

# This Day in History

(January 22)

Today is Monday; 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Iranian month of Bahman 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 4<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and January 22, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**884 lunar years ago**, on this day in 555 AH, historian figure, Ali ibn Mohammad, known as Izz od-Din Ibn al-Athir al-Jaziri, was born in Jazirat Ibn Umar in Iraq, which was part of the Great Seljuq Empire, with its capital in Isfahan. He often visited Baghdad, where he learned from the Iranian scholar Khateeb-e Tusi. With the disintegration of the Seljuq Empire, he was with the army of Salah od-Din Ayyoubi in Syria, and has written eye-witness accounts of the battles with the Crusader invaders of Europe, who had usurped Palestine. He was about 28 years old when Bayt al-Moqaddas and Palestine were liberated after 88 years of occupation by a joint army of Kurds, Turks, Arabs and Iranians. His chief work is a general history of the world, titled *"al-Kamel fi'l-Tarikh"* (The Complete History).

**755 solar years ago**, on this day in 1263 AD, the highly controversial Hanbali pseudo scholar, Ahmad ibn Abdul-Haleem Ibn Taymiya, was born in Harran, which is currently in Turkey on the Syrian border. He indulged in vitriolic criticism of not just Christians, but also of fellow Muslims making scholars refute his wild accusations. He came to Iran to the court of the Mongol Muslim ruler, Ghazaan Khan, he courted trouble by his rash attitude. In Syria, his weird views brought the displeasure of the ulema, prompting the Mamluk rulers to imprison him in Cairo. Ibn Taymiya, who died in Damascus, has earned lasting notoriety for forbidding celebrations of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**501 solar years ago**, on this day in 1517 AD, the Ottoman Empire under Selim I defeated the Mamluk Sultanate of al-Ashraf Tuman Bay II of Egypt-Syria at the Battle of Ridaniya. After earlier victories in Palestine, the Turks marched into Cairo, where Selim I, an ethnic Turk, forced the puppet Abbasid caliph to hand him over the caliphate, and by bribing the religious scholars declared himself the first Ottoman caliph. Selim had violated the treaty with the Mamluks to launch a surprise attack on Syria, fearful of the rising power and influence of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran, against whom he had barely managed a victory at Chaldiran in August 1514.

**468 solar years ago**, on this day in 1550 AD, Jamsheed Quli Qutb Shah, the second ruler of the Qutb-Shahi dynasty of Iranian origin of Golkandah in the Deccan (southern India), died. An accomplished poet in Persian, his tomb in the vast necropolis near Golkandah Fort in unique octagonal pattern is a masterpiece of Indo-Iranian architecture. The Qutb-Shahis who built the famous city of Haiderabad, considered the Safavid rulers of Iran as their emperors and their dominion and court attracted Iranians from all walks of life, including religious scholars, scientists, poets, artists, architects, traders, and soldiers.

**457 solar years ago**, on this day in 1561 AD, English philosopher and mathematician, Francis Bacon, was born. He initially engaged in politics and was imprisoned on charges of bribery. While in prison, he took to writing and advocated revival of science and philosophy. He wrote several books, including *"New Atlantis"*, which presents a utopian picture of life.

**457 lunar years ago**, on this day in 982 AH, Ottoman Turks retook Tunis in North Africa from the Spanish occupiers. In the battle, 5000 Spanish and Italian soldiers were killed and 3000 others captured. The Ottomans also captured 225 canons.

**396 solar years ago**, on this day in 1622 AD, Safavid Emperor of Iran, Shah Abbas I, liberated the strategic island of Hormuz in the Strait of the same name by driving out the Portuguese from the Persian Gulf. He soon replaced Hormuz as a trading centre with a new port, named Bandar Abbas after him on the Iranian mainland near what used to be Gomeroon. Twenty years earlier, Shah Abbas I had liberated Bahrain from Portuguese occupation.

**352 solar years ago**, on this day in 1666 AD, Shah Jahan, the 5th Mughal Emperor of Hindustan (northern Subcontinent), died in Agra under confinement in the fort by his rebellious son, Aurangzeb, eight years after being dethroned. Shah Jahan's reign was the golden age of Mughal architecture. He erected splendid monuments, the most famous of which is the legendary white marble Taj Mahal at Agra built as a mausoleum for his wife of Iranian ancestry, Empress Arjmand Bano Momtaz Mahal, and regarded among the Seven Wonders of the World. The Pearl Mosque and many other buildings in Agra, the Red Fort and the Jama Mosque in Delhi, mosques in Lahore, and extensions to the Lahore Fort were also built by him. Other important buildings of his reign are the "Diwan-e Aam" and "Diwan-e Khaas" (public and special courts of audiences) in the Red Fort Complex in Delhi and the Pearl Mosque in the Lahore Fort. He also patronized paintings and laid out gardens, especially in Kashmir, his favourite summer residence.

**282 solar years ago**, on this day in 1736 AD, the Safavid Dynasty of Iran formally came to its end after a rule of 235 years, with the deposition of the boy-king Abbas III after a 4-year nominal reign, by the general Nader Quli Afshar, who now crowned himself as Nader Shah. A successful military commander who drove out the Afghan occupiers from Iran, Nader had placed Abbas on the throne in 1732 by deposing his father, Tahmasp II. In 1739, both father and son were brutally killed in the prison in Sabzevar on the orders of Nader's son Reza Qoli Mirza on fears that the Iranian people will revolt in favour of the Safavids, who gave Iran religious legitimacy, national identity, cultural affinity, and territorial integrity.

**243 solar years ago**, on this day in 1775 AD, French mathematician and physicist, Andre Marie Ampere, was born. He made important discoveries, and is known as founder of electrodynamics. A unit of electrical current has been named after him, as Ampere. He died in 1836.

**230 solar years ago**, on this day in 1788 AD, English poet, George Gordon Byron, was born. He was a controversial figure, and led an unprincipled life, travelling around Europe and indulging in scandalous affairs, before he was killed in 1824, while inciting the Greeks to fight the Turks.

**169 solar years ago**, on this day in 1849 AD, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Sikh War ended when the British forced the Sikhs to end the 9-month long siege of Multan. Multan in Punjab had been occupied by the Sikh warlord Ranjit Singh in 1818. Although the population was almost entirely Muslim, it was ruled by a Hindu vassal, named Dewan Mulraj, whose attempts for independence ended.

**139 solar years ago**, on this day in 1879 AD, Zulu troops decisively defeated the technologically superior British army at the Battle of Isandlwana in South Africa. It was the worst defeat for the British, who six months later adopted violent and brutal methods in the second invasion of King Cetshwayo's independent kingdom that resulted in the annexation of Zululand.

**68 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1371 AH, Islamic scholar, Haydar Qoli Khan Afghani, known as Sardar Kabuli, passed away. An authority in logic, Arabic literature, mathematics, astronomy, history, and geography, as a devotee of the Ahl al-Bayt, he wrote a valuable book on the virtues of Imam Ali (AS). He also translated into Persian, the famous book *"al-Muraja'at"*, on the debate between Allamah Seyyed Abdul-Hussain Sharaf od-Din of Lebanon and Dean of Egypt's al-Azhar Academy, Shaikh Saleem al-Bishri. His translation is titled *"Monazeraat"*.

**39 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, despite the Shah's troops killing and wounding a large number of people, the Iranian nation made necessary arrangements for the imminent return home from years of exile, of the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). In the meantime, 4,000 air force officers, in a show of support for the people's movement, went on hunger strike, and demanded the expulsion of the Americans from Iran.

**11 solar years ago**, on this day in 2007 AD, after a hundred Iraqi Shi'a Muslim men, women, and children were martyred in a busy marketplace in central Baghdad, when Saudi-backed Takfiri terrorists blew up through remote control a car rigged with explosives, just seconds after another car bomb tore through the stalls of market, killing and wounding hundreds of others.

**2 solar years ago**, on this day in 2016 AD, Iranian philologist, Abu'l-Hassan Najafi, passed away. On graduating in Persian literature, he studied French language and went to Paris for higher studies at Sorbonne University, where he completed his masters in linguistics. On his return home, he spent a lifetime in translation, editing, and classifying literary and scientific articles. He was noted for his diligence in classifying and categorizing Persian poetry.

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

# Official Calls For Broadening of Media Cooperation With Indonesia

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian media official on Saturday called for strengthening of media cooperation between Tehran and Jakarta.

"Developing media cooperation with the Muslim countries is a priority for Iran's media diplomacy," Iranian Deputy Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Soltanifar said in a meeting with a group of Indonesian media persons in Tehran on Sunday.

Among the topics raised and discussed by the Iranian official and Indonesian delegation were signing cooperation agreements with the Iranian mass media, extending invitation to Iranian journalists to visit Indonesia and holding training workshops and tours.

In a relevant development in late September, Tehran and Jakarta

called for broadening of mutual cooperation to restore peace and security to Western Asia region.

During a meeting in Tehran, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mor-teza Sarmadi and Director General for Asia-Pacific and Africa Affairs at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry Desra Percaya underlined the need for further cooperation between the two countries in fighting terrorism and restoring stability and peace to the region.

The meeting was held after the seventh meeting of Iran-Indonesia joint political-consultative committee in Tehran yesterday.

During the meeting, Sarmadi voiced satisfaction over the growing progress of bilateral ties between the two countries over past three years, and said, "We must



make use of every capacity and opportunity to further boost the level of trade transactions and improve all-out ties between these two major Muslim countries."

The Indonesian diplomat, for his part, thanked Iran for its active participation at the Indian Ocean

Union during the chairmanship of Indonesia.

He further voiced his appreciation for Iran's support for Indonesia's candidacy at international organizations, particularly its non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

## Iran Launches Production Line of Two Drugs for MS



The production line of these two drugs was inaugurated in the presence of the Iranian First Vice-President, health minister, Vice-President for science and technology and minister of industry, mining and trade.

TEHRAN (ISNA) - Iran has inaugurated the production line of two

The production line of these two drugs was inaugurated in the presence of the Iranian First Vice-President, health minister, Vice-President for science and technology and minister of industry, mining and trade.

In this production line, Iran will produce Ziferon and Tebazio (teriflunomide) drugs for MS patients. Tebazio (teriflunomide) is a prescription medicine used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). It is the active metabolite of leflunomide. Teriflunomide was investigated in the Phase III clinical trial TEMSO as a medication for MS.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a demyelinating disease in which the insulating covers of nerve cells in

the brain and spinal cord are damaged. This damage disrupts the ability of parts of the nervous system to communicate, resulting in a range of signs and symptoms, including physical, mental, and sometimes psychiatric problems. Specific symptoms can include double vision, blindness in one eye, muscle weakness, trouble with sensation, or trouble with coordination. MS takes several forms, with new symptoms either occurring in isolated attacks (relapsing forms) or building up over time (progressive forms). Between attacks, symptoms may disappear completely; however, permanent neurological problems often remain, especially as the disease advances.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a demyelinating disease in which the insulating covers of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord are damaged. This damage disrupts the ability of parts of the nervous system to communicate, resulting in a range of signs and symptoms, including physical, mental, and sometimes psychiatric problems. Specific symptoms can include double vision, blindness in one eye, muscle weakness, trouble with sensation, or trouble with coordination. MS takes several forms, with new symptoms either occurring in isolated attacks (relapsing forms) or building up over time (progressive forms). Between attacks, symptoms may disappear completely; however, permanent neurological problems often remain, especially as the disease advances.

## New drug Helps Immune System Fight Back Cancer

LONDON (Dispatches) - Scientists have found a way to boost the immune system to help it fight back against cancer.

Scientists from King's College London have found a way to boost the immune system to help it fight back against cancer.

The breakthrough involves the first ever use of a combination of chemotherapy and a drug being trialled as a treatment for neonatal jaundice, that together help kick start the body's natural defences.

The advance involves the targeting of an enzyme called Heme Oxygenase-1 (HO-1), which is active in a variety of cancers. HO-1 can promote the growth of tumours by preventing the immune system from effectively attacking cancer cells.

Scientists have already shown in the laboratory that chemotherapy can trigger immune responses against cancer, but the King's team have found that these responses are suppressed by non-tumour cells called 'macrophages', which reside in the tumour and produce the HO-1 enzyme.

In a major breakthrough, researchers found that in preclinical trials, a drug being tested for the treatment of jaundice (SnMP), effectively prevented the suppression of the immune response stimulated by chemotherapy, allowing the immune system to efficiently attack the cancer.

## "Kupal" Goes to SF Indie Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian feature 'Kupal' directed by Kazem Mollaie will be screened in the main competition section of 20th San Francisco Independent Film Festival in U.S.

'Kupal' narrates the story of a hunter and taxidermist who goes through an unfortunate incident

by trapping himself in his basement with little food and no water, having to survive by using creative and desperate means. The storyline of Kupal and the tagline is, 'you can't be alone in this world!'

Mollaie, who is both the director and the script writer of 'Kupal', has previously produced several

successful short films and presented them to national and international film festivals. They include 'Please Stay Away from the Red Line', 'Minus' and 'Delete'.

The 20th edition of San Francisco Independent Film Festival will be held on February 1 - 15, 2018, in the U.S.

## Picture of the Day



One year has passed the day when the Plasco building, a 17-story steel high-rise in Tehran, caught fire. The blaze began on one of the building's upper floors and then spread quickly through the tower's sprinkler-less garment workshops. As the fire department battled the nearly unreachable fire, the steel skyscraper collapsed in full view of Iranian state television cameras, burying sixteen firefighters and at least six civilians.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency