

This Day in History

August 28

Today is Sunday; 7th of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1395 solar hijri; corresponding to 25th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1437 lunar hijri; and August 28, 2016, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Several millennium years ago, on this day – the 25th of Zil-Qa'dah – by God's commandment the first part of dry land emerged from under the seas on Planet Earth which until then was filled with water without any soil on its surface. This blessed spot is the same place where Adam (AS) built the Symbolic House of God, the Holy Ka'ba, which is the focal point of prayer for Muslims throughout the globe. From here dry land gradually spread around the globe forming continents, land masses, and islands. This day is thus known as "Dahw al-Ardh" or Emergence and Spread of Land. According to narrations, Imam Mahdi (AS) the Saviour of Humanity and the 12th and Last Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), will reappear on this day in the end times to cleanse the earth of all vestiges of corruption and oppression, and to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice. Special prayers have been recommended on this day as a form of thanksgiving to the Almighty.

Over 4,000 lunar years ago, on the eve of the 25th of Zil-Qa'dah, Prophet Abraham (AS) was born in Mesopotamia. He needs no introduction; and today all the three monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – regard him as the progenitor. The holy Qur'an calls him "millah" or a nation by himself. Islam considers Abraham (AS) as one the Five Great Prophets – the other four being Noah, Moses, Jesus, and Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

Some 2070 lunar years ago, on the eve of the 25th of Zil-Qa'dah, according to a narration, Prophet Jesus (AS) was born to the Virgin Mary (SA) by the Will of God, without the association of a male. The holy Qur'an testifies to his miraculous birth and goes on to refute his alleged crucifixion and the weird concept of Trinity, as well as the allegation that he was the son of God – the Almighty Creator is far too glorious to have such human traits as the need for spouse or children. Prophet Jesus gave tidings of the advent of the Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – a prophet found in ayah 6 of Surah Saff of the holy Qur'an, as well as the Gospel of St. John despite the tampering that the Bible has gone through over the past centuries.

1586 solar years ago, on this day in 430 AD, Christian bishop, Augustine died in Hippo – present day Annaba in Algeria. His writings included "The Confessions." He was the proponent of the theory of the so-called "just war", saying a nation's leaders must consider among other things, anticipated loss of civilian life and whether all peaceful options have been exhausted before war starts. Intellectuals have criticized his views, pointing out that his dogmatic invective laid the foundations for centuries of intellectual tyranny by the Catholic Church.

1427 lunar years ago, on this day in 10 AH, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) left Medina for Mecca to perform his Farewell Hajj, and was joined by over 100,000 Muslims from various regions. During the pilgrimage he showed the correct performance of the Hajj rituals, and at Mount Mercy on the plain of Arafat he delivered his famous sermon, saying he was about to depart from the world and was leaving behind for guidance of the Ummah, the Thaqalayn (two invaluable things), that is, the holy Qur'an and his infallible progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt. While returning home from his Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet was commanded by God to halt at the pond of Ghadeer in Khom near Juhfa to proclaim his dear cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali, (AS) as vicegerent.

1384 solar years ago, on this day in 632 AD – as per the Gregorian Calendar – Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (peace upon her), the venerable daughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was tragically martyred, leaving behind in a state of mourning her bereaved husband, Imam Ali (AS), and four little children – sons, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS); and daughters, Hazrat Zainab (SA) and Hazrat Omm Kolthoum (SA). She was the daughter of the Mother of Believers, Omm al-Momineen Hazrat Khadijah (SA), and is regarded as the noblest ever lady of all times, even surpassing in merits, the Virgin Mary, mother of Prophet Jesus. God Almighty has vouchsafed her spotless purity in the holy Qur'an. She remains a model-par-excellence for all virtuous women, and her progeny, the Saadaat, plural of Seyyed, has today spread around the world and is held in esteem by all Muslims. We extend our heartfelt condolences on her tragic martyrdom, which was the result of the hurling upon her of the burning door of her house by a roguish group of her father's companions, who had seized her patrimony of the orchard of Fadak, and had usurped the political rule of the Islamic state from her husband, Imam Ali (AS), the Prophet's divinely-decreed heir. According to Islamic calendar she attained martyrdom either on the 13th of Jamadi al-Awwal or the 3rd of Jamadi al-Akher, 11 AH.

1291 lunar years ago, on this day in 145 AH Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah Ibn al-Hassan al-Muthanna, was martyred near Kufa in a battle with the forces of Mansour Dawaniqi, the 2nd self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, shortly after the martyrdom of his brother Mohammad Nafs Zakiyya in an uprising in Hijaz. He was a great grandson of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS), while his grandmother, Fatema (SA) was the daughter of the Prophet's 3rd Infallible Heir, Imam Husain (AS) the Martyr of Karbala. He launched his uprising in Ramadhan in Basra in coordination with his brother's uprising in Hijaz, and within two months had liberated the whole of southern Iraq and Iran from the Abbasids, while Nafs Zakiyya liberated Arabia and Yemen, thus cornering Mansour in his capital Hirah in central Iraq (Baghdad was not yet built). It is worth noting that years earlier during the repressive rule of the Godless Omayyads, the Prophet's clan, the Hasehmites, had held an assembly at Abwa where Abu'l-Abbas as-Saffah and Mansour Dawaniqi (the future usurpers of the caliphate) had sworn allegiance to Nafs Zakiyya. But with the toppling of the Omayyads, the Abbasid brothers indulged in propaganda to hijack the rule of the realm by breaking their promise to handover the caliphate to the Prophet's progeny. Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS), as the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir, sensed the plot and stayed away from the political tussle. He spurned the offer of caliphate by burning the sealed envelope sent by a victorious commander of the anti-Omayyad uprising, since his right was God-given and beyond the power of politicians. Among the offspring of Imam Hasan (AS), however, Nafs Zakiyya aspired for political power and challenged the Abbasids for breaching their promise. Thus, as a result of the uprising of the two brothers, when Mansour was on the verge of defeat, news arrived of the martyrdom in Medina of Nafs Zakiyya. This emboldened the Abbasids and in the battle near Kufa, an arrow pierced Ibrahim's neck and he was unhorsed and decapitated by Hamid Ibn Qahtaba. Mansour, who three years later martyred Imam Sadeq (AS) through poisoning, is notorious for shedding the blood of the Prophet's progeny, especially Imam Hasan's (AS) offspring.

1050 lunar years ago, on this day in 387 AH, the esteemed Egyptian legist and historian Abu'l Hassan Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Zulaq, passed away. Among his works is the book "Kitab Sirat al-Mu'iz" on the life of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite Caliph, al-Mu'iz, who shifted his seat of power to Egypt from what is now Tunisia in North Africa, after his general, Jowhar as-Siqili, conquered the Land of the Nile and built the city of Cairo including the famous al-Azhar Academy. Ibn Zulaq is considered a reliable authority on Fatimid history.

827 solar years ago, on this day in 1189 AD, during the third Crusade, European invaders began the siege of the Palestinian city of Acre under Guy of Lusignan. It lasted until July 12, 1191, and was the deadliest event of the whole period of the Crusades for the Christian occupiers.

495 solar years ago, on this day in 1521 AD, the Ottoman Turks captured Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, during the reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. The earlier attempt to take Belgrade by the Ottomans in 1456 under Mohammad al-Fateh had proved inconclusive.

474 solar years ago, on this day in 1542 AD, during the 19-year long Turkish-Portuguese War that lasted from 1538-to-1557, the Ottomans emerged victorious in the Battle of Wofla. The Portuguese were scattered, and their leader Christovão da Gama was captured and later executed.

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

Chinese Book Fair Holds Iran Day



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's stand in Chinese Book Fair has held Iran's Day with participation of 70 Chinese professors and students of Persian.

The third day of the 2016 Beijing International Book Fair saw the ceremony organized by Iran's cultural attaché in Beijing to which Adel Khani was a keynote speaker. Mr. Khani welcomed the attendants and guests to the ceremony; "Iran had been a land and a continent in her diversity

of climates, religions, ethnic groups, cuisine, art and culture, and a museum of tremendous scale stretched out in larger part of the continent," he told the ceremony.

Mr. Khani is a graduate of Peking University and a cultural ambassador as well; "we hope to see students of Persian, through research, extend ties of these two civilizations, and I hope that Peking University will provide effective means to advance and fund

research in the field," he suggested.

The second speaker Mrs. Najmeh Dorri, a professor of Literature in Tarbiat Modarres University who addressed the ceremony about the role of book in dispersing culture; "an important development index is per capita literacy and study hours, cultural written and oral production of books and related items; no other product would replace book in advancing this index; it is an inaccuracy to think

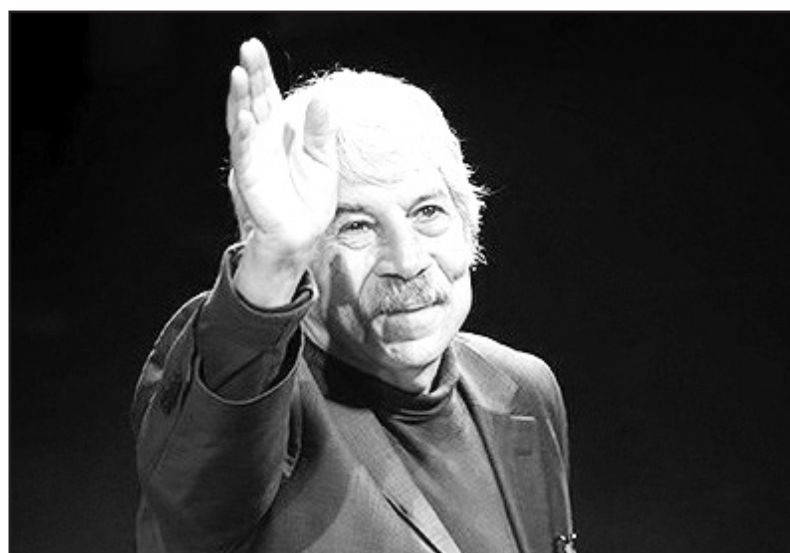
that with the advent of new mass communication technologies, books will be forlorn; rather, it will be ever shining, luring more and more lovers of reading to this valuable thing," she emphasized.

The ceremony also saw Persian verse recited by Chinese students and professors, in Persian and in Chinese translation of works of mainly modern poets as Sohrab Sepehri, and Mehdi Akhavan Sales.

Still in the ceremony, Gholamreza Noei, director of foreign office of Iran Cultural Fairs Institute (ICFI) told the meeting that more than 60,000 titles had been published in Iran annually; "the volumes displayed in Iranian stand provides an opportunity to introduce Iranian culture to Chinese; Ministry of Culture had been a major patron of translation projects brining Persian literary pearls to other countries, and accordingly, I express my gratitude to the ministry," he added.

The 22nd Beijing International Book Fair attracted 2,302 publishers from 82 countries, including the United States, France and Japan. The United Arab Emirates was the guest of honor at this year's event.

'I Came, I Saw, I Left'



The late Iranian cinema, theater actor and producer Davoud Rashidi.

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Having been housebound due to suffering from the Alzheimer's for several years, renowned Iranian cinema and theater actor and producer Davoud Rashidi passed away at the age of 83 on Friday (Aug 26).

Born in Tehran, the prominent veteran artist who had played eminent roles in theater, cinema and television productions was succumbed to a cardiac arrest earlier in the day in his house in the same town he was born.

Following his demise, several high ranking Iranian officials and artists including Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as well as First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri in separate messages expressed their condolences over the passing away of veteran Iranian actor.

In a message President Rouhani said that Rashidi played "a valuable role in promoting culture and art" in Iran and his grand and magnificent works had helped him become "an eternal figure in the artistic history of the country."

The Iranian president expressed hope that the "perseverance and artistry of Davoud Rashidi in creating lasting works would set an example for the young artists of our country."

meanwhile, Zarif, while noting that demise of the popular artist Davoud Rashidi caused deep sorrow, offered his condolences over the great loss to the family of the deceased, art community as well as the Iranian nation.

Zarif also asked God to bestow His divine mercy to the venerable artist

who committed his lifetime to the real of arts.

Graduated with a degree in political science from the University of Geneva in 1960 and attending the school of theater in Geneva, the iconic figure of the Iranian cinema and theater managed to receive the first class Order of Culture and Art in 2012 by the then Iranian president.

Acclaimed Iranian artist who was distinguished for his 'stony and cold' facial expression, Rashidi has played astonishing role in numerous cinema movies and television series, including Kamalolmol, Hezardastan, Velayat-e Eshq and Atr-e Gol-e Yas and plays such as Waiting for Godot, Richard III, Victory in Chicago, Minus Two and Who is Mr. Schmit?

Basically a powerful actor on the theater stage, Rashidi's play in 'Victory in Chicago' was his most

successful work in the Iranian theater which was warmly received by theater fans in Iran.

Meanwhile, Rashidi's role as Mofatesh Shesh Angoshti (Six-Fingered Inspector) was also considered among his most remembered plays by viewers.

Rashidi's last appearance in the Iranian cinema was in 2012 when he acted in Mehrshad Karkhani's Ekbatan while he also had a role in Kolah Pahlavi TV series produced by Ziaeddin Dorri.

Rashidi in his latest note revealed after his demise wrote, 'I am not afraid of death on my own. Death is a reality that man should accept. I love to die like my father all of a sudden. I do not write on my stone grave. If I could do so, I would prefer to choose the Ceaser sentence that said, 'Veni, vidi, vici' which means I came, I saw, I left.'

Picture of the Day



A man sits with a blanket over his head in front of collapsed buildings, in Amatrice, central Italy, Aug. 26, 2016. Strong aftershocks rattled residents and rescue crews alike Friday as hopes began to dim that firefighters would find any more survivors from Wednesday's earthquake.

Image credit: AP