

This Day in History

(February 12)

Today is Monday, 23rd of the Iranian month of Bahman 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 25th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1439 lunar hijri; and February 12, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1375 lunar years ago, on this day in 64 AH, Mu'awiyah, the son of the tyrant Yazid ibn Mu'awiyah, died under suspicious circumstances in Damascus, Syria, at the age 19, a month after abdicating the caliphate. He was installed as ruler of the usurper Omayyad regime following the death by divine wrath of his accursed father – the perpetrator of the heartrending tragedy of Karbala – and immediately distanced himself from Yazid's crimes against Islam, especially the slaying of Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). After only a month and eleven days in power, he relinquished the caliphate by delivering a sermon that exposed as sinners and usurpers, both his father and grandfather Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, who had seized the caliphate from the Prophet's elder grandson Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) in 41 AH to establish the illegal Omayyad regime. The young Mu'awiyah, who unlike his blasphemous father and grandfather, was an upright person, went on the pulpit of the main mosque of Damascus, and with eyes full of tears, recounted the evil and sacrilegious deeds of his father, Yazid, in martyring Imam Husain (AS), in imprisoning the Prophet's household; in desecrating the Prophet's Mosque and Shrine in Medina following the massacre of Muslims at Harrah, and in profaning the sanctity of the holy Ka'ba. He also recounted the evil deeds of his grandfather Mu'awiyah ibn Sufyan, the accursed founder of the Omayyad dynasty, in revolting against the rule of justice of Imam Ali (AS), in seizing the caliphate from the Prophet's elder grandson Imam Hasan al-Mojtaba (AS), and in shedding the blood of Muslims. According to historical accounts, he said: The caliphate is from Allah. My grandfather fought the person who was more entitled to it, i.e. Imam Ali. He [Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan] committed acts that you are all aware of, and for which he is suffering in his grave. Then my father Yazid assumed the caliphate even though he was not deserving of it. He fought the Prophet's grandson and is suffering in the grave on account of his sins. It is a terrible thing that we are fully aware of Yazid's bad deeds: he slaughtered the Prophet's family, he deemed alcohol permissible, and set fire to the holy Ka'ba. I don't need this rule.

When his kinsman, the Godless Marwan ibn al-Hakam told him that since he does not want to rule, he should handover the choice of caliph to a council, he replied: I have not tasted the fruits of the caliphate, so why should I experience its bitterness (through such a decision). He was never again seen in public and is believed to have poisoned to death.

900 solar years ago, on this day in 1128 AD, Zaher od-Din Toghtekin, the Turkic Mamluk (slave) Atabek (governor) of Damascus died after a rule of 24 years, during which he was a thorn in the side of the Crusader occupiers of Palestine, thwarting the bid of the European invaders to capture Damascus. He lived in a crucial period of history when Seljuqid Syria was plunged into civil war following the death in battle in Rayy (near modern Tehran) in 1095 of his master, Amir Taj'od Dowla Tutush I – younger brother of Malik Shah, the sultan of the Isfahan-based Great Seljuq Empire. At a time when Muslim unity in northern Syria and solidarity with the Fatemids of Egypt-southern Syria could have prevented the fall of Antioch (1097), Tripoli, Tyre and finally Bayt al-Moqaddas (1099) to the European invaders, Toghtekin supported the rebellion of his late master's second son, Shams ol-Mulouk Duqaq against the elder, Fakhr ol-Mulk Redhwan of Aleppo, thereby fragmenting the Seljuqs. In 1104, on the death of Duqaq, he displaced the latter's sons to seize power of Damascus and its dependencies, and founded the short-lived Burid dynasty, which in 1154 was overthrown by the fellow Turkic Zengids of Mosul and Aleppo.

516 solar years ago, on this day in 1502 AD, Spanish Muslims in the occupied emirate of Granada were forced to convert to the Catholic sect of Christianity by Queen Isabella of Castile. Those who refused were given choice between death and expulsion. Many did in fact flee to North Africa, while others fought to the death; however, most became Christians in name, on the assumption of saving their faith and children. In other words, Spain's Muslim population went underground in 1502 for concealing their beliefs and actions from the Christian authorities in order to avoid being killed. These "converted" Muslims were known as Moriscos – a derogatory term – and were intently watched by the government. The Moriscos were not descendants of Arab settlers, but of native Iberian Christians who had embraced the truth of Islam, and were thus as ethnically Iberian as the Christians who persecuted, killed and expelled them. The government placed strict restrictions on them to try to prevent them from secretly practicing Islam, which many were, of course, doing. Moriscos had to leave the doors to their homes open on Thursday nights and Friday mornings, so soldiers can look in, to make sure they were not bathing, as Muslims are supposed to do on Friday. Those caught reading the holy Qur'an or making wudhu (ablution) could be immediately killed. Even under such difficult circumstances, the Moriscos retained their beliefs for several decades, and some for over a century, while the community activities of Islam such as the congregational prayer, alms giving, and pilgrimage to Mecca were forbidden. It is worth noting that in 1485, when the Mamluk Ruler of Egypt-Syria was all set to dispatch an army to help Granada repel the Christian aggression, Ottoman Sultan Bayazid II halted his European campaigns and turned eastwards to attack fellow Muslims in Anatolia and Syria, thereby starting the disastrous Ottoman-Mamluk Wars that continued for over three decades, while Spanish Muslims were being exterminated.

501 lunar years ago, on this day 938 AH, the great Islamic scholar of what is now Lebanon, Shaikh Ali bin Abdul-Aali al-Maysi al-Ameli, passed away. Known as "Muhaqqiq" (Researcher) for his outstanding abilities, he was a teacher of the famous scholar Shaikh Zayn od-Din al-Juba'i, known as "Shaheed Thani" (Second Martyr) for his tragic martyrdom in Syria. Shaikh Ali al-Maysi's son, Shaikh Lotfollah al-Maysi migrated to Safavid Iran and settled in the holy city of Mashhad in Khorasan, where he became a famous scholar.

425 solar years ago, on this day in 1593 AD, during the Japanese invasion of Korea, approximately 3,000 Joseon defenders led by General Kwon Yul successfully repelled more than 30,000 Japanese forces in the Siege of Haengju.

214 solar years ago, on this day in 1804 AD, German philosopher and scientist, Immanuel Kant, died. His philosophy is based on criticism of wisdom and therefore called 'critical philosophy'. His books include "Critique of Practical Reason".

209 solar years ago, on this day in 1809 AD, British naturalist, Charles Darwin, was born. He claimed to have done studies on evolution of species and went on a voyage for completion of his research. Upon return, he published the controversial book "On the Origin of Species" which is mere speculation and for a period influenced people who lacked faith in God, the wonders of creation, and the realities of life. His theory was based on the Survival of the Fittest, where the stronger plants and animals survive and the weaker ones become extinct. Darwin's theory of evolution has been subjected to analysis and disproved by scholars and Muslim ulema.

193 solar years ago, on this day in 1825 AD, Creek Amerindians were forced to cede the last of their ancestral lands in what is now the state of Georgia in the US, by imposition of the 2nd Treaty of Indian Springs. As part of the ethnic-cleansing policy of the Anglo-Saxon regimes in the White House, Native Americans of the Creek Nation were forcibly relocated to the west of River Mississippi against their wish that led to resentment and the clashes which left scores of casualties. The first Indian Springs Treaty was signed four years earlier for similar displacement of Amerindians from their ancestral lands with the promise of payment in installments that were never fully paid. The US has a bleak, black, and bloody record of ethnic cleansing, genocide, wars and massacres, coupled with breach of promises, it never keeps.

106 solar years ago, on this day in 1912 AD, following the uprising of Chinese people and the military, the Manchu Dynasty was overthrown and a republic set up under presidency of Sun Yat-sen, known as Father of the Chinese nation.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, a day after victory of the Islamic Revolution, the provisional government appointed by Imam Khomeini (RA) started activities, as the people overpowered remnants of the ousted Pahlavi regime to take over key governmental installations. To ensure order in society, the Late Imam issued orders for formation of the Islamic Revolutionary committees in all localities to thwart plots of the anti-revolutionaries.

10 solar years ago, on this day in 2008, Emad Mughniyeh, one of the leaders of Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, was martyred in the Syrian capital Damascus, in a terrorist car bomb blast by agents of the illegal Zionist entity operating in tandem with the CIA and Arab reactionary states, as part of the plot to destabilize Lebanon and Syria.

1 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, in Iraq, Saudi-backed terrorists blew through remote control a pilgrim bus after handing an unsuspecting passenger an-explosive-filled bag, resulting in the martyrdom of some 40 Shi'ia Muslims on their way to Samarra for pilgrimage.

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

Iran Exports Vaccines to Region



TEHRAN (MNA) – Head of the Pasteur Institute of Iran (PII) Dr. Alireza Biglari says that the Iranian institute exports its medical products such as new rabies vaccines to the countries of the region. The head of Iranian leading institute for health products and medical sciences recounted his institute's latest achievements in producing

new vaccines and exporting to the countries of the region, the Public Relations Department of Inan's Ministry of Health reported on Saturday.

"Equipping the production lines of the human rabies vaccine with the system of quality control and the export of the products of this institute to the countries of the region are the new accomplishments of the Pasteur Institute of Iran," said Dr. Alireza Biglari, the PII Head, on Saturday.

"In the last 6 months, good measures have been undertaken to enhance the infrastructures of production in the institute and the PII has managed to obtain the standard of pharmaceutical equipment in the section of antigen production and we have also planned to increase the production of hepatitis B vaccine," recounted the official.

He also referred to obtaining the licenses for the production of Brucella and Salmonella diagnostic agents as the PII's breakthroughs in the field of quality.

"The institute has succeeded in registering 11 patents domestically and is following the process to patent another case in abroad," the head of the Pasteur Institute of Iran stated.

He also added that the institute is negotiating with Chinese, Turkish, and Syrian partners to export technical knowledge, patent products, and invest in their countries.

Drug Shows Promise for HIV Treatment, Elimination

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- Researchers have changed the chemical structure of an existing antiviral drug to facilitate it in reaching cells and tissues where HIV resides.

Using a physiochemical scheme that alters the properties of the drug dolutegravir, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) scientists took the modified drug and placed it into nanocrystals. The produced drug crystals easily distributed throughout the body to tissue reservoirs of HIV infection.

The advanced drug scheme extended the life of the drug and its entry into "hidden body compartments," from the muscle site of injection while increasing its action in reducing viral growth. The tissues included the lymph nodes, the bone marrow, the intestine and the spleen.

The modified drug crystals were not toxic, did not break apart with temperature changes and were stable for months of time. All organs and bodily functions remained intact after treatment.

Coated with parts of fat, the crystals efficiently maneuvered through cell protective membranes and were stored inside cells for weeks said Howard Gendelman, M.D., professor and chair, who with Benson Edagwa, Ph.D., assistant professor, co-lead the study in UNMC's Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience (PEN).

Once stored inside cells called macrophages, the drug was slowly released from the crystal in an altered inactive form called a "prodrug." The cell then breaks the prodrug into an active drug, and the active drug is then released into the circulation from the cell and tissue stores.

"The strength of this system is that it not only can be effective in improving HIV care and prevention," said, Dr. Edagwa, who designed the drug chemical modifications, "but can be applied to many classes of drugs beyond HIV, such as drugs used to treat cancer, other infectious diseases and degenerative diseases that affect the brain."

New Device Could Help Identify Drugs for Asthma, Hypertension

NEW YORK (Dispatches)-Engineers, doctors and scientists have developed a tool that measures the physical strength of individual cells 100 times faster than current technologies.

The new device developed by engineers, doctors and scientists at UCLA and Rutgers University can make it easier and faster to test and evaluate new drugs for diseases associated with abnormal levels of cell strength, including hypertension, asthma and muscular dystrophy. It can also open new avenues for biological research into cell force. It is the first high-throughput tool that can measure the strength of thousands of individual cells at a time.

"We took a fresh approach to identify molecules that could serve as drugs to meet an unmet need for new treatments to treat or cure chronic disease," said Dr. Reynold A. Panettieri Jr., study coauthor and professor of medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

"Our new experimental platforms are capable of screening millions of molecules to identify the best drug candidates for the right patients,"



said Panettieri, Vice Chancellor, Clinical & Translational Science and director of the Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science. "The system leverages the state of the art bioengineering techniques and use of human cells derived from patients with chronic diseases that offers greater likelihood of predicting therapeutic responses."

"Our tool tracks how much force individual cells exert over time, and how they react when they are exposed to different compounds or drugs," said Dino Di Carlo, professor of bioengineering at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science and the project's principal investigator. "It's like a microscopic fitness test for cells with thousands of parallel stations."

Picture of the Day



The magnificent and spectacular gathering of Iranian nation on Feb. 11 rallies to mark 39th anniversary of Islamic Revolution was attended by millions of people and officials.

Courtesy: Mehr NewsAgency