

## This Day in History

May 28

Today is Saturday; 8th of the Iranian month of Khordad 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 21st of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1437 lunar hijri; and May 28, 2016, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2601 solar years ago**, on this day in 585 BC, as per the prediction of Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus four days earlier, a solar eclipse occurred in the midst of a battle outside Sardis in what is now western Turkey, between the Medes of Iran and the Lydians. The battle ended in a draw. Alyattes of Lydia, agreed to enter into a truce with the Median Emperor, Cyaxares, thus ending the Battle of Halys. This is one of the cardinal dates from which other dates can be calculated.

**931 lunar years ago**, on this day in 506 AH, the Iranian Sunni Muslim hadith scholar, historian and genealogist, Abdul-Karim Ibn Mohammad as-Sam'ani, was born in the Khorasani city of Marv, which is currently in the Republic of Turkmenistan. After basic Islamic studies in Naishapur, he travelled widely throughout Iran, Iraq, Syria, Hejaz, and Transoxiana to acquire more knowledge. His most important book is "al-Ansaab" on the genealogy of the notables. He has also left behind other valuable books such as "Mujam ash-Shuyoukh" and "Tarikh-e Marv" (History of Marv).

**492 solar years ago**, on this day in 1524 AD, Selim II, the Drunkard, the 3rd self-styled Turkish caliph and the 11th Ottoman Sultan, was born in Istanbul. Son of Sultan Suleiman and the Rutherian (Ukrainian-Polish) concubine, Khurram Sultan (original name: Alexandra Lisowska), he succeeded to the throne at the age of 42 through intrigue and fraternal dispute. Despite claiming to be caliph and having a powerful fleet that controlled the Mediterranean Sea, he refused the pleas for help by the Spanish Muslims during the 3-year Morisco Revolt (1568-71) in Granada, southern Spain. As a result the uprising was ruthlessly crushed by a joint Christian armies of Spain, Austria, and Italy, in the aftermath of which hundreds of thousands of Spanish Muslims were forcibly Christianized and all books and documents in Arabic burned. Selim II died at the age of 50 after an incompetent reign of 8 years, as a result of drunkenly slipping on the wet floor of a bath-house, and fatally injuring his head.

**471 lunar years ago**, on this day in 966 AH, Prince Bayazid lost the Battle of Konya against the forces of his father, Sultan Sulaiman, the 10th Ottoman Emperor and 2nd self-styled Turkish caliph, and sought refuge in Iran at the court of Shah Tahmasp I in Qazvin, roughly the same time when the Safavid Emperor was hosting another royal dignitary as refugee - the Mughal Emperor Humayun Shah who had been ousted from India by the Afghan rebel, Sher Shah Suri. Eventually, Humayun, through Iranian support managed to regain the throne of Delhi, but when Shah Tahmasp tried to patch up the differences between the Ottoman Sultan and his son, by persuading Bayazid to return, the latter along with his four sons, was cruelly killed by Sulaiman the so-called 'Magnificent' and self-styled caliph, who years earlier had killed his eldest son, Prince Mustafa on mere suspicion.

**278 solar years ago**, on this day in 1738 AD, French physician Joseph Ignace Guillotin, who promoted a law requiring the use of a "machine that beheads painlessly" as a humane mode for all executions for commoners or nobles alike, was born. Without any further specifications from Guillotin, others actually designed and built the machine, and yet it still became known by his name—the guillotine. After experiments on cadavers taken from a public hospital, the first such machine was erected in the Place de Greve in Paris (4th April 1792), and first used to execute a highwayman (25th April 1792). It was widely used during the French Revolution. Known first as the "machine", after the beheading of King Louis XVI of France it became known also as "la louisette" or "le louison", but the name "la guillotine" prevailed. It was used in many other countries.

**173 solar years ago**, on this day in 1843 AD, Noah Webster, US lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and prolific author, died. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education." His blue-backed speller books taught five generations of American children how to spell and read. His name became synonymous with "dictionary," especially the modern Merriam-Webster dictionary that was first published in 1828 as An American Dictionary of the English Language. In 1806, Webster published his first dictionary, titled "A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language". In 1807 he began compiling an expanded and fully comprehensive dictionary, titled "An American Dictionary of the English Language"; it took eighteen years to complete. To evaluate the etymology of words, Webster learned twenty-six languages, including Old English (Anglo-Saxon), German, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Arabic, and Sanskrit. He hoped to standardize American speech, since Americans in different parts of the country used different languages. They also spelled, pronounced, and used English words differently. His book contained seventy thousand words, of which twelve thousand had never appeared in a published dictionary before.

**164 solar years ago**, on this day in 1852 AD, French orientalist, Eugene Burnouf, who made significant contributions to the deciphering of Old Persian cuneiform, died. Son of Professor Jean-Louis Burnouf (1775-1844), who was a classical scholar of high reputation, Eugene undertook deciphering of the "Avesta" manuscripts of the Zoroastrians. By his research, the knowledge of the Avestan language was first brought into the scientific world of Europe. He caused the "Vendidad Sade", to be lithographed with the utmost care from the manuscript in the Bibliotheque Nationale, and published it in folio parts during the years 1829-1843. He made significant contributions to the deciphering of Old Persian cuneiform. In 1836, he discovered that the first of the inscriptions contained a list of the satrapies of Darius. With this clue in his hand, he was able to identify and publish an alphabet of thirty letters, most of which he had correctly deciphered. He was also an expert of Sanskrit and translated books from that language into French.

**111 solar years ago**, on this day in 1905 AD, the 2-day Battle of Tsushima ended with the destruction of almost the entire Russian Fleet by Admiral Togo Heihachiro of the Imperial Japanese Navy. Fought in the Tsushima Strait between Korea and Japan, it was the first naval battle in which wireless telegraphy (radio) played a critically important role. It was the first time in modern history, following the Industrial Revolution in the West that a European power had been defeated by an Asian country. The Russians lost 4,380 killed and 5,917 captured, including two admirals, with a further 1,862 interned. The Japanese lost only three torpedo boats, with 117 men killed and 500 wounded.

**109 solar years ago**, on this day in 1907 AD, the Persian newsletter "Sour-e Israfeel" started publication in Tehran. The owner was Mirza Jahangir Khan, titled "Sour-e Israfeel", and its chief-editor Ali Akbar Dehkhoda. It was launched to promote the Constitutional Movement and to highlight the problems of the lower strata of the society. It started as a weekly newsletter and became a daily, but after only 32 editions ceased publication because of government pressures.

**82 solar years ago**, on this day in 1934 AD, the Majlis or parliament of Iran passed a resolution for establishing Tehran University made up of several colleges.

**76 solar years ago**, on this day in 1940 AD, during World War II, Belgium, was occupied by German Nazi forces. On the other hand, on this day the Allied Forces, in the wake of a deadly confrontation with German troops, started to retreat from the Port of Dunkirk in eastern France. During these operations, 1774 warships of the Allied Forces took part to rescue 350,000 British, French, and Belgian soldiers. But, due to the air strikes against this French port and its siege by German Nazi forces, nearly 50,000 Allied Forces were killed and 400 of their warships were destroyed. France was subsequently completely occupied by German troops.

**52 solar years ago**, on this day in 1964 AD, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed by several combatant groups with the purpose of creating the independent State of Palestine. It is recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" by over 100 world countries and has enjoyed observer status at the United Nations since 1974.

**40 solar years ago**, on this day in 1976 AD, the famous Bengali painter, Zain ul-Abedin, passed away at the age of 62. He shot into prominence in 1938 winning the gold medal while studying art in Calcutta, and got the breakthrough in 1944 with his Famine Series paintings of 1943 on the great famine that afflicted Bengal. On the partition of the subcontinent, his hometown Kishoreganj now became part of East Pakistan, which in 1971 became Bangladesh. An artist of exceptional talent and international repute, he is rightly considered the Father of Bangladeshi Art.

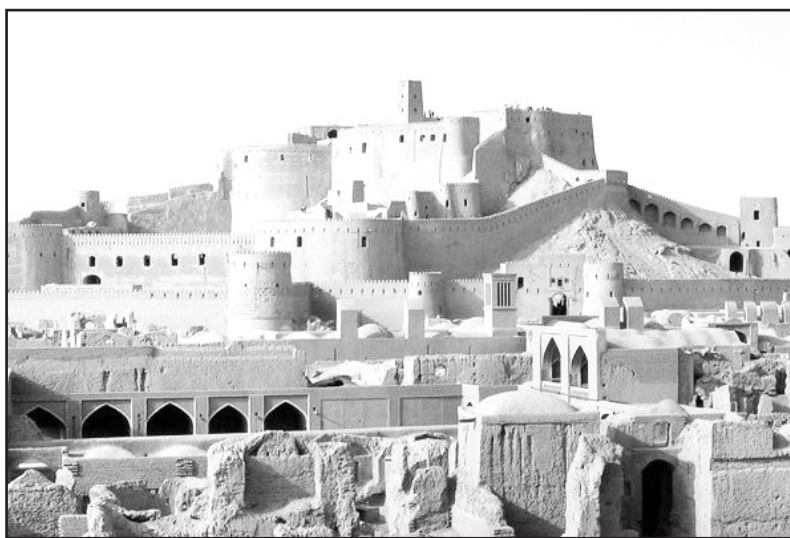
**27 solar years ago**, on this day in 1989 AD, the Iranian Islamic scholar, Ayatollah Mir Seyyed Ali Fani Isfahani, passed away at the age of 74. He studied in his hometown Isfahan, where after attaining the status of Ijtihad; he left for holy Najaf in Iraq, where he stayed for 30 years lecturing on theology, jurisprudence, exegesis of Holy Qur'an, and ethics. He returned to Iran in 1973 and until his death 16 years later, he used to lecture in the seminary of holy Qom. He has left behind more than 80 books, on various topics, including "Exegesis of Surah Fateha", and "Arb'ain Hadith".

**18 solar years ago**, on this day in 1998 AD, Pakistan responded to a series of nuclear tests by India 17 days earlier with five of its own, codenamed Chagai-I. Pakistan celebrates this event every year as "Youm-e Takbir" or Day of God's Majesty. By conducting simultaneous atomic testing of the five nuclear devices, Pakistan became the seventh nuclear-armed power. Both India and Pakistan have refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal formally declared the country a republic, thus ending the 240-year reign of the Hindu Shah dynasty. Islam, which accounts for some 10 percent of the country's 27 million population is the third but fastest growing religion in Nepal.

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

# Bam Citadel to Open to Public After 13 Years



**KERMAN (MNA) – The world's largest adobe building has only recently been finding its past glory after reconstruction of its most beautiful part which is planned to be opened to interested public.**

Built around 500 BC, Bam Citadel

was hit by the earthquake which equally devastated City of Bam in the desert province of Kerman. The quake demolished 90 per cent of this invaluable architectural monument, but the revival attempts, having started almost immediately after the

quake, addressed the rebuilding of the citadel through a combination of traditional and modern methods of reconstructing an ancient building. The initial efforts sought to restore the strength to the castle and save its historical identity and hue as well.

In the process of construction, different academicians and experts participated in a multinational workshop to erect the citadel anew; now, after so many years, the citadel is yet to find its past glory. The testimony to this is the flow of large groups of tourists on daily basis who come to Bam only to behold the gem of the orient. The estimations show that 99 per cent of the historical citadel has been restored to its former structure, with efforts still underway in other parts.

Afshin Ebrahimi, head of Bam International Heritage, an NGO to register the citadel in UNESCO

World Heritage List, told Mehr News local correspondent on Wednesday that the restoration work would give the public access to seat and office of the Governor (hakim neshin) and the first porch of the Citadel. He was satisfied with the process of construction; "the reconstruction turned the Citadel to one of the largest architectural workshops ever to restore historical monument and the embodiment of national solidarity and collaboration to restore a monument of a long-gone civilization," he told Mehr News. "We predict to have swarm of tourists rushing to the Citadel by the opening of the seat of the Governor by next New Year's Eve (21 March 2017); however, to see that future as a reality, we need much-required resources to invigorate the construction process and instill some hope to the body of the ancient giant building."

## New Study Uncovers Mechanisms Underlying How Diabetes Damages Heart

**TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Cardiac complications are the number one cause of death among diabetics. Now a team of scientists has uncovered a molecular mechanism involved in a common form of heart damage found in people with diabetes.**

People with diabetes have a two to five time higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases. For decades physicians have noticed unhealthy changes in the hearts of diabetics called diabetic cardiomyopathy, which is a disorder of the heart muscle that can lead to heart failure.

The molecular mechanisms responsible for this cardiac disorder are poorly understood, although they are key to revealing new targets for the

discovery of better treatments and development of more accurate diagnostics.

RNA provides the blueprint for making the protein building blocks of cells. The RNA is cut or spliced to generate mRNA used to build proteins. RNA splicing mistakes are associated with many human diseases because they lead to production of the wrong or harmful proteins.

A research team from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine, University of California San Diego and the University of Texas at Dallas have published their findings in the journal Cell Reports.

The research team has

previously shown that splicing is incorrectly regulated and levels of the splicing regulator RBFOX2 are elevated in diabetic heart tissue. The current study sought to further investigate how RBFOX2 regulation contributes to splicing defects seen in diabetic hearts and the consequences of splicing changes on cardiac function.

The UTMB-led study found that RBFOX2 binds to 73 percent of the RNA that are mis-spliced in diabetic heart tissues. This alternative splicing was found to impair normal gene expression patterns in the heart, especially genes important for molecular metabolism, programmed cell death, protein trafficking and calcium handling in heart

muscle tissue. Calcium balance is important in regulating a heartbeat.

"We discovered that RBFOX2 function is disrupted in diabetic hearts before cardiac complications are noticeable and RBFOX2 dysregulation contributes to abnormal calcium signaling in the heart," said N. Muge Kuyumcu-Martinez, lead author and UTMB assistant professor in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology. "Identifying RBFOX2 as an important contributor to diabetic complications and learning how it is dysregulated may allow us to develop new tools to diagnose, prevent or treat diabetic cardiomyopathy in the future."

## 'Muslim Pupils Must Shake Teacher's Hand'

**TEHRAN (Press TV) - Regional authorities in Switzerland have ruled that if Muslim students refuse to shake their teacher's hand at the beginning and end of lessons, their parents will face fines of up to 5,000 Swiss francs (around \$5,000).**

The new ruling overturned a controversial decision by a school in northern Therwil municipality, in the district of Arlesheim in the canton of Basel-Country, to grant exemptions from handshakes to two teenage brothers who were unwilling to touch a member of the opposite sex.

The school's original decision to find a compromise and exempt the two brothers from the custom received a considerable media attention and sparked a heated national debate in the country last month, making the school turn to regional authorities to settle the matter.

"A teacher has the right to demand a handshake," the authorities said in a Wednesday statement.

They added in the statement that "the public interest concerning gender equality as well as integration of foreigners far outweighs that concerning the freedom of belief of students".

The cantonal authorities said if the two, aged 14 and 15, continue to refuse to shake hands "the sanctions called for by law will be applied."

The Syrian boys are sons of an imam based in Basel who moved to Switzerland in 2001 and was granted asylum. They said they informed education officials that physical contact with women who are not family members is not

permissible in their faith.

The boys told Swiss media that requiring them to shake hands with teachers is discriminatory saying that "nobody could force them" to shake hands with a woman, and that they "could not just delete their culture as if it were a hard drive".

However, Swiss politicians insisted on the handshake with Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga saying that "shaking hands is part of [Swiss] culture."

Georges Thuring, the president of the commission that oversees local citizenship applications, has said, "I don't think we can talk of integration in relation to handshake objectors. Personally, I would reject their request."

The migration office in the canton of Basel-Country has also said that the naturalization process for the family is halted, adding that it was seeking more information about the circumstances under which the boys' father's asylum

request was approved.

Basel-Country spokesman Adrian Baumgartner has confirmed a report from the country's national press agency ATS on the suspension.

Previous similar disputes have happened before in Switzerland when some Muslim parents were fined after demanding their daughters be exempted from swimming lessons but some schools have also been forbidden from enforcing the full face veil.

## Picture of the Day



**Tehran looks very different now; if you are walking the streets of the Iranian capital these days, make sure to turn your eyes upward, or you will miss the chance to see the biggest art gallery in existence. You may be surprised to find all the commercial billboards across the Iranian capital presented with a large-scale, breathtaking view of famous artworks by Iranian and international artists.**

Image Credit: Mehr News Agency