

## This Day in History

(May 1)

Today is Monday; 11<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 4<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Sha'ban 1438 lunar hijri; and May 1, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1412 lunar years ago**, on this day in 26 AH, the valiant Standard-Bearer of the Immortal Epic of Karbala, Hazrat Abu'l-Fazl al-Abbas (AS), was born in Medina to the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). His mother was the virtuous lady Omm al-Baneen Fatema bint Hezaam of the al-Kilabiyya clan noted for its courage and bravery. Imam Ali (AS) had married her several years after the passing away of his beloved wife, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) the daughter of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Hazrat Abbas (AS), who was over two decades younger than his older brothers, the Prophet's grandsons, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS), was very much attached to them since childhood. Out of respect for their immaculate lineage, he never called them brothers, but would refer to them as Lords and Masters. He was in Karbala like a shadow beside Imam Husain (AS), and while trying to fetch water for the thirsty camp of the Imam, he sacrificed his life, by first losing both his hands, but never tasted a drop of water even when he succeeded in reaching the bank of the River Euphrates. His shrine till this day stands as a sentinel to the shrine of Imam Husain (AS), with pilgrims from all over the world seeking his intercession with God Almighty by addressing him as "*Bab al-Murad*" or the Gateway of Needs. His birthday is marked in the Islamic Republic of Iran as "*Roz-e Janbazan*" or the Day of the Valiant Veterans. We congratulate all listeners on the auspicious birth anniversary of Hazrat Abbas (AS), and will present a special feature on his life later in our programme.

**998 lunar years ago**, on this day in 440 AH, the Iranian mystic and poet, Abu-Saeed Abi'l-Khair, passed away at the age of 83 in his native Khorasan. He was an expert on the exegesis of the Holy Qur'an, in addition to hadith, and jurisprudence, and was very deeply devoted to the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt. The important details of his thoughts and life are known from the book "*Asrar at-Tawhid*" (Mysteries of Monotheism) written by his grandson, Mohammad Ibn Munawwar, after his death. He was also an accomplished poet, and mostly composed quatrains.

**984 lunar years ago**, on this day in ۴۵۴ AH, Mo'iz ibn Badees, the 4<sup>th</sup> ruler of the Zirid dynasty of Morocco died after a reign of 46 years during which he turned against his own benefactors the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite dynasty. In the first year of his reign, during the regency of his aunt, as many 20,000 Shi'ite Muslims were massacred at the fall and destruction of Mansuriya, the former seat of government of the Fatimids near Kairouan, Tunisia. Ibn Badees earned notoriety for his persecution, suppression and killing of followers of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

**755 lunar years ago**, on this day in 683 AH, the Iranian statesman, Shams od-Din Mohammad ibn Baha od-Din Mohammad ibn Mohammad Juwaini was martyred by the Mongol ruler, Arghun Khan on the alleged charges of poisoning of his father Abaqa Khan, who actually died of excessive drinking. A vizier and Sahib-Divan or Minister of Finance for 22 years under three Ilkhans - i.e. Hulagu, Abaqa and Ahmad Tekuder - both his grandfather Mohammad and his father Baha od-Din, had held the post of Sahib-Divan for Mohammad Jalal od-Din Khwarezmshah and Chingiz Khan's son Ogedei Khan respectively. Born in Juwain, near Naishapur in Khorasan, he was a skillful political and military leader, who is also known to have patronized arts and culture. His brother is the famous historian Ata Malik Juwaini, the author of "*Tarikh-e Jahan-Gusha*".

**744 lunar years ago**, on this day in 694 AH, Ghazan Khan, the 7<sup>th</sup> ruler of the Iran-based Ilkhanid Dynasty that included Iraq, Armenia, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and parts of Turkey, Syria and Georgia, embraced the truth of Islam along with over 100,000 Mongols. He changed his name to Mahmoud and ruled for nine years during which he demolished the temples built by the Buddhist occupiers of the Muslim lands. He was the son of Arghun.

**689 solar years ago**, on this day in 1328 AD, wars of Scottish Independence end, and by the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton the Kingdom of England recognizes the Kingdom of Scotland as an independent state.

**473 solar years ago**, on this day in 1544 AD, Hungary was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and for over some two centuries remained under their rule as the province of Majarestan.

**317 solar years ago**, on this day in 1700 AD, British poet, literary critic, translator, and playwright, who was made Poet Laureate in 1668, died at the age of 68 in London.

**310 solar years ago**, on this day in 1707 AD, the Act of Union joined the Kingdom of England and Kingdom of Scotland to form the Kingdom of Great Britain, although the union of the Scottish and English crowns had practically occurred on 24 March 1603, following the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the accession to the throne of England by Scotland's James VI, as James I of the United Kingdom.

**248 solar years ago**, on this day in 1769 AD, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, Irish-English field marshal and politician, and Prime Minister of Britain, famous for his defeat of France's Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo in 1814, was born in Dublin.

**128 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, upon the decision of The International Labour Congress, this day was named as the International Workers' Day in commemoration of the 1886 Haymarket Massacre in Chicago, when the US police fired on 40,000 peaceful workers during a general strike for the 8-hour workday, killing several demonstrators and resulting in the deaths of several police officers, largely from the so-called 'friendly' fire.

**102 solar years ago**, on this day in 1915 AD, during World War I, German forces defeated Russian forces in Poland. The failure of the Czarist army in World War I, coupled with economic poverty and the totalitarian monarchial system, were the most important reasons behind the Russian Revolution and its hijacking by the communists in October 1917.

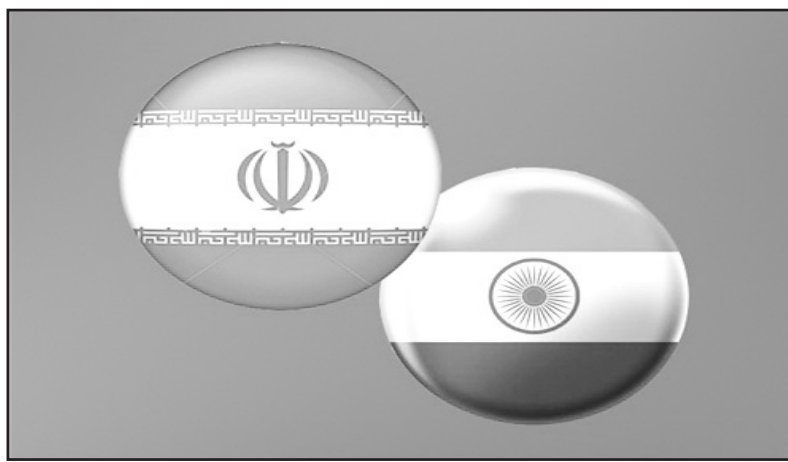
**15 solar years ago**, on this day in 2002 AD, the multilingual Bahraini-Indian writer and poet, Ibrahim Al-Arrayedh (ابراهيم العريض) passed away in Manama in the Persian Gulf island of Bahrain at the age of 94. Generally considered to be one of Bahrain's greatest poets and a leader of the Bahraini literary movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he born in Bombay, India. His father was a Bahraini pearl trader and his mother was an Iraqi, who died when he was only two months old. His first visit to Bahrain was in 1922, at the age of fourteen. He pursued his studies in India until the completion of secondary school, specializing in Persian and English languages, alongside Urdu. He later studied Urdu literature at the Aligarh Muslim University. On settling in Bahrain as an English teacher, he began to study Arabic and immersed himself in the works of prominent Arab poets. During World War 2, he returned to India and worked at the radio station. Ibrahim al-Arrayedh began writing poetry at the age of 18, and his first set of poems was published in Baghdad in 1931, when he was 23. Since he was a multi-linguist, he translated the works of poets between Persian, Hindi, Urdu, English, and Arabic. His poems were popular in Iraq, Syria and Egypt. Ibrahim al-Arrayedh was elected as Chairman of the Constituent Assembly in 1972 to draft Bahrain's first constitution after independence from Britain. He was appointed as Ambassador at large in 1974 and later as ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until the time of this death in 2002.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2004 AD, Iranian author, Kiyoumars Saberi Foumani, passed away at the age of 63. His opposition to Pahlavi dictatorial rule led him to write political satirical poems. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he wrote articles on political and social topics, under the penname "Gol Aqa", which later took the form of a highly popular satirical magazine. He has left behind a number of books.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2004 AD, with the membership of ten more countries, the European Union turned into a 25-member commercial bloc. The new member states are from Central and Eastern Europe, namely: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Slovakia, as well as the two Mediterranean Sea island states of Malta, and Cyprus. There are, however, deep political, economic, and social disparities among the EU's old and new member states. In 2007, Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU, whose member states now number 27.

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

# Iran, India Keen to Expand Media Ties



TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian and Indian officials in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday underlined the need for boosting mutual cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi in the fields of media and communications.

During the meeting in the Iranian capital today, Iranian Deputy Culture Minister Hossein Entezami and India's media delegation explored avenues

for bolstering and reinvigorating of media and communications relations.

Entezami pointed to Iran-India relations during sanctions and post-sanction era, and said, "Iranians will not forget India's assistance during the sanction era."

Both sides emphasized taking advantage of Indian media to better introduce Iran in the region and the world.

In relevant remarks in April 2016, former Iranian Culture Minister Ali Jan nati said Tehran would host a seminar to help expand Iran-India cultural ties.

In a meeting with Indian Ambassador to Tehran Saurabh Kumar, Jannati said post-sanction Iran is now more than ever ready to enhance bilateral cooperation with India in all spheres, including culture.

"India has a special place in Iran's foreign policy. The top priority for Tehran is expansion of bilateral ties in politics, trade, science, and culture," he added.

The Indian ambassador, for his part, said Iran and India share cultural commonalities, including in language and literature, adding that New Delhi seeks to offer Indian language courses at Iranian universities.

"The libraries of the two countries could also work together to republish old books and historical documents," he added.

He also welcomed all-out ties with Tehran in trade, economy, science, and culture.

## Zanjan to Host Int'l Food Festival

ZANJAN (IRNA) - Head of the Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization (CHTHO) of Zanjan Province, Iran, said on Saturday the third International ECO-Silk Road Food Festival is to be held in Zanjan on May 10-12 with 16 groups from 12 countries.

Yahya Rahmati said at a workshop organized by CHTHO that the goals of the festivals are introducing international healthy diets, traditional dishes of the participating countries, and Zanjan Province capacities for tourism.

The Festival is meant for showcasing the local foods by individuals/groups from the ECO Member states and the Silk Road countries, namely, Iran, Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, China, Republic of Korea, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

ICHTO of Zanjan Province and Economic Cooperation Organization initiated the ECO-Silk Food Festival in 2015. Investing on the 2015 and 2016 successful experiences, it is determined to continue this move on an annual basis in Zanjan.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States.

ECO is the successor organization of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which remained in existence since 1964 up to 1979.



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In 1992, the Organization was expanded to include seven new members, namely, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The date of the Organization's expansion to its present strength, 28th November, is being observed as the ECO Day.

## Cause of Chronic Inflammation Discovered

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Too much of the oncogene Bcl-3 leads to chronic intestinal diseases, report investigators.

A team led by Dr. Nadine Hövelmeyer and Professor Ari Waisman of the Mainz University Medical Center in collaboration with Dr. Elke Glasmacher of Helmholtz Zentrum München has discovered a new mechanism that causes intestinal inflammation.

"With the help of our cooperation partners, we were able to demonstrate that the level of the Bcl-3 protein, which also plays a role in the development of various cancerous diseases, is elevated in the intestinal tract of colitis patients and is indeed a trigger of the disease," said Dr. Nadine Hövelmeyer, head of the work group at the Mainz-based Institute for Molecular Medicine. According to the study, Bcl-3 develops its effect on intestinal health through interaction with the so-called regulatory T-cells (Tregs). Their main task is to prevent overreaction of the immune system and to develop a level of tolerance towards the body they serve.

Chronic intestinal disorders such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are caused by the body's own immune defense system. Sufferers frequently experience episodic symptoms such as abdominal pain, cramps, and diarrhea.

## Quran Int'l Exhibit to Kick Off May 27

TEHRAN (IBNA) - The 25th Tehran International Quran Exhibition will kick off on May 27 concurrent with the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan at Mosalla of Imam Khomeini in Tehran.

According to IBNA correspondent, Tehran International Holy Quran Exhibition is an annual event organized and held by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance during the holy month of Ramadan, aimed to introduce the Quranic achievements of Iran.

With the slogan "Quran, Ethics, Life", The 25th edition of Tehran International Quran Exhibition will be held from May 27 to June 14 at 5 to 12 p.m.



## Picture of the Day



Shrine of Khalid Nabi, a pre-Islamic prophet, is a beautiful place surrounded by a strange cemetery. Located in a mountainous area of Turkmen Sahara, the shrine hosts hundreds of visitors during the spring. Credit: Mehr News Agency