

This Day in History

(April 20)

Today is Thursday; 31st of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 22nd of the Islamic month of Rajab 1438 lunar hijri; and April 20, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1378 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, the Omayyad tyrant, Mu’awiyah, died in Damascus at the age of 80, nineteen years after usurping the caliphate from the Prophet of Islam’s elder grandson, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), whom he martyred through poisoning in 50 AH in violation of the terms of the treaty signed in 41 AH. Of doubtful paternity and born to the lecherous Hind, the wife of Abu Sufyan, he grew up to become a staunch opponent of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – having been brought up by two of the most spiteful enemies of Islam. In 8 AH when Mecca surrendered to the Muslims, two-and-a-half-years before the passing away of the Prophet, he reluctantly paid lip service to Islam to escape execution. During the caliphate of Omar ibn Khattab, he was surprisingly appointed as governor of the newly conquered vast province of Shaam (made up of today’s Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and the illegal Zionist entity Israel), a position he held for almost 20 years despite his dismissal by the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) against whom he came out into open armed rebellion at the War of Siffeen. During the almost 40 years he had entrenched himself in the mostly Christian Levant (Shaam), Mu’awiyah did not spare any effort to distort the teachings of Islam, oppress, torture, and kill Muslims, and indulge in all cardinal sins. On his deathbed, contrary to the terms of the treaty with Imam Hasan (AS), he named as caliph his libertine and openly infidel son, Yazid – born of an adulterous affair with a Christian Bedouin woman – a criminal decision that led to three of the most heinous crimes in history. The Godless Yazid, in the first year of his reign brutally martyred at Karbala the Prophet’s younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS). In the subsequent two years of his evil rule, he desecrated the sanctity of the Prophet’s shrine and mosque in Medina by ordering a general massacre, rape and plunder of Muslims; and next ordered the sacrilegious storming of the holy Ka’ba in Mecca, during the midst of which he died, thereby ending the rule of the house of Mu’awiyah – while another branch of the Omayyads, the Marwanids, continued the evil work of terrorizing the Muslim ummah for some 70 more years before they were thrown into the dustbin of history.

1115 solar years ago, on this day in 902 AD, Amr ibn Layth, the second ruler of the Saffarid Dynasty of Iran, was executed in Baghdad after a reign of 22 years, by the self-styled caliph, Mu’tamid, on falling victim to the Abbasid bait to militarily confront the powerful fellow Iranian Samanid Dynasty of Central Asia and suffering defeat, capture, and handover to the caliph.

859 lunar years ago, on this day in 479AH, Spanish Muslims led by Yusuf bin Tashfin defeated Spanish Christians under command of Alphonse VI in the glorious battle of *“az-Zalaqa”*. This decisive battle halted for over two-and-a-half centuries the bid by the Christian powers to drive out Spanish Muslim from the Iberian Peninsula.

748 lunar years ago, on this day in 690 AH, Muslims liberated from Crusader occupiers the city of Beirut – the capital of what is now Lebanon. The campaign was led by the Mamluk sultan of Egypt and Syria, al-Ashraf Khalil Qalawun, a Qipchaq Turk, who went on to liberate the other cities, thus completely ending the 200-year Crusader presence in the Levant.

620 solar years ago, on this day in 1397 AD, Mahmud I, the 5th king of the Bahmani kingdom of Iranian origin of the Deccan (southern India) died in his capital Gulbarga after a reign of 19 years.

248 solar years ago, on this day in 1769 AD, the Amerindian chief of Ottawa, Obwandiyag or Pontiac, as he was called by the British, against whom he resisted, was assassinated. He struggle against British military occupation of the Great Lakes region began in the May 1763 when Pontiac and followers attempted to take Fort Detroit. In July 1763, he defeated a British detachment at the Battle of Bloody Run, but was unable to capture Detroit. In October he lifted the siege and withdrew to the Illinois Country. The British resorted to diplomacy and as the talks prolonged his influence grew, until he was treacherously killed.

210 lunar years ago, on this day in 1228 AH, the prominent jurisprudent, Shaikh Ja’far bin Khizr al-Hilli an-Najafi, popular as Kashef al-Gheta, an epithet by which his progeny of scholars became well-known, passed away at the age of 73.

209 solar years ago, on this day in 1808 AD, Charles-Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, later President Louis Napoleon of the First French Republic and then Napoleon III of the Second French Empire, was born in Paris to Louis Bonaparte – younger brother of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and king of Holland from 1805-to-1810.

192 lunar years ago, on this day in 1246 AH, the prominent Iranian Islamic scholar Mullah Ali bin Jamshid, known as Akhound Noori, passed away in Isfahan. Born in a village near the town of Noor in Mazandaran, after initial studies in his hometown and later Qazvin, he travelled to Isfahan, where he studied under leading scholars, such as Aqa Mohammad Beedabadi and Mirza Abu’l-Qasim Modarres. He became an expert in Islamic philosophy, and the dean of the seminary of Isfahan, where he groomed almost a thousand students, politely declining in the process an invitation by King Fath-Ali Shah Qajar to come and teach in Tehran at the newly established Marvi seminary. Among his prominent students were Mullah Abdullah Zanoori and Haji Mullah Hadi Sabzevari. Of his numerous works in both Persian and Arabic, mention could be made of *“Hojjat al-Islam”* (Argumentation of Islam), which is a refutation of the British orientalist and Anglican priest Henry Martyn’s book casting doubts on the faith of Muslims. Another of Mullah Ali Noori’s famous works is *“Hawashiy-e Asfaar”* on the famous Safavid-era philosopher, Mullah Sadra’s work *“al-Asfaar al-Arba”*.

128 solar years ago, on this day in 1889 AD, Nazi dictator, Adolf Hitler, was born in Braunau am Inn, a town in Austria-Hungary (in present day Austria), close to the border with the German Empire. His father was the illegitimate son of a Jew. He joined the German army in World War I and after the war, resentful of the humiliating defeat, founded the Nazi Party by blending his socialist and radical nationalistic views. He was imprisoned for eight months in 1923 for attempts to stage a coup, during which he wrote his book *“Mein Kemp”* (My Struggle), to introduce his political beliefs. Shortly after release he became German chancellor and a year later the German president. Thereafter, through the dreaded Gestapo, he suppressed his opponents and heavily militarized Germany as part of his plan to avenge the defeat in World War I. In 1939 he started World War 2 with the goal of conquering all of Europe and if possible the world, by forging alliances with Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan. After initial victories all over Europe, the German Nazi forces were pushed back and finally defeated in 1945. Hitler committed suicide in a bunker in the German capital, Berlin, when the Allied forces converged from all sides for the final assault upon him to end World War 2.

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1944 AD, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hassan Najafi Qochani, Khorasan, passed away in his hometown Qochan at the age of 67. After initial studies in Isfahan, he left for the famous seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq for higher studies under the prominent ulema of his time. After attaining the status of Ijtihad he returned to Iran, and spent the rest of his life in Qochan, grooming student and writing books. Among his prominent works is *“Journey to the Unseen World Man”*, in which he dwells on the human being’s instinctive desires to have an understanding of afterlife, or the life after death and the state of the Barzakh – the interval between death and Resurrection.

30 solar years ago, on this day in 1987 AD, the Iranian Islamic scholar and exegete of the Holy Qur’an, Mohammad Taqi Shariati, passed away at the age of 80. He studied Islamic sciences in the holy city of Mashhad, and published several books after setting up the Association for Publication of Islamic Facts. He was the father of the sociologist Ali Shariati, who was martyred by the Shah’s dreaded security force, SAVAK, in London.

7 solar years ago, on this day in the year 2010 AD, an explosion in the Deepwater Horizon oil platform of the British Petroleum Company, led to leakage of oil in the Gulf of Mexico off the US coast on a huge scale. The blast killed 11 workers and the huge volume of the oil which gushed out of this oil platform amounted to more than four million barrels, damaging the fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico and killing a large number of aquatics. After five months, the well could be capped. British Petroleum was ordered by the court to compensate the damages and forced to pay almost \$20bn.

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

Tehran to Host 8th Int’l Sculpture Symposium



TEHRAN (MNA) – The 8th International Tehran Sculpture Symposium will kick off Friday at Milad Tower with participation of 29 sculptors from 13 countries.

Isa Alizadeh, Head of the Organization of Tehran Beautification, said in this year’s

edition of Tehran Sculpture Symposium, 14 international artists from 13 countries and 15 Iranian sculptors will gather at Tehran’s Milad Tower to compete in the main and side segments of the event.

According to him, 187 artists from 53 countries registered for this year’s competition; “the arts council selected 12 sculptors among them, with two invitees who will work on a different material from the symposium’s main material which is stone.”

The international artists selected to vie in the 8th Tehran Sculpture Symposium are from Italy, Spain, Albania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey, Georgia, Romania, Japan, Armenia, Germany and Latvia.

The three top winners will be awarded 5000USD, 3500USD, and 2000USD plus a diploma, respectively.

The 8th International Tehran Sculpture Symposium will be held in the format of a workshop from 21 April to 13 May 2017. The closing ceremony is held on 14 May.

Poor Sleep May Make It Harder to See Positive

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The dorsal anterior cingulate cortex may have to work harder to modify negative emotional responses in people with poor sleep who have depression or anxiety, new research suggests.

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, led by Heide Klumpp, assistant professor of psychiatry at UIC, used functional MRI to measure the activity in different regions of the brain as subjects were challenged with an emotion-regulation task. Participants were shown disturbing images of violence -- from war or accidents -- and were asked to simply look at the images and not to try to control their reaction or to “reappraise” what they saw in a more positive light.

An example of reappraisal would be to see an image of a woman with a badly bruised face and



imagine her as an actress in make-up for a role, rather than as a survivor of violence, Klumpp said.

“Reappraisal is something that requires significant mental energy,” she said. “In people with depression or anxiety, reappraisal can be even more difficult, because these disorders are characterized by chronic negativity or negative rumination, which makes seeing the good in things difficult.”

“Our research indicates sleep might play an important role in the ability to regulate negative emotions in people who suffer from

anxiety or depression,” Klumpp said. Poor Sleep May Make It Harder to See Positive

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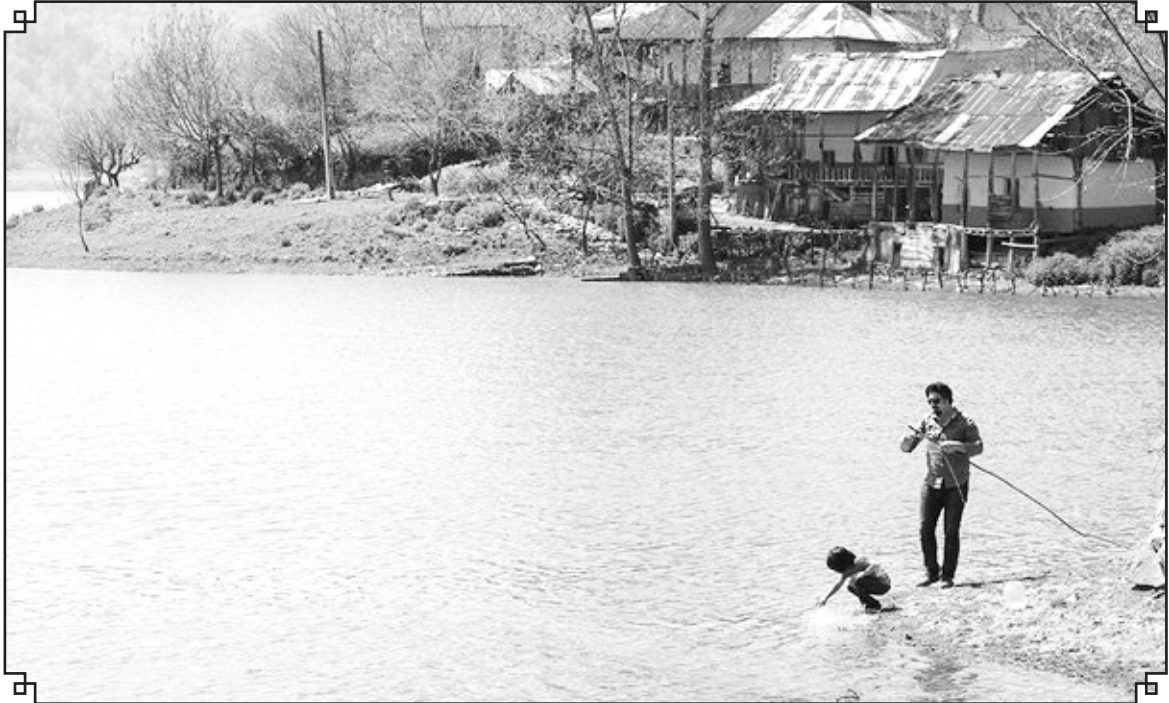
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Picture of the Day



Lafour (Alborz) dam is built on Lafour Lake in Savadkouh, Mazandaran province. The dam is located near a beautiful forest and a village, with the same name, which is home to kind and hospitable residents. Lafour village has wooden houses with ancient texture.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency