

This Day in History

(February 16)

Today is Thursday; 28th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 18th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1438 lunar hijri; and February 16, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1901 solar years ago, on this day in 116 AD, Roman Emperor Trajan, following his surprise attack on the Iranian province of Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) that saw Roman armies reach for the first time the shores of the Persian Gulf in what is now Kuwait, was so elated by this unexpected success that he prematurely sent a laureate to the Senate in Rome, boasting of what he called the conquest of the Parthian Empire. However, as he left the Persian Gulf for Babylon, the Iranians led by Sanatrukes, the nephew of their Emperor, Osroes I, imperiled Roman positions in both Mesopotamia and Armenia, forcing Trajan to withdraw his troops that had penetrated Khuzestan. Although Sanatrukes was killed in the battle that the Iranians lost at Seleucia and their capital Ctesiphon (Mada'en near modern Baghdad) was temporarily occupied by the Romans, Trajan's deteriorating health started to fail him. Following the heat stroke he suffered during the unsuccessful Roman attempt to capture the fortress city of Hatra on the Tigris near Mosul in what was then the Iranian province of Khavaran, and coupled with the renewed uprising of the people of Mesopotamia, Trajan was forced to retreat. His claim of being the conqueror of Parthian Empire turned out to be hollow. Early in 117, his health worsened and he died in Selinus in Cilicia in what is now the southeastern coastal region of Turkey on 9 August.

1110 lunar years ago, on this day in 328 AH, the Spanish Muslim theologian and poet, Ahmad ibn Muhammad Ibn Abd Rabbih, passed away. His great anthology, titled "al-Iqd al-Fareed" (The Unique Necklace), is a voluminous work divided into 25 sections. The 13th section is named the middle jewel of the necklace, and the chapters on either side are named after other jewels. It is a masterpiece of Arabic literature. Although he was descended from Spanish Christian converts to Islam, spent all his life in Spain and did not travel to the Islamic East like some other Spanish Muslim scholars, it is evident from the contents that he was well versed in the affairs of the Eastern Islamic world extending into Khorasan, Central Asia and present day Pakistan. He has also chronicled the merits of the Ahl al-Bayt or Infallible Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and detailed the seditious events in the early days of Islam when the caliphate was hijacked from the Prophet's family. His poems are found scattered in many books, and here is a translation from Arabic of one of his couplets titled "The White Complexion".

768 solar years ago, on this day in 1249 AD, Christian priest, Andrew of Longjumeau, was dispatched by Louis IX of France as his ambassador to Karakorum, Mongolia, to meet with the Khaqan of the Mongol Empire, Guyuk Khan, to discuss an alliance with the Buddhists for attacking the Muslim world from the east and the west. Earlier, Andrew had carried letters from Pope Innocent IV to the Mongol Emperor, for the same purpose, but both his missions ended in failure. This is evident of the deep animosity of European rulers towards Islam and Muslims.

738 solar years ago, on this day in 1279 AD, King Afonso III of Portugal, who was a bitter enemy of Portuguese Muslims and occupied the principality of al-Gharb (Algarve), died at the age of 69. He has earned lasting notoriety by ending over five centuries of flourishing Islamic rule in the southern and western parts of the Iberian Peninsula in what is now called Portugal, where the Christians followed a policy of expansionism and occupation.

713 solar years ago, on this day in 1304 AD, Jayaatu Khan, Emperor Wenzong of Yuan Mongol Empire was born in China as Tugh Temur. Apart from Emperor of China, he is regarded as the 12th Great Khan of the Mongol Empire or Mongols, although it was only nominal due to the division of the empire. He first ruled from 16 October 1328 to 3 April 1329 before abdicating in favour of his brother Khutughtu Khan Kusala, and again ruled from 8 September 1329 to 2 September 1332 after Khutughtu Khan Kusala's death. He died at the age of 28. His most concrete effort to patronize learning was his founding of the Academy of the Pavilion of the Star of Literature, first established in the spring of 1329, and was designed to undertake "a number of tasks, including the collection, collation, and compilation of books; and the appraisal and classifications of the paintings and calligraphic works in the imperial collection. Of the 113 officials successively serving in the academy, there were many distinguished Chinese literati, and the best Mongolian and Muslim scholars of the time. Concentrating so many talents in one governmental organ to perform various literary, artistic, and educational activities was unprecedented not only in the Yuan dynasty but also in Chinese history.

626 solar years ago, on this day in 1391 AD, Byzantine Emperor John V Palaiologos died after a reign of 50 years, spending his last years as a vassal of the Ottoman Sultans, Murad I and Bayazid I, after an unsuccessful bid to make an alliance with Rome and the Catholic Church against the Muslims. He made a humiliating tour of several European lands, suffering detention in Venice and ridicule in other parts for resisting demands to give up the Greek Orthodox creed and accept the supremacy of Rome. In the end he realized that his survival and that of the Orthodox sect of Christianity lay in accepting the suzerainty of the Turks rather than acknowledge the schism of the Catholic sect.

319 solar years ago, on this day in 1698 AD, Pierre Bouguer, French mathematician, geophysicist, geodesist, and astronomer, also known as "the father of naval architecture", was born. His work founded photometry, the measurement of light intensity. He was a child prodigy, a professor at age 15, following his father, Jean Bouguer, in hydrography - the study of bodies of water, both salt and fresh. He participated on the expedition to Peru (1735-44) to measure an arc of the meridian near the equator. In 1729, he invented a photometer to compare the intensity of two light sources illuminating separate halves of translucent paper. The eye itself, he determined, could not be used as a meter, but could establish the equality of brightness of adjacent surfaces. Bouguer's law gives the attenuation of a beam of light by an optically homogeneous (transparent) medium.

257 solar years ago, on this day in 1760 AD, the British treacherously massacred 29 Amerindian chiefs of the Cherokee tribe at Fort Prince George in South Carolina in what is now the USA in violation of the peace treaty.

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1946 AD, for the first time the right to veto was exercised by the Soviet Union at the UN against a proposal at the Security Council. This questionable right is limited to the five self-imposed permanent members of Security Council, namely: The US, Russia, Britain, France, and China. The US has used most frequently, especially to kill any resolution against the crimes of the illegal Zionist entity, Israel.

64 solar years ago, on this day in 1953 AD, the first man-made diamonds, the size of grains of sand, were produced in Sweden in a high pressure press by subjecting graphite to 83,000 atmospheres pressure and about 2000°C for an hour. The research, headed by Erik Lundblad, was funded by the Swedish electrical company ASEA. The idea was conceived by refrigerator inventor, Baltzar von Platen. ASEA decided not to publish the results to keep the experiment a commercial secret. Less than a year later, 16 Dec 1954, General Electric in the U.S. also produced man-made diamonds, which is recognised as the first process that was reproducible.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, Hojjat al-Islam Sheikh Ragheb Harb, the Friday Prayer Leader of Jibshit in Southern Lebanon and one of the founders of the Islamic Resistance Movement against the illegal Zionist entity, attained martyrdom at the age of 31 years at the hands of Israeli forces. Earlier he was detained by Israeli agents for calling the people of southern Lebanon to rise against the Zionist occupiers. After his release he continued his struggle against the occupation of southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime until his martyrdom. At the funeral procession of this combatant religious leader, clashes occurred between the youths of Jibshit and the Zionist forces, resulting in the martyrdom and injury of a number of Muslim people of Lebanon.

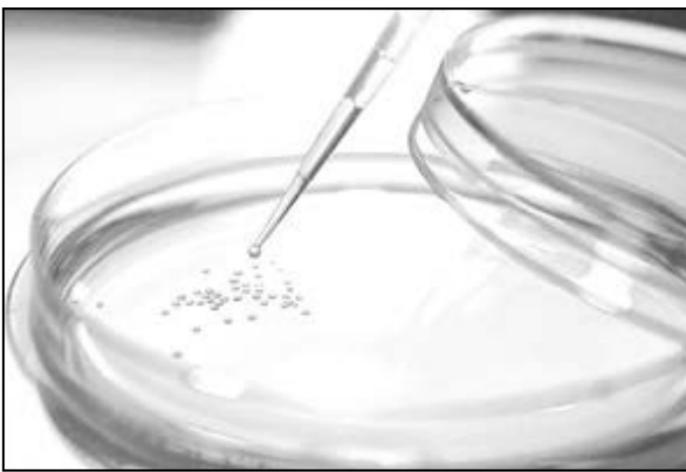
25 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Abbas al-Musawi, the Secretary-General of Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, Hezbollah, attained martyrdom at the age of 40, along with his wife, 5-year old son, and three companions, when aircraft of the usurper Zionist entity targeted his car in southern Lebanon, while he was returning from ceremonies marking the 8th anniversary of the martyrdom of prominent religious leader, Hojjat al-Islam Sheikh Ragheb Harb. This cowardly act of Zionist state terrorism enraged Muslims worldwide, but the Western regimes, despite their claim to support human rights, not only did not condemn it, but tried to justify it. Hezbollah elected Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Hassan Nasrollah as its next Secretary-General, who continues to lead the people of Lebanon to victories against Israeli crimes. Seyyed Abbas al-Musawi, who was a student in holy Najaf, Iraq of the celebrated Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer as-Sadr, was deeply influenced by the thoughts of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA).

17 solar years ago, on this day in 2000 AD, eminent historian and litterateur, Professor Mohammad Deyhim Tabrizi passed away in Tehran at the age of 92.

4 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, a terrorist bomb blast at a market in Hazara Town in Quetta, Pakistan, left almost a hundred Muslims of the ethnic Hazara community martyred, while around 200 others were injured. The Hazara and other Shi'a Muslims as well as Sunni Muslims are frequently targeted through dastardly bomb blasts by terrorist outfits such as the Taleban, Sepah-e Sahaba, Lashkar-e Jhangvi, etc.

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio - <http://parstoday.com/en>)

Iranian Researchers Find Way to Treat Long Bone Nonunion



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian researchers at Royan Research Institute have proved in a study that the problem with long bone nonunion is related to mesenchymal cells. Long bone nonunion is a serious

complication of a fracture in which the normal process of bone healing is interrupted or stalled. If the accident in which the bone is fractured is at least nine months old and no bone healing is observed for more than three months, the patient may be suffering from nonunion.

Recent studies at Royan Institute, a research and clinical center for infertility and reproductive health in Iran, has shown that mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), traditionally found in the bone marrow, can have extensive treatment applications without causing any harm to the individual's health.

The study was designed with the aim to find a new method of treatment for long bone nonunion. Under the study, seven patients

suffering from long bone nonunion received at the site of the fractured bone 20 million mesenchymal cells along with platelets.

The improvement of the patients' conditions was monitored by X-ray at intervals of one, three, six and twelve months.

The results of the study published in Cell Journal shows that within the span of 12 months, the mesenchymal stem cells have had no negative effect on the health of the individuals under the experiment.

According to the data provided by X-ray, four patients gained full recovery. The results reveal that mesenchymal cell transplant for treating bone defects is safe and has no adverse effect on patients' health.

Ammar Festival's Top Movies to Be Screened in Argentina

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Selected movies introduced at Iran's Ammar International Popular Film Festival (APFF) will have their premier in Argentina later this month.

According to the official website of APFF, Iran's Independent Film Week will be held in Buenos Aires on February 23-25 by APFF in cooperation with Argentina's National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts (NICA).

The joint film event will feature a number of Iranian movies, including "The Gold Collars", "Orphanage of Iran", "The All Alone", and "The Gas

Regulator". "Bright Lights", "Solomon and the Ant", "The Love Market" and "Iran is Great" are among the documentaries selected to be screened at the film week.

The mission of Ammar festival is to help familiarize the world with the Iranian culture and promote the true image of Iran and the Iranian people.

The third edition of the festival was held on August 19, 2016, in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Russian Scientists Find 13kg of Extraterrestrial Material in Iranian Desert

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A team of Russian geologists from Ural Federal University who recently returned from an expedition in the Lut desert in the east of Iran, have found 13 kilograms of meteorite-like material, Sputnik International News Agency reported.

"We planned to send an expedition to the Iranian desert Lut, intending to find a concentration of extraterrestrial material, meteorites," a member of the Committee on Meteorites at the Academy of Sciences Grokhovsky said.

A team of 4 people, all employees of the laboratory Extra Terra Consortium made a trial expedition to Iran.

According to the scientist, the expedition was successful. "The team managed to collect a sufficient number of extraterrestrial materials, with the support of their Iranian colleagues from the University of Kerman."

Experts believe that about 80%



of the samples which have been brought back from the desert actually have extraterrestrial origins. Russian scientists left part of the found samples in Iran for their colleagues from Kerman University.

Talking about the findings of the team, Grokhovsky told Sputnik Persian that, "During the field work, about 13 kilograms of the samples, which is considered to be meteorite, were found. Half of the found fragments have remained with our Iranian colleagues; the other half has arrived at our test lab. For now the samples have been measured and entered into the catalogue."

He further said that it turned out that many fragments were remains of a meteor shower. About 70 individual

pieces were collected with 10-12 of these fragments belonging to the same type of meteorite.

According to him, examination of the samples will start soon and the process will be time consuming. The professor will be helped by students from the university who are studying cosmic meteorology. The next step for the team will be to investigate how old the meteorite fragments actually are.

"In order to determine the age of the found fragments, the scientist should consider when a fragment was formed in space, when it split from its parent body and how much time it has spent on Earth," Grokhovsky said.

According to the scientist, meteoritic matter is the same age as our solar system, about 4.5 billion years old.

Picture of the Day



Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, is situated on the top of a large hill with the same name within the city of Khorramabad, the regional capital of Lorestan province. It is amongst the most important structures built during the Sassanid era. It has been known by a number of names since it was built over 1800 years ago.

Image credit: Tasnim News Agency