

## This Day in History

(August 1)

Today is Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mordad 1394 solar hijri; corresponding to 15<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1436 lunar hijri; and August 1, 2015, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2045 solar years ago**, on this day in 30 BC, Roman general Octavian (later known as Emperor Augustus Caesar), entered Alexandria, Egypt, bringing it under control of the Roman Republic, after defeating his rival Marcus Antonius. During his 41-year reign, he concluded a peace treaty with Emperor Farhad IV (Phraates IV) of Iran's Parthian Empire that ensured peace on Rome's eastern frontiers, in what are now Palestine, Syria, and Turkey; in addition to return of the Roman Eagle Standards lost by Crassus to the Iranians in the Battle of Carrhae in 53 BC.

**2045 solar years ago**, on this day in 30 BC, Roman general, Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony) committed suicide in Egypt at the age of 53 on being defeated by his former friend and now rival Octavian (Augustus Caesar). Antony was a confidante and military commander in the conquest of Gaul (France) of the famous Roman dictator, Julius Caesar, on whose assassination in 44 BC, he formed a triumvirate with Marcus Lepidus and Octavian (Caesar's maternal grandnephew and adopted son) to defeat the assassins - who were supported by the Parthian Empire of Iran. The three divided the Roman domains between themselves, with Antony's lot being the eastern provinces including Greece, the Levant, and the client kingdom of Ptolemaic Egypt, whose promiscuous queen, Cleopatra, he took as his lover. Without the permission of the Senate, he invaded Iranian possessions in what are now Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Armenia, with an army of about 100,000 that were financed by Cleopatra. Although after capturing Jerusalem and surrounding areas in 37 BC, he installed Herod as puppet king of Judaea, replacing the Parthian appointee Antigonus, the campaign proved a disaster. After defeats, desertion of his Armenian allies and his failure to capture Parthian strongholds, he retreated to Egypt in 36 BC, as his army lost more than a quarter of its strength. Soon his ties deteriorated with Octavian, whose sister Octavia he divorced and against whom he faced defeat and committed suicide.

**1488 solar years ago**, on this day in 527 AD, Justin I became the sole ruler of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire. He strove to become the emperor of the western parts as well by conquering North Africa, Sicily, southern Spain and most of Italy from the Ostrogoths who had seized Rome. From his uncle and predecessor, Anastasius I, he inherited the war with Iran's Sassanid Empire and in 532, a year after the defeat of Roman forces near Callinicum in what is now Turkey and the subsequent death of Emperor Qobad, he concluded an "Eternal Peace" with the new Iranian emperor, Khosrow I by paying 11,000 pounds of gold. This peace during his 38-year reign allowed him to concentrate on campaigns in Europe against Germanic tribes while in his capital Constantinople he ordered the building of a new Christian basilica - the Hagia Sophia, (Greek for "Holy Wisdom"). In 540, the "Eternal Peace" was broken because of Byzantine intrigues in Armenia which made Khosrow I capture Beroea and then Antioch in Syria, resulting in the 22-year war that ended in 562 with conclusion of the "Fifty-Year Peace" and payment of 5,000 pounds of gold, plus 500 pounds of gold more each year to the Iranians by the Romans.

**1386 solar years ago**, on this day in 629 AD, the Chinese Buddhist monk, Huiuen Tsang (Xuanzang), started his journey to India, via Central Asia for study of religious texts. In 633, he enrolled as student at the Nalanda Monastery in Bihar, where he stayed for over a decade, before returning to China 16 years later in 645, with hundreds of manuscripts on Buddhism. During the next 20 years, until his death in 664, he translated seventy-five Sanskrit works into Chinese.

**1433 lunar years ago**, on this day in 3 AH, the Battle of Ohad was imposed on Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) by the pagan Arabs of Mecca led by Abu Sufyan, at a place outside Medina near Mount Ohad, for avenging the decisive defeat they had suffered a year earlier at Badr. Ohad turned out to be a setback for the Muslims, whose ranks were infiltrated by hypocrites. In the initial encounter, the Muslims managed to repel the heavily-armed Arab pagans, but ignoring the instructions of the Prophet the guards posted at the mountain pass left their positions to join in the seizing of the camp baggage of the fleeing Meccans. At this juncture, one of the infidel commanders, named Khaled bin Waleed, who lay in ambush, burst upon the Muslims, martyring several of them and forcing most of the companions of the Prophet to flee the battlefield. The Prophet himself was injured and lost some of his teeth. However, thanks to the valour of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), the day was saved for the Prophet and for Islam, although in the process the Prophet's brave uncle, Hazrat Hamza (AS), was martyred by the Abyssinian Wahshi, who was ordered by his mistress, Hind bint Utbah, the wife of Abu Sufyan (mother of Mu'awiya and grandmother of Yazid), to tear out his victim's liver and bring it to her for chewing. Thus, without the least doubt, Islam is indebted to the valour of Imam Ali (AS), in whose praise on the Day of the Battle of Ohad the angels were heard chanting: "There is no braver youth than Ali, and no sharper sword than Zu'l-Feqar."

**1184 lunar years ago**, on this day in 252 AH, Seyyed Abdul-Azim al-Hasani, a prominent descendant of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was martyred in Rayy, where his shrine, in what is now the southernmost suburb of the Iranian capital, Tehran, is a site of pilgrimage for people from all over the world. A pious scholar of repute, he was fifth in descent from the Prophet's elder grandson and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS). His genealogy reads: Abdul-Azim Ibn Abdullah Ibn Ali Ibn Hassan Ibn Zayd Ibn Imam Hasan (AS). Born in Medina in the last years of the life of the Prophet's 7<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir, Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS), he had the honour of companionship of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Infallible Imams - Imam Ali ar-Reza (AS), Imam Mohammad al-Jawad (AS), and Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS). He was sent as a missionary to Iran to enlighten the people about the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt. Because of persecution of the Prophet's progeny by the tyrannical Abbasid caliph, Mutawakkel, he carried out his activities with precaution. Often he used to visit the grave of Hamza, a son of the 7<sup>th</sup> Imam in an orchard outside the city, and willed that he be buried nearby on his death. Among the books written by him was a collection of sermons of the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Taleb (AS), predating by over one-hundred-and-fifty years the compilation of the "Nahj al-Balagha".

**1160 lunar years ago**, on this day in 275 AH, the prominent Iranian Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Abu Dawud Sulayman Ibn al-Ash'as Sijistani, passed away in Basra at the age of 73. Born in Sistan, he studied in Herat, Balkh, Marv, and Naishapur before travelling to Rayy and thence to Baghdad, Damascus, Hijaz, and Egypt, to collect hadith. His collection focuses mostly on narrations of legal nature. Of the 500,000-odd so-called hadith he collected from whomsoever he encountered, he chose 4,800 as "Sahih" (authentic) for inclusion in his work titled "Sunan Abi Dawud", which Sunni Muslims regard as the third of their six "canonical" hadith collections, although modern scholarship amongst the Sunnis has ruled many of his hadith as "weak" after due scrutiny. Although he has acknowledged the unsurpassed merits of the Ahl al-Bayt, he did not have any direct access to the Infallible Imams or their disciples, the true repositories of the authentic "Sunnah" and "Seerah" of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**113 solar years ago**, on this day in 902 AD, Taormina, the last Byzantine stronghold on the island of Sicily off the coast of Italy, surrendered to Muslims led by the Aghlabids, the Abbasid governors of the Province of Ifriqiyya, whose forces had already established themselves in Sicily since 827. The first Muslims to arrive in Sicily were Syrians in 652. In 909 the Aghlabids, were overthrown by the popular Ismaili Shi'ite revolution that established the Fatimid Dynasty in North Africa. Sicily passed into Fatimid hands, and the city of Taormina was renamed "al-Mu'ezziya" in honour of the Fatimid caliph, al-Mu'ez le Dinillah, whose famous Greek Muslim general from Sicily, Jowhar as-Saqali, went on to take control of Egypt from the Ikshidid Turkic governors of the Abbasid caliphate, and build the city of Cairo as capital of the Fatimids. Muslim rule in Sicily lasted until 1078, when the island fell to the Norman invader, Count Roger I, who, however, kept the Arab administration intact and had Muslims among his advisers and court scholars, including the famous geographer, Seyyed Mohammad al-Hassani al-Idrisi. Muslim influence and Arabic language continued in Sicily till the 1240s when the last of the Muslims were deported from the island and mosques turned into churches.

**1069 solar years ago**, on this day in 946 AD, Ali Ibn Isa Ibn Da'ud al-Jarrah, the famous Iranian vizier of the Abbasid dynasty, died at the age of 87. He served as vizier from 913-to-917, 918-to-923, and 927-to-928. His political career, coinciding with the decline of Abbasid rule was turbulent, marked by a power struggle with his rival Abu'l-Hasan Ali Ibn al-Furat, resulting in frequent periods of exile, when the latter took over as vizier. Al-Jarrah was later remembered as the "good vizier" for his administrative talent and honesty.

**367 solar years ago**, on this day in 1648 AD, the independence of Switzerland was recognized by the Treaty of Westphalia following the end of the Thirty-Year War in Europe.

**351 solar years ago**, on this day in 1664 AD, Ottoman forces were defeated in the battle of Saint Gotthard in what is now western Hungary by an army of Austrian and allied forces, resulting in the Peace of Vasvar that lasted for 20 years until the Second Siege of Vienna by the Turks.

**271 solar years ago**, on this day in 1744 AD, French biologist and naturalist, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, was born. He conducted extensive research on live invertebrates and fossils. His book, named: "Zoological Philosophy: Exposition with Regard to the Natural History of Animals" became the foundation of the theory of gradual development of live creatures.

**27 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, a UN fact-finding team, published reports, saying the Ba'th minority regime of Saddam had used chemical weapons against Iran several times during the 8-year US-imposed war, but did not issue any resolution against the aggressor. During the war, Saddam frequently attacked Iranian combatants and civilians with toxic weapons, but the West which had equipped him with these illegal arsenal, turned a blind eye to his crimes against humanity. For this reason, hours after release of reports by the UN probe team, Iraqi jetfighters chemically bombed the western Iranian city of Oshnavieh, injuring 2,400 civilians.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2006 AD, a year after his proposal for exchange of nuclear fuel was rejected by the US, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad brushed aside an illegal UN Security Council resolution demanding that Iran should suspend uranium enrichment by August 31. He said that as per NPT and IAEA rules, Iran will continue its peaceful nuclear programme, and no pressures or threats by the nuclear-armed powers could force Iran to give up its inalienable right to develop nuclear energy for producing electricity, manufacturing medicines, and use in various industrial projects. After years of illegal sanctions, The West finally acknowledged Iran's right to continue its peaceful nuclear programme in Vienna last month.

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

# Faculties of Kurdish Language, Literature Established in Kurdistan

SANANDAJ (IRNA) - A faculty member of University of Kurdistan said here Thursday establishment of faculties of Kurdish language and literature in Kurdistan province universities was materializing of President Rouhani's promise to provincial residents in that respect.

Speaking with IRNA, Professor Najmeddin Jabbari said that the development is a great cultural achievement for the Iranian Kurdish citizens, adding that it is a brilliant result of the recent provincial visit of President Hassan Rouhani and a number of his cabinet ministers.

He said that the blessed development is quite unprecedented both during the 36 years of the Islamic Republic's era in Iran and before that during the various monarchial dynasties.

The faculty member of University of Kurdistan meanwhile hoped that this development will also be



the beginning of teaching Kurdish language and literature in various

levels up to PhD level in universities throughout Iran.

He said that the development followed serious demand of the provincial population and will play a decisive role in development of the Kurdish civilization in Iran's Kurdistan province, as well as in raising public satisfaction level with their central government.

Jabbari referred to the 72% vote of the Iranian Kurds to President Rouhani, adding that their support for him and his cabinet is now way above that level.

He meanwhile hoped that the Prudence and Hope Government's other promises on economic and social development in Kurdistan province, too, will be kept like this promise and allocation of management posts to the Sunni Kurdish citizens in Iran and the country.

## Tehran Hosting Spain Architecture Week

TEHRAN (MNA) - The embassy of Spain in Tehran is hosting an architecture week at a number of galleries in Qasr Museum in Tehran.

The event includes expert lectures and a photo gallery titled "From Qortabeh to Córdoba" comprising a photo collection related to the Islamic heritage of Spanish city of Córdoba alongside with displaying photos and scale models of the renowned contemporary Spanish

architect Alberto Campo Baeza.

Alberto Campo Baeza is a well-known Spanish architect who's most memorable construct is a radical residential property positioned at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean called 'House of the Infinite.'

The Spain Architecture Week will run until August 6, 2015 at Malek o-Sho'ara Bahar Gallery, located at Qasr Museum, East Mottahari St., and Police Square, Tehran.

## France Environmental Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN (FNA)- French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in a meeting with Iranian Vice-President and Head of the Environment Department Ma'soumeh Ebtekar stressed the necessity for enhancement of relations and cooperation with Tehran in environmental fields.

"Iran and France can cooperate with each other in different environmental fields," Fabius said in the meeting in Tehran on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed environmental cooperation between the two countries.

They also conferred on the World Climate Change Forum which is due to be held in Paris this December.

Fabius arrived in Tehran on Wednesday for a one-day visit during which he met with his counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif, President Hassan Rouhani and

other Iranian officials.

Addressing a press conference with Zarif in Tehran on Wednesday, Fabius voiced willingness of his country's multinational firms to resume operation in Iran.

"I am seeking to resume political and economic ties with Iran during my visit to Tehran," Fabius said.

He noted that the French firms that are actively operating at the highest level in the world are ready to come to Iran in case of Tehran's willingness.

The French foreign minister pointed to environment, agriculture and Tourism as other areas for further mutual cooperation between France and Iran, and said, "The French agriculture and trade ministers will pay a visit to Iran in September."

Fabius said that tourism is also another area for cooperation, and added, "French tourists are willing to visit Iran's beautiful cities."

## Only 21.7% of Doctors in Kingdom Are Saudis

JEDDAH (Arab News) - Official reports reveal nationalization levels of medical and health workers in the Kingdom remain low, with Saudi nationals making up only 21.7 percent of physicians, 31.8 percent of nurses, and 67.4 percent of ancillary staff.

According to the reports, these figures indicate rates are much lower in the private health sector than the public sector, thus requiring greater coordination and cooperation between the Council of Health Services, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Institute of Public Administration and Medical Education in the private sector to develop needed educational and training programs for medical cadres.

Other challenges facing the health sector relate to economic and social development, as well as non-application of the cooperative health insurance system, and the lack of an information system that electronically links health sector units throughout the Kingdom, according to the reports.

This in turn creates a weakness in information sharing and cooperation between different administrative and technical departments, delays access to health information in a timely manner, and reduces the level of efficiency in operations, planning, and coordination and monitoring and evaluation processes within the sector.

The reports also note that the ministry is currently building and developing this information system, and thus emphasizes the need for cooperation between officials and the parties concerned to establish necessary programs and

address challenges.

The reports suggest the increase in demand for health services is influenced by population growth, high economic and social development, and increase in health awareness among the population.

## Picture of the Day



Fifteen groups of female rescuers took part in competitions of rescue in Bojnourd, North Khorasan Province.

Courtesy: MNA