

This Day in History

(March 5)

Today is Sunday; 15th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 6th of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1438 lunar hijri; and March 5, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

3240 solar years ago, on this day in 1223 BC, the oldest recorded eclipse so far discovered, occurred according to a clay tablet retrieved from the ancient city of Ugarit in Syria. The ancient civilizations of Syria, Egypt and Mesopotamia (Iraq), were scientifically advanced while the Greeks and other Europeans lived in the dark ages as barbarians. In Babylon, according to discoveries, there are regular records of solar and lunar eclipses since the 8th century BC. The first recorded solar eclipse in China is 4th June 180 BC.

1654 solar years ago, on this day in 363 AD, the Roman Emperor, Julian the Apostate, moved from Antioch with an army of 90,000 to attack the Persian Sassanid Empire, in a campaign which would bring about his own death. After besieging the Iranian capital, Ctesiphon, in Iraq, near what is now Baghdad, he was outflanked by a formidable force led by Emperor Shapur II, who drove out the Roman forces. In the Battle of Samarra Julian was finally killed.

1052 lunar years ago, on this day in 386 AD, the Shafe'i Sufi scholar, Mohammad ibn Ali, known popularly as Abu Talib al-Makki, passed away in Baghdad. He was hadith expert and jurist as well, and author of "*Quwwat al-Qulub*" (The Nourishment of Hearts), a book used by the Iranian Shafe'i scholar, Abu Hamed Ghazali, as a source for some of the chapters of his work "*IhyaUloum ad-Din*" (Revival of Islamic Knowledge).

1001 lunar years ago, on this day in 437 AH, the famous Iranian Ismaili Shi'a poet and scholar, Naser Khosrow, who was born in Qobadian in eastern Khorasan, which is now part of modern Tajikistan, started his journey to Fatimid Egypt to meet the Ismaili caliph. During the almost seven years he spent in travel until his return home, he visited different lands, such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt, and performed the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina four times. He penned his travels in the famous book titled "*Safar-Namah*" or Travelogue that contains an interesting description of the peoples, their culture, customs, the political and economic conditions, and geographical factors of the lands he visited. He was well versed in astrology, as well as philosophy and interpretation of the holy Qur'an. He had studied Arabic, Turkic, Greek, Sanskrit, Sindhi, and even Hebrew. In separate journeys he also visited Multan and Lahore, and the splendid Ghaznavid court under Sultan Mahmud in what is now Afghanistan. Naser Khosrow has composed some very fine odes in Persian in praise of Imam Ali (AS), the First Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

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725 solar years ago, on this day in 1291 AD, Buddhist officials of the Ilkhanid Mongol Dynasty of Iran-Iraq, killed the vizier Sa'dod-Dowla ibn Hibbatollah ibn Muhsib Ebheri, for his treason against the state and the people, especially the overwhelming Muslim majority, in trying to introduce a new religion with the ruler, Arghun Khan, at its head.

505 solar years ago, on this day in 1512 AD, Flemish (Dutch) philosopher and cartographer, Gerardus Mercator, who coined the word "*Atlas*" for a collection of maps, was born in Rupelmonde in the county of Flanders – present day Belgium, where his family which was from Gangelit in the Duchy of Julichon the borders of Netherland in present day Germany, was visiting at the time of his birth.

479 solar years ago, on this day in 1539 AD, Nuno da Cunha, the notorious anti-Muslim governor of Portuguese possessions in India from 1528 to 1538, was shipwrecked and drowned off the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of the African continent, while on his way to Portugal. Son of the equally infamous anti-Muslim Tristan da Cunha, in 1527, on his way to India from Portugal Nuno da Cunha had raided Muslim merchant vessels off the coast of the Portuguese occupied Islamic territory of Mozambique and then looted the Muslim city of Mombasain present day Kenya. In 1529, he sacked and burned the port city of Daman, about 160 km north of Mumbai in the Muslim state of Gujarat. In 1533 he seized Vasai from the Sultan of Gujarat, Bahadur Shah, who in February 1537 was treacherously killed by the Portuguese while negotiating with them on a ship anchored off the coast. The Sultan's body was dumped into the sea.

459 solar years ago, on this day in 1558 AD, the tobacco plant, which is native to the Americas, was introduced into Spain by the physician Francisco Fernandes, as a healing herb.

401 solar years ago, on this day in 1616 AD, Nicolaus Copernicus's book, "*On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*", was banned by the Catholic Church, 73 years after his death on fears that his publicizing of scientific facts, which he had borrowed from the works of Islamic scientists, including Iran's Abu RayhanBerouni, would undermine people's faith in Christianity.

286 solar years ago, on this day in 1731 AD, the prominent Hanafi jurist of Syria, Abd al-Ghani al-Nabulsi, passed away at the age of 90 and was buried in Damascus.

226 solar years ago, on this day in 1791 AD, Bangalore was captured by the British during the Third Anglo-Mysore War against Fath Ali Khan Tipu Sultan, who despite the loss of Devanhalli and Chik Balapur to the aggressors by March 21, strongly defended his capital Seringapatam through scorched earth policy.

193 solar years ago, on this day in 1824 AD, the British launched the first of their three wars on Burma from neighbouring India. The war, which ended on 24 February 1826, began primarily over the Burmese bid to expand influence into the Arakan and control what are now the northeastern parts of India – Assam, Manipur, Cachar, Jaintia and Tenasserim. It was the longest and most expensive war in British Indian history. Fifteen thousand European and Indian soldiers died, together with an unknown number of Burmese army and civilian casualties. The high cost of the campaign to the British, five million pounds sterling to 13 million pounds sterling (roughly 20 billion to 50 billion in US dollars at today's rates), led to a severe economic crisis in India in 1833. The Burmese were also forced to pay an indemnity of one million pounds sterling, and sign a commercial treaty.

190 solar years ago, on this day in 1827 AD, Italian physicist, Alessandro Volta, passed away at the age of 82. He invented a device for measurement of electricity, known as Electrometer. He also invented electrical batteries. The electricity measurement unit is named after him as Volt.

190 solar years ago, on this day in 1827 AD, the French mathematician, Pierre Laplace, died at the age of 78. He emphasized on the theory that the Earth had separated from the Sun millions of years ago and its crust gradually cooled down and hardened. His books include "A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities".

122 solar years ago, on this day in 1895 AD, British orientalist and expert on Persian language, Major-General Henry C. Rawlinson, died at the age of 85 in London.

111 solar years ago, on this day in 1906 AD, US occupation forces in the Philippines, brutally massacred almost a thousand Muslims in the First Battle of Bud Dajo, leaving only six survivors.

64 solar years ago, on this day in 1953 AD, the dictator of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin, died at the age of 74.

52 solar years ago, on this day in 1965 AD, the March Intefadha erupted in Bahrain against British colonial presence. It was a popular uprising by the long-suppressed majority of the Persian Gulf island state and called for overthrow of the Aal-e Khalifa minority regime, which still clings to power with US-British help, despite the massive uprising underway these days. Bahrain belonged to Iran and in the 1800s was seized by the Aal-e Khalifa, who were pirates infesting KhorAbdullah waterway between southern Iraq and what is now Kuwait, from where they were driven out by the Ottomans.

49 solar years ago, on this day in 1968 AD, former Iranian Prime Minister, Mohammad Mosaddeq passed away at the age of 85.

47 solar years ago, on this day in 1970 AD, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect on ratification by 43 nations including Iran, calling for a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Today Iran continues to adhere to the NPT for peaceful use of atomic energy, in contrast to the diabolical policies of the US – the world's most dangerously nuclear-armed power.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, the eminent jurisprudent and researcher, Allamah Zabihollah Mahallati, passed away at the age of 93 in Tehran.

One solar year ago, on this day in 2016 AD, Raymond Samuel Tomlinson, the inventor of Email, died at the age of 74 in Lincoln, Massachusetts, US.

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

Gene Therapy Relieves Sickle Cell in World First: Study

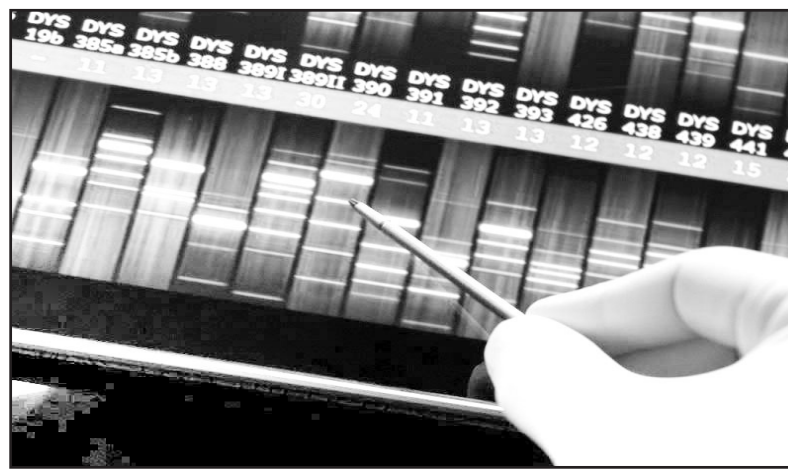
PARIS (AFP) - Scientists have used gene therapy to relieve the symptoms of a teenager suffering from sickle cell disease (SCD) in a world-first breakthrough, they report.

SCD is an inherited disease caused by a gene mutation that results in red blood cells losing their usual donut-like appearance and taking on a sickle or crescent moon shape.

Sufferers -- around five million worldwide -- often have anaemia and get tired easily, run a higher risk of infections and stroke, and experience bouts of severe body pain.

Many need chronic blood transfusions.

But a team from the AP-HP



Gene therapy was used to relieve the symptoms of a teenager suffering from sickle cell disease (SCD).

university hospital group in Paris, the Imagine Institute of Genetic Diseases and gene therapy company bluebird bio said they managed to get a

teenager off transfusions.

The boy was the first person to be treated, in Paris in October 2014, for sickle cell disease in a clinical trial with

gene therapy. Others have been tested since, but no official results published.

The team collected so-called haematopoietic stem cells, which give rise to red blood cells, from the bone marrow of the youngster, then aged 13.

The immature cells were treated with a therapeutic gene, carried in a deactivated virus, which recorded their DNA to correct blood cell production.

The treated cells were then re injected into the boy's body.

The results, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, report on the child's health 15 months after treatment.



Iranian-Bulgarian Children Paintings Displayed in Varna

BELGRADE (IRNA) – A painting exhibition of Iranian and Bulgarian children was put on Friday night in Varna, Bulgaria.

The event was organized by Iran's embassy in Bulgaria, Tehran Peace Museum and Hadis Institute of Tehran.

Iranian cultural attaché in Bulgaria Mohammad Ali Kiani addressed the meeting,

emphasizing the importance of holding such events in developing cultural ties.

During the ceremony, Bulgaria foreign ministry representative also pointed to relations between Iran and Bulgaria as friendly.

At the end of the ceremony, plaques of honor were granted to Bulgarian children.

Murakami Stories Inspire Iranian Computer Game Designer

TEHRAN (IBNA) – An Iranian designer of computer games, has produced a new video game called 'Memoranda', inspired by the surreal stories of the acclaimed Japanese writer Haruki Murakami.

According to IBNA correspondent, this game which was designed by Sahand Sa'edi and released in

January shows unlucky characters in bad conditions in which strange and magical events take place by a superhero.

It is the story of forgetting and being forgotten. 'Memoranda' shows a woman on the verge of losing her memory. She must realize if she is really losing her memory or some other accident has occurred behind the scenes.

The creator of the game, Sahand Saedi, says that he always reads Murakami's works before sleeping and any time he ran into a problem designing for the contest, he randomly opened a page of a book by this writer to be the source of his inspiration.

"I started with one of his short stories, and gradually added characters from other short stories. I tried to



bring over the surreal atmosphere, as well as the lonely and strange characters from the stories, and hope that the gamer will feel like they are living in one of these stories while playing," Saedi said.

"I was always lucky and linked a part of the game to a dialogue or a particular narration on the same page, he continued," he pointed out.

This game is suitable for ios, Mac and PC.

Cinequest Film Festival to Screen Iran's 'Wednesday'



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian movie 'Wednesday' directed by Soroush Mohammadzadeh will go on screen at US Cinequest Film Festival.

The movie centers upon the choice between revenge and forgiveness; two years ago, Akram, a 19 year old girl had her long-awaited engagement ceremony, but jubilation descends into trauma, when her father is killed by a member of the groom's family during an argument. The film whisks the audience to the pivotal day of the murderer's execution sentence, but the secret of Akram's pregnancy threatens to unravel the process.

The cast of the film include Shahab Hosseini, Arman Darvish, Nasim Adabi, Hasti Mahdavi, Amirhossein Sham Bayati, and Elham HaajFathali.

The Cinequest Film Festival is an annual independent film festival held each March in San Jose, California.

Picture of the Day



Namakdan salt dome is among the natural attractions of Qeshm Island, south of Iran, which attracts a lot of tourists every year.

Credit: Tasnim News Agency