

This Day in History

(April 19)

Today is Wednesday; 30th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 21st of the Islamic month of Rajab 1438 lunar hijri; and April 19, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1486 solar years ago, on this day in 531 AD at the Battle of Callinicum near what later came to be known as ar-Raqqah in Syria, an Iranian army of 15,000 cavalry and 5000 Lakhmid Arabs led by the Sassanid general, Azarethes, defeated the forces of Byzantine or the Eastern Roman Empire, made up of 25,000 Greeks and Slavs and 3000 Ghassanid Arabs under the command of Belisarius. Initially, the Romans only wanted to ward off the Persians, without a risky battle, which eventually occurred and led to the defeat of the Byzantines when after a seesaw struggle for two-thirds of the day, a squadron of elite Iranian cavalry broke through the Byzantine right flank, driving Greeks and Ghassanid Arabs in different directions. Zacharias of Mytilene writing of the battle said: "[The Romans] turned and fled before the Persian attack. Many fell into the River Euphrates and were drowned, and others were killed."

1190 lunar years ago, on this day in 248 AH, the scholar Abu Hatem Sahl ibn Mohammad Sijistani passed away. An expert in Qur'anic sciences, hadith, literary techniques and poetry, he was also involved in social affairs as well. Books authored by him include "Akhlāq al-Insan", and "E'raab al-Qur'an".

803 lunar years ago, on this day in 635AH, Sultan Abul-Ma'ali Mohammad al-Ayyubi, known as al-Malik al-Kamel, the 5th ruler of the Ayyubid Kurdish dynasty of Egypt, died after twenty years of rule. Son and successor Salah od-Din Ayyubi's brother, Sultan al-Adel, defeated two invasions by the European Crusaders – the 5th and 6th Crusades. His most ignominious act was handing over of the Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas, Bethlehem and some other parts of Palestine to Fredrick Barbarossa of Germany, an act that infuriated the Muslims.

639 lunar years ago, on this day in 799 AH, Mahmud I, the 5th king of the Bahmani kingdom of Iranian origin of the Deccan (or southern India) died in his capital Gulbarga after a reign of 19 years.

566 solar years ago, on this day in 1451 AD, with the abdication of Alam Shah, the last king of the Seyyed Dynasty of North India, the ambitious Pashto warrior, Bahlol Lodi ascended the throne of Delhi as Bahlol Shah Ghazi. The dynasty founded by him lasted 75 years, ending with the defeat and death of his grandson, Ibrahim Lodi in the Battle of Panipat in 1526 against the Mughal conqueror Zaheer od-Din Mohammad Babar. The Lodis patronized Persian language and culture. Several histories were written and poetical works composed during their rule, such as the "Mathnavi Mehr va Mah". The second king, Sikandar Lodi, had medical books translated into Persian from Sanskrit.

242 solar years ago, on this day in 1775 AD, the armed rebellion of the 13 New England colonies against the British crown – also known as the American Revolutionary War – started with a victory of the colonists at Battle of Concord. This was prelude to the birth of the United States of America, which has since expanded to its present size, large through a policy of expansionism and seizure of Mexican territory.

210 solar years ago, on this day in 1807 AD, the British forces, following their failure to confront the Egyptians, withdrew from Alexandria. The British plot was to seize Egypt in order to pressure the Ottoman Empire, but the Egyptian ruler, Mohammad Ali Pasha, with the assistance of Egyptian people and ulema, who had issued a fatwa for Jihad against the invading troops, defended the country.

193 solar years ago, on this day in 1824 AD, English poet, George Gordon Byron, died of severe bleeding at the age of 36 in Greece, where he was inciting the Greeks to rebel against the Ottoman Turkish Empire by planning to attack the fortress of Lepanto, at the mouth of the Gulf of Corinth. A controversial figure, his works are sentimental and critical. His first collection of poems was "Hours of Idleness". His other works include "The Prisoner of Chillon", and "Childe Harold". He led an unprincipled life, travelling around Europe and indulging in scandalous affairs.

178 solar years ago, on this day in 1839 AD, the Treaty of London established the new country Belgium as a kingdom and guaranteed its neutrality. Made up of ethnic Dutch, French and German speakers, its capital Brussels today is the headquarters of the 28-nation European Union (EU).

139 lunar years ago, on this day in 1299 AH, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Sadr od-Din Sadr was born in holy Kazemayn in Iraq.

135 solar years ago, on this day in 1882 AD, English naturalist, Charles Darwin, died. He is the author of the controversial theory of evolution which he presented in "Survival of the Fittest," and "On the Origin of Species." His theories have been refuted by both Christian and Muslim scientists and scholars as absurd.

111 solar years ago, on this day in 1906 AD, French physical chemist and co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903, Pierre Curie died at the age of 46.

108 solar years ago, on this day in 1909 AD, Howard Baskerville, a 24-year old American Presbyterian preacher in Iran, was shot dead while trying to break the siege of Tabriz as a defender of the new Iranian constitution. Born in North Platte, Nebraska, he came to Iran in 1907, and taught English and geometry in the American Memorial School in Tabriz. In the spring of 1909, during the Constitutional Revolution of Iran, he decided to raise a volunteer force to defend the people. Despite attempts to discourage him by the American consul in Tabriz, William F. Doty, he led about a hundred volunteers to help defend the besieged city against the British-backed Qajar troops of Mohammad Ali Shah. Baskerville's funeral was attended by thousands, and he was eulogized by Iranian patriots. He was buried in the Christian Armenian cemetery in Tabriz, which fell to the Shah's forces five days after Baskerville's death. A carpet with his picture woven on it was made by the carpet weavers of Tabriz and meant to be sent to his mother in the US in recognition of his courage and sacrifice. Schools and streets in Iran have been named for him. There is a bust of him in Tabriz's Constitution House bearing the legend "Howard C. Baskerville— Patriot and Maker of History".

79 solar years ago, on this day in 1938 AD, the Jurist, Ayatollah Seyyed Najm ul-Hassan the founder of Jame' Nazemiyya of Lucknow, the oldest Shi'ite Muslim religious institution of India, passed away at the age of 75. Known as Najm ul-Millat or Najm ul-Ulema, he trained several scholars, such as Sibte Hasan Naqvi, Farman Ali the translator and interpreter of the holy Qur'an, and Mufti Ja'far Hussain, who later became the leading scholar of Pakistan. He is remembered for his services to the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) in Tibet, Burma, Singapore, Shanghai, East Africa and other lands. He wrote several books.

56 solar years ago, on this day in 1961 AD, Cuba's air force shot down 9 of the 16 US aircraft used by the American-backed invaders and killed 114 of the insurgents, making the rest of the invasion force to surrender, thereby defeating the sinister plot of Washington to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, the US launched unprovoked attacks on Iranian naval forces in the Persian Gulf in support of Saddam the Ba'ith minority dictator of Baghdad, in an operation codenamed 'Praying Mantis'. This was the largest naval battle since World War II. The Iranian navy put up a brave fight in the face of heavy odds with the frigates Sahand and Joshan challenging the American ships, along with a flotilla of speed boats backed by aircraft. Because of superior fire power, the US navy damaged Joshan and sank a few boats, but after an exchange of missile volleys with Sahand, it backed off. Earlier the Americans had scuttled the merchant ship Iran Ajr and attacked Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, the statistician and founder of the statistical sampling method in Iran, Dr. Abbas Qoli Khwajah-Nouri, passed away at the age of 78.

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, following the attack of FBI on the Headquarters of Davidian Sect in Waco, Texas 80 men, women and children were brutally killed for opposing the Godless policies of the US regime.

22 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, in Oklahoma City, US, a large car bomb exploded at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killing 168 people and injuring 500 including many children in the building's day care center. As usual, the American press alleged the blast to be the work of what it called a Muslim terrorist. Within a week a suspect, Timothy McVeigh, was caught and charged, along with Terry Nichols, and since the two were white American Christians, all talks of terrorism quickly disappeared from the American press. The two were later convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 1998. McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.

7 lunar years ago, on this day in 1431 AH, the prominent Islamic scholar and Source of Emulation in Lebanon, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hussain Fazlollah, passed away at the age of 77.

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

Iran Among 10 Countries Producing Polio Vaccine



KARAJ (IRNA) – An official said here on Tuesday that Iran is among the 10 producers of polio vaccine in the world and thanks to production of oral polio vaccine in Iran the disease has been eradicated in the country.

Talking to reporters, the official with the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute Ali Eshaqi said Iran produces the safest vaccine across the world.

Eshaqi stressed that the polio disease has been completely eradicated in Iran.

He underlined that during the past 16 years even one case of polio has not been traced in the country.

Polio (also known as poliomyelitis) is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. Children younger than 5 years old are more likely to contract the virus than any other group.

Fajr Festival Venue for Top Movies, World Premieres

TEHRAN (MNA) – The director of 35th Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF) says only top movies have been selected to vie for awards or to premiere at this year's much anticipated event.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Monday, Reza Mirkarimi said most of the movies selected, including feature-length films, shorts, and documentaries, are yet to have their regional or world premieres, including those from the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

Mirkarimi added, "No one will interfere in the judging process. All jury members have been selected after careful considerations. The festival

determines its policies through the selection process and not by the type of awards."

He went on to explain that Fajr is not a red carpet annual event. "We are not looking for celebrities to participate. There are just about three screening venues, unlike those in other countries which require thirty screening theaters. The programmers have selected the movies that respect Iran's cultural and religious codes."

On the budget allocated for this year's event, Mirkarimi said the organizers have signed a confidential contract to hold the event and it is up to the Ministry of Culture to announce the budget.



The director of 35th Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF), Reza Mirkarimi(R) Speaking at a press conference in Tehran.

Over 120 Ancient Sites Identified in Southwest Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Many temporary settlements belonging to nomadic tribes have been identified in the neighborhood of Chamshir zone in Kohgiluyeh, Boyer-Ahmad province.

The Public Relations Office of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) quoted head of the first season salvage speculations for evaluation of the present sites in the neighborhood of Chamshir Dam Mohammad Taqi Ataei as saying so far the most ancient evidence obtained from the basin of Chamshir Dam in Gachsaran belongs to the epipaleolithic era and then with a long break little settlement evidence of the late neolithic era has been obtained which dates back to six thousand years ago.

Taqi Ataei said during archeological surveys over 120 ancient sites have been identified and documented in that zone.

Although a few strongholds and castles show the significance of the site from the post-Achaemenid and Sassanid eras, the peak of attention for this area has been in the middle Islamic centuries which is indicative of high demographic density in that region, he said.

He pointed to identification of scores of settlements of that era on the edge of the river saying that some of the settlements occupied an area of over 5 hectares.

Most of these settlements enjoy consolidated architecture and the natural resources of the area have been used as construction materials and stone and mortar filling have been used in normal buildings and stone and plaster mortar in more important establishments, he added.

Iran Ranks 2nd in Region in Stem Cell Research



TEHRAN (ISNA) - Iran's recent progress in the field of stem cells, tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine has led to great achievements to place Iran as 2nd in the region in stem cell research.

Executive director of the 2nd International Congress on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine, Dr. Hamidreza Bidkhori made the remarks at the press conference.

The event took place in ACECR Khorasan Razavi central office in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran.

"Iran ranks 2nd in the Region in Stem Cell Research," Bidkhori added, "we stand first in the field of Mesenchymal stem cell among Middle East countries".

"Iran has made major breakthrough in many scientific areas such as nano-technology, biotechnology, stem cell, genetic engineering, Aerospace and etc and it shows the importance of human resource management

since we are rich in this field," Bidkhori who is assistant Professor at ACECR-Khorasan Razavi went on to say.

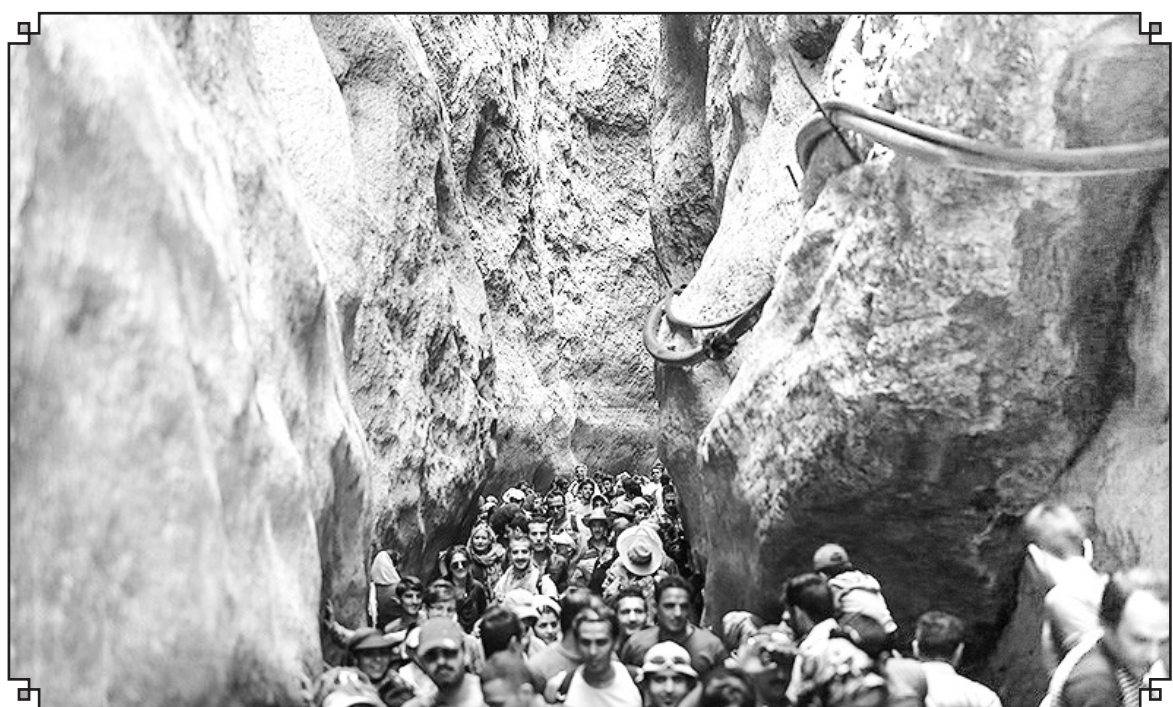
"International scientific meetings play an important role to create a collaborative environment between countries and it can lead to improving knowledge transfer between research institutions from all over the world," executive director of the congress told the press.

Pointing to the Mashhad Stem Cells-2017 as a great opportunity in which they can show their recent advancement in this field to the world, Dr. Bidkhori said "this congress will be held from April 19-21 in Mashhad, Iran with scientists from 15 countries in attendance. And Congress motto is Discover, Promote and Apply".

According to Scientific Chair of Mashhad Stem Cells-2017, Dr. Maryam Moghaddam Matin, they have accepted 240 abstracts which 63 of them has been accepted for oral presentation and the rest of them has appointed for poster presentation.

"We have invited well-known scientists from many countries such as Germany, Italy, USA, China and Turkey," she added, "Till now 1114 people have registered on the site, but because we go on the registration, we are expecting to have something about 1400 participants on this conference".

Picture of the Day



Tangh Vashi or Tangh Savashi is a place with tourist attractions located 15 kilometers west of Firouzkuh, northeast of Tehran; it hosts a huge crowd of passengers and tourists.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency