), is a preliminary competition of the 14th “Chinese Bridge”. Twelve students participating in the competition were selected from dozens of can-

didates through a Chinese writing test held last week.

The students, many of whom are studying at CIUB or majoring in Chinese Studies at UB, gave speeches in Chinese, talking about their Chinese dreams or their stories with CIUB.

The contestants also demonstrated their talents -- Chinese songs, Chinese paper cutting and Chinese poetry.

After judged by a jury that is composed of Chinese Ambassador to

Botswana Zheng Zhuqiang and officials from the embassy, dean of the Faculty of Humanities of UB, Andy Chebanne, CIUB Director Part Magdla, Chinese director of CIUB Dong Jianping, teachers of Chinese Studies at UB and CIUB, Mogolo Ramalebang won the outstanding prize and will represent her Botswana fellows to China to compete with contestants from other countries.

Gaoele Mosimanyane, who won the first prize, will be sponsored by the Chinese side to China and wit-

ness the competition.

CIUB was established under an agreement between the University of Botswana and the partner university Shanghai Normal University. Established in 2009, CIUB now has 12 teachers with 4,700 graduates.

Each year, China provides more than 80 government scholarships for Botswana students to pursue higher education in China. China has built and donated two primary schools in Maun, in the north and Serowe in the east of the country.

Sweden to Host North Europe Quran Competition

STOCKHOLM (IQNA) - **The 3rd edition of the Holy Quran competition for the North European countries will be held from May 22 in Stockholm, Sweden.**

According to IQNA’s branch in Europe, the Dar-ol-Quran Center of Imam Ali (AS) Islamic Center in the Swedish capital city will organize the competition in five categories.

Quran recitation, Quran memorization, Tarteel (reading), Adhan and Quranic concepts will be the categories of this edition of the three-day contest.

Participants in the memorization category in the adults group will compete in memorization of 30, 20, 10 and 5 Juzes (parts), and those under 16 will compete in memorization of one Juz and 30 Juzes of the Quran.

A number of educational workshops on various themes, including Quran teaching in sign language and reading of supplications, as well as Quranic sessions have been planned on the sidelines of the Quranic event. Those willing to register for the competition can log on to the website of the event at www.Koran.se.

May 22 has been announced as the deadline for registration for the competition. Disseminating the Holy Quran’s culture and teachings, paving the way for the promotion of Quranic elites, strengthening unity in the Quranic community of Europe, providing an opportunity for top Quran activists to exchange their experiences, and identifying Quranic talents in

Europe are among the objectives of the competition.

Winners of the first to the third

ranks different categories will receive cash prizes.

Top participants from among rep-

resentatives of each country will qualify for the international Quran competition in Iran.

Picture of the Day



Arak Historical market- Markazi Province, Iran

Courtesy: MNA