

This Day in History

(February 22)

Today is Thursday; 3rd of the Iranian month of Esfand 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 5th of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1439 lunar hijri; and February 22, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1034 lunar years ago, on this day in 404 AH, Baha od-Dowla Daylami, the Iranian Buwaihid ruler of Iraq and parts of Iran and Oman, died in Arrajan near Behbahan in southwestern Iran after a reign of 24 years and was succeeded by his son Sultan od-Dowla. He was the third son of the greatest ruler of the dynasty, Adhud od-Dowla, and assumed power on the death of his eldest brother, Sharaf od-Dowla. The Buwaihid confederation, after 110 years of valuable service to Islam and Muslims by patronizing religious scholars and scientists; building public places like hospitals, schools, libraries, bridges, and dams; and renovating the shrines of the Infallible Imams in Najaf, Karbala, Kazemayn and Samarra; was overthrown by Turkic Seljuq invaders from Central Asia, who restored the Abbasid caliphate.

792 lunar years ago, on this day in 647 AH, the prominent religious scholar and poet, Taqi od-Din Hassan bin Ali bin Dawoud al-Hilli was born in the city of Hilla in Iraq. He studied under such great scholars as Muhaqqiq Hilli, Seyyed Jamal od-din Ahmad ibn Tawous al-Hilli, and the latter's son, Seyyed Abdul-Karim bin Ahmad ibn Tawous. He wrote several books and composed many poems. His best-known work is "*Kitab ar-Rijal*". Among his poetical works is "*Manhaj al-Qawim fi Taslim at-Taqdim*", which narrates in verse the debates in Baghdad among scholars of different sects concerning the most competent caliph after Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Ibn Dawoud was known as "*Sultan al-Ulama wa'l-Bulagha*" (King of Scholars and Orators) as well as "*Taj al-Muhaddithin wa'l-Fuqaha*" (Crown of Scholars of Hadiths and Jurisprudence).

767 lunar years ago, on this day in 672 AH, the renowned Persian mystical poet, Mowlana Jalal od-Din Mohammad Balkhi, known as Mowlavi and Rumi, passed away at the age of 67 in Konya, in what is now Turkey. He was born in Balkh in eastern Khorasan, which part is now in present day Afghanistan. The Mongol invasion forced his father to migrate to Baghdad in Iraq, from where Mowlavi went to Damascus in Syria, before settling in Konya in Anatolia, which was once part of the Eastern Roman Empire, hence his epithet of Rumi. He became an acclaimed religious scholar. In 642 AH, a meeting with the wandering Iranian Dervish or mystic, Shams-e Tabrizi, completely changed his life. From an accomplished teacher and jurist, he was transformed into an ascetic. He started a spiritual purification and created his eternal works, the masterpiece of Persian mystical poetry, known "*Mathnawi Ma'nawi*", which contains over 150,000 rhymed verses. He also compiled his spiritual teacher's poems in what is known as Diwan-e Shams-e Tabrizi that contains some 35,000 Persian couplets and 2000 quatrains, in addition to 90 Ghazals or lyrics in Persians and 19 quatrains in Arabic, as well as a couple of dozen couplets in mixed Persian and Turkic and 14 couplets in mixed Greek and Persian. The Mathnawi has been translated into English and other major world languages. The translation in English verse was done by Reynold Nicholson, along with explanations, in 8 volumes.

506 solar years ago, on this day in 1512 AD, Italian astronomer, navigator and cartographer, Amerigo Vespucci, whose name the Europeans gave to the new landmass discovered for Spain by Christopher Columbus as "America", died.

504 solar years ago, on this day in 1514 AD, Shah Tahmasp I, was born in Isfahan to the Founder of the Safavid Empire of Iran, Shah Ismail I. He ascended the throne at the age of 10 on the death of his father. His reign of 52 years is the longest of any Muslim king of Iran, and was marked by foreign threats, primarily from the Ottomans in the west and the Uzbeks in the northeast. Upon adulthood, he was able to reassert his power and consolidate the dynasty against internal and external enemies. Although he lost Iraq and parts of Anatolia to the Ottoman invaders, his pious nature made him avoid unnecessary shedding of Muslim blood. As a result, after thwarting Ottoman designs in the Caucasus, Shah Tahmasp concluded the Treaty of Amasya, with Sultan Sulaiman, resulting in a peace that lasted 30 years and led to the development of Iran. He continued his father's policy of enlightening the people with the teachings of the Blessed Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA), and assembled at his court in Qazvin leading ulema from all over Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, and Lebanon. As a descendant of the Prophet and head of the Safavid spiritual order tracing to Saffi od-Din Ardebili, he was acknowledged as suzerain by the Shi'a Muslim sultanates of the Deccan (Southern India).

463 solar years ago, on this day in 1555 AD, the 2nd Moghal Emperor, Naseer od-Din Humayun re-conquered with Iranian help eastern Afghanistan and the northern subcontinent, fifteen years after losing the throne of Delhi to the Pashtun adventurer, Sher Shah Suri. His peaceful personality, in addition to his addiction to opium, cost him the kingdom ten years later, forcing him to seek refuge in Iran, where he was cordially received by Shah Tahmasp I, who provided financial aid and 14,000 troops to regain his Empire. Humayun, along with his trusted general, Bairam Khan, crossed the Indus River and in February of 1554, he occupied the Punjab, including Lahore, without any serious opposition. To check the Moghal-Persian advance, Sikandar Shah of Delhi sent a huge army of Afghans and Rajputs that was defeated. On restoration of Moghal, thousands of Iranians continued to migrate every year to Hindustan and were given high civil and military positions. This signaled an important change in Moghal court culture, as the Central Asian origins of the dynasty were largely overshadowed by the influences of Persian art, architecture, language and literature.

453 lunar years ago, on this day in 986 AH, the Ottoman Turks seized from Safavid Iran, Tiflis or modern Tbilisi, which is the capital of the present day republic of Georgia in the Caucasus, following the death of the long peaceful reign of Shah Tahmasp I. Several years later, Iran under Shah Abbas the Great, succeeded in liberating most of Georgia by defeating the Ottomans.

286 solar years ago, on this day in 1732 AD, George Washington, who led the New England rebels against the British and became the first president of the 13 rebellious colonies that had banded together as the United States of America (USA), was born in an English family in Virginia.

230 solar years ago, on this day in 1788 AD, German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer, was born. He arrived at many of the same conclusions of Eastern philosophy, and would say: "Hatred comes from the heart; contempt from the head; and neither feeling is quite within our control."

195 solar years ago, on this day in 1823 AD, the Greeks during their rebellion against the Ottoman Turks massacred 12,000 Muslims in the city of Tripolitsa, with the help of Britain, France, Russia, and Austria.

178 lunar years ago, on this day in 1261 AH, French forces burned to death the Algerian Muslim tribe of Awlad Rabah along with their animals.

100 solar years ago, on this day in the year 1918 AD, the Iranian scholar, Mirza Sadeq Hakeem titled "Adeeb ol-Mamalek Farahani", passed away. He was actively involved in the Constitutional Movement and for a time was in-charge of the Ministry of Culture and the Judiciary. He also managed the "*Majlis*" and "*Aftab*" papers.

97 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, Britain carried out a coup in Iran against the weak Qajarid ruler, Ahmad Shah, to make an obscure and illiterate soldier named Reza Khan, the commander of the army. At the same time the other British agent, Seyyed Zia od-Din Tabatabaie was made Prime Minister. Ahmad Shah Qajar was forced to leave Iran for Europe. In 1925, with British support, Reza Khan forced the Majlis to abolish the Qajar dynasty and declared himself king, with the title of Reza Shah Pahlavi. He served British colonial interests by brutally crushing the freedom movements of the Iranian Muslim people. He forced the Iranian people to give up their traditional dress for European style of dressing, forced women to unveil, suppressed the ulema, and banned religious gatherings. With the outbreak of World War 2, he made the mistake of showing tendencies towards Germany, prompting Britain to replace him on the Peacock Throne with his son Mohammad Reza in 1941. Reza Khan was sent into exile to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean by the British and died there in 1944.

60 solar years ago, on this day in 1958 AD, Indian scholar and statesman, Abul-Kalaam Azad died at the age of 70. He was active in the struggle for independence of India from British rule. He was greatly influenced by the famous 19th century pan-Islamic Iranian thinker, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi, especially concerning the importance of Ijtihad in awakening the Muslim societies. Among his other works are: "War from the Islamic Point of View" and "*Shahid-e Azam*" (Great Martyr) which is a book on the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS).

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, Iran's Muslim combatants launched the Khaybar operations in the Hoor al-Howeizah region, southwestern Iran, to free lands occupied by the US-backed Ba' thist regime of Saddam. The Iranian combatants drove out the Ba' thist forces and took control of the oil-rich Majnoon Islands in the marshes to the north of the Iraqi port city of Basra. This operation astonished western military strategists backing Saddam and made them acknowledge the innovative abilities of Iran's Muslim combatants despite the sanctions.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, the famous Urdu poet of the Subcontinent, Shabbir Hassan Khan "Joosh" passed away in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan at the age of 88. Born in a Pashtun family in Malihabad, northern India, Joosh Malihabadi has left behind valuable works in poetry and prose, including lengthy odes in praise of the Ahl al-Bayt, especially Imam Ali (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) – regarded as masterpieces of Urdu poetry.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, terrorists backed by the US shocked the civilized world and hurt Islamic sentiments by blasphemously blowing the magnificent golden dome of the holy shrine in Samarra, which houses the venerated tombs of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) 10th and 11th Infallible Heirs - Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS) and Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS). The sacred shrine is being rebuilt, thanks to the devotional efforts of Iraqi and Iranian Muslims.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, as part of the popular uprising in the Persian Gulf state of Bahrain against the repressive Aal-e Khalifa minority regime, tens of thousands of people marched in protest on learning of the martyrdom of seven victims killed by police and the army forces during previous peaceful protests. Bahraini is in the grip of a popular revolution for overthrowing the US-backed hereditary rule.

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

Iranian Documentary Awarded at Irvine Festival



TEHRAN(Dispatches) - **The Rock**, a documentary by film director **Hamid Jafari** has won the **Best Short Documentary** at **7th annual Irvine International Film Festival**.

Jafari's film has already been featured in two other festivals in the United States, namely Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and New Orleans Film Festival, and it was also awarded the Best Documentary Short in the 2017 New Orleans Film Festival in the U.S. state of Louisiana Orleans.

It is a 26-minute film set in the south of Iran, depicting a woman who goes to the mountain of the village every day and by breaking the rocks and putting them in the truck, she makes a living out of it for her family.

Brain Aging May Begin Earlier Than Expected

LONDON (Dispatches) - **Physicists have devised a new method of investigating brain function, opening a new frontier in the diagnoses of neurodegenerative and aging related diseases.**

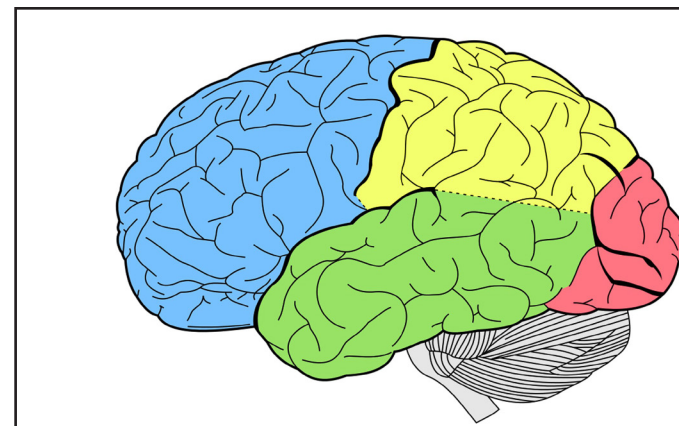
This new non-invasive technique could potentially be used for any diagnosis based on cardiovascular and metabolic-related diseases of the brain. The researchers at Lancaster University (UK) and Medical University of Gdansk (Poland) deciphered oscillations in the cerebrospinal fluid which lies between the scalp and skull.

A device for non-invasive

recordings of this translucent fluid has been developed by researchers at the Technical University of Gdansk (Poland), and recordings on healthy subjects were made at the Medical University of Gdansk (Poland) and the University of Regina (Canada).

Using methods developed by physicists at Lancaster it has been shown that the circulation throughout the brain of this fluid is highly fluctuating, and that these fluctuations are slow but interconnected by the rhythms of breathing and the heart rate.

Researchers found that some of these oscillations are linked



with blood pressure, but are generally slower, occurring at lower frequencies, which have been shown in previous studies to be related to oscillations in vascular motion and blood oxygenation.

Preliminary results showed evidence of a decline in the coherence between these oscillations in participants over the age of 25, indicating that brain aging may begin earlier than expected.

Iranians Have Always Fought for Peace: Official

TEHRAN (IFP) -- **Muhammad Beheshti, a senior cultural analyst and Iranian official, says the art of Iranians is that they have always fought for peace throughout history while some countries have fought for domination.**

Beheshti, the head of Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT), underlined that in the eyes of Iranians, peace holds when everything is in the right place.

"In the Iranian culture, peace means ev-

erything should be in the place it belongs to, but in the Western culture, peace means everything should be in the place that they say," said the official.

He described as "holy" any defense which is based on truth and peace.

The official said Iranians emerged victorious during the eight-year war imposed by Iraq on Iran in the 1980s because "we defended our homeland responsibly and honestly."

He then said one of the topics the research

institute has focused on is the issue of "holy defense."

"The reason that the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism has turned to holy defense is that defense is one of the key manifestations of our culture, and holy defense has its roots in our history," he added.

Beheshti made the comments at a scientific conference on intellectual, cultural and civilizational analyses of the history of defense in Iran.

Malaysia to Host Iranian Film Festival

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - **Malaysia is hosting the first Iranian film festival, with 6 films and two groups of artists.**

The event aimed at promoting cultural engagement between Iran and Malaysia, is to be held on March 7-17, Ali Mohammad Sabeqi, Iran's cultural attaché in Malaysia said.

Sweet Taste of Imagination by Kamal Tabrizi, The Queen by Mohammad Ali Basheh Ahangar, Crazy Castle by Abolhasan Davoodi, Under the Skyhook Roof by Pooran Derakhshandeh, Ceasefire 2 by Tahmineh Milani, and Where Are My Shoes by Ki-omars Poorahmad will be showcased in the festival.

The films will be screened for free in cities of Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor Bahru.

Picture of the Day



A 14-year-old Iranian girl diagnosed with Down syndrome has successfully managed to learn to paint and play the piano.

Courtesy: IRNA