

This Day in History

(April 26)

Today is Wednesday; 6th of the Iranian month of Ordibehesht 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 28th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1438 lunar hijri; and April 26, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1896 solar years ago, on this day in 121 AD, Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor was born. In 161 AD, he was declared emperor and commenced his 19-year ruler that saw his generals emerge as victors of the 5-year long war (161-65) against the Parthian Empire of Iran in Armenia and Mesopotamia (Iraq), following initial Iranian victories in Syria and Anatolia (present day Turkey). The Roman success, however, was short-lived, and despite the sacking of the Iranian-controlled Greek city of Seleucia on the eastern banks of the Tigris and plunder of the Parthian capital, Ctesiphon, on the eastern banks of the same river, the Iranians soon remobilized and reclaimed lost ground, although Armenia was briefly lost. The Parthian Empire was at that time under the long 44-year rule of Balaash, known to the Romans as Vologases IV. Marcus Aurelius the last of the supposedly 5 good emperors in Roman history.

1378 lunar years ago, on the eve of this day in 60 AH, Imam Husain (AS), the grandson and 3rd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny), was informed by the Omayyad governor of Medina, Waleed ibn Otbah, of the death of the usurper Mu'awiyah in Damascus and asked to give oath of allegiance to the illegal rule of his libertine son, Yazid – named caliph in violation of the terms of the treaty Mu'awiyah had signed with the Prophet's elder grandson, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), nineteen years earlier. Imam Husain (AS) turning down the illogical demand left for Mecca, along with his family so as to avoid tension and bloodshed. Yazid, however, tried to press his illegal demand of allegiance, and the Imam anxious against the spilling of innocent blood on this sacred land, left five months later for Iraq on the persistent invitation of the people of Kufa. He was tragically martyred at Karbala due to the treason of the Kufans

1260 solar years ago, on this day in 757 AD, Hisham I, the 2nd Omayyad emir of Muslim Spain was born to Abdur-Rahman I and his wife, Halul, a couple of years after his fugitive father, fleeing the persecution of his clan in Syria and Egypt by the Abbasids, arrived in Andalusia, and was welcomed by Syrian commanders. In 788, he became ruler, and faced with threats from France, sent his general Abdul-Malik ibn Abdul-Wahid ibn Mughith across the Pyrenees mountains to defeat Louis the Pious' Carolingian mentor William of Orange. Despite this victory, the Muslims did not advance further into France as they had done half-a-century earlier, advancing till Poitiers before their historic defeat in 732. In 794, Ibn Mughith suppressed a Basque rebellion and soundly defeated the Christian principality of Asturias in southern France. Hisham died in 796 at the age of 40 after eight years as ruler.

412 solar years ago, on this day in 1605 AD, Europe's first weekly newspaper titled "Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien" was published in German language by Johann Carolus in the city of Strasbourg, which is currently in France but was then part of Germany's Holy Roman Empire. It seems the Europeans came up with the idea of a newspaper through their contacts with the Muslim World, especially the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires, in what is now Turkey, Iran and the Subcontinent, where the Waqia-Navis or Newswriter used to release weekly record of various events in the form of Waqianameh or newsletters to keep the court officials and the elite informed.

344 lunar years ago, on this day in 1094 AH, the Ottoman army led by Sultan Mohammad IV began the second siege of the Austrian capital Vienna which lasted for two months and ended in the defeat of the Turkish army by the combined forces of the holy Roman Empire in league with the Polish-Lithuanian alliance. The defeat marked the decline of Ottoman power in Europe

296 solar years ago, on this day in 1721 AD, a massive earthquake devastated the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz in eastern Azarbaijan Province, killing more than 80,000 people and destroying buildings, including many historical structures.

212 solar years ago, on this day in 1805 AD, a regiment of US led a band of Greek and Arab mercenaries against forces of Tripoli to attack and occupy Derne, the capital of the North African province of Cyrenaica, during the First Barbary War which it imposed on the Ottoman lands of Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria. It was the first military expedition of the US abroad and met with mixed results as the Muslims regrouped and defeated the American fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.

117 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, American seismologist, Charles Francis Richter, was born.

109 lunar years ago, on this day in 1329 AH, one of the renowned poets of the Caucasus region, Mirza Ali Akbar Saber, died at the age of 51. He was born in the city of Shervan in what is now the Republic of Azerbaijan, which before the Russian occupation in the first half of 19th century was an integral part of Iran. Most of his poems were in admiration of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the Infallible Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt, as well as on social problems of the era.

101 lunar years ago, on this day in 1337 AH, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Kazem Tabatabaei Yazdi, passed away in holy Najaf, Iraq. Born in Yazd, after completing his studies in his hometown and Isfahan, under prominent ulema, he left for Iraq for higher studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf, where he reached the status of Ijtihad. Later, as head of the Islamic seminary, he set up charities, mosques, and schools. Among his books mention should be made of the voluminous jurisprudential work "al-Orwat al-Wosqa."

91 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, Iran's first radio transmission and wireless telegraph station became operational. Soon more such stations were set up the same year in Mashhad, Tabriz, Shiraz, Khorramshahr, and Kermanshah. The next year all Iranian cities became connected to the national network.

84 solar years ago, on this day in 1933 AD, the dreaded Gestapo organization was formed in Germany by Nazi Field Marshal, Hermann Goering, one of the senior aides of Adolf Hitler. The term Gestapo means state secret police. The goal was identification, detention, and execution of those who were against Nazism and Hitler. The most infamous head of Gestapo was Heinrich Himmler.

74 solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD, Kashmiri religious scholar and politician, Mowlavi Ifthikhar Hussain Ansari, organizer of the Grand Ashura Procession in Kashmir on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husain (AS), was born in Srinagar.

53 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, with the forced union of the Muslim populated Zanzibar Island with Tanganyika on the African mainland, following the overthrow of the Sultanate of Zanzibar and Pemba, the Republic of Tanzania was formed.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, a prominent figure of the Islamic Revolution, Hojjat al-Islam Mahdi Shahabadi, attained martyrdom at the warfronts against Saddam's despotic Ba'th minority regime.

32 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, the UN Security Council condemned Iraq's use of internationally banned chemical weapons against Iran during the war imposed by the US through Saddam, although it did not issue any resolution in this regard, because of pressure of western, eastern and Arab states. The condemnation was made possible in view of Iran's sending the chemical victims to hospitals in Europe for treatment.

31 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, in Pripyat in the Soviet Union on the borders of Ukraine and Belarus, one of the four reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear plant exploded in the world's worst civil nuclear catastrophe. It sent a cloud of radioactive dust over Europe. The cause was an experiment that went wrong, causing the fourth reactor to explode and melt down. Thirty-one people, mostly firemen, were killed immediately after the explosion, and several thousand more - those involved in the clean-up and children - have since died from radiation-related illnesses. Ukraine says the health of millions of its people have been affected by the disaster. The final shutdown of the undamaged last reactor on the site took place ceremoniously on 15 Dec 2000.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, the deadliest tornado in world history struck Central Bangladesh, killing upwards of 1,300, injuring 12,000, and leaving as many as 80,000 homeless.

21 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, the 16-day aggression of the Zionist entity on southern Lebanon, codenamed Grapes of Wrath, ended. During its savage attack from land, air, and sea, Israel destroyed most of the infrastructure of Lebanon as far as Beirut, martyring 180 men, women, and children, and wounding hundreds of others. The goal was to try to demoralize people and weaken the Islamic Resistance. Israel, however, failed miserably and was forced to withdraw on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Four years later, the Zionists and their surrogate forces, the South Lebanese Army, were humiliated by the legendary anti-terrorist movement, Hezbollah, and forced to retreat from the Litani River and almost all of south Lebanon.

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

Ancient Civilizations Call for Cultural Campaign to Maintain Peace



Iranian Foreign minister Zarif arrived in Athens on Sunday morning to attend the forum, attended by representatives from nine other nations, known as descendants of the world's ancient civilizations.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif has said extremism could be wiped out through collective efforts and ancient civilizations.**

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks while speaking at the closing ceremony of the first ministerial

conference of 'Ancient Civilizations Forum' in Athens, attended by 10 countries.

"We can eliminate extremism and violent measures through development of cooperation among participating countries in the forum and using

invaluable teachings of our rich civilizations," Zarif said.

He also highlighted that continuous holding of similar gatherings can play a major role in establishment of global peace, calm and security and preventing violence and extremism.

Also at the session, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Kotzias said the forum called for maintaining dialogue for elevation of global peace.

Kotzias also called for presence of other countries in the future events in the forum both on official on observe status.

"The forum is scheduled to be held annually in the participating states, as cultural power is superior to the economic and military powers," said the Greek official adding that major steps can be taken in line with upholding human community's peace, stability and welfare by appreciating cultures characterized by ancient civilizations.

The senior Iranian diplomat arrived in Athens on Sunday morning to attend the forum, attended by representatives from nine other nations, known as descendants of the world's ancient civilizations.

Officials from Greece, China, India, Iraq, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia have taken part in the two-day conference.

According to Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, the purpose of the conference is to give the Ancient Civilizations Forum "an institutional character and open it up to more countries."

Malaysia's Academic Delegation in Tehran to Boost Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (Fars) - **A Malaysian delegation comprising several university professors and chancellors arrived in Tehran on Monday to help broaden mutual cooperation between the two countries' universities.**

Chancellor of Universiti Sains

Malaysia (USM) Asma Ismail, heading a high-ranking academic delegation, is visiting Iran at the invitation of Iran's scientific attaché to Malaysia.

The Malaysian academic delegation will hold talks with chancellors of a number of Iranian universities.

Professor Ismail, also head of Science Academy of Malaysia, will visit Iranian universities of Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, Science and Technology, Shahid Beheshti, Amir Kabir, and Shiraz.

The academic delegation will also

meet Head of Academy of Medical Sciences Alireza Marandi.

Professor Asma Ismail is Secretary-General of Malaysia's Higher Education and responsible for the country's Education Blueprint 2015-2025.

Louvre Museum to Hold Exhibition in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- **Iran's Director of Museums and Historical Properties Office has said that for the first time an exhibition of some items from Louvre Museum will be held in Tehran.**

"The exhibition is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the deputy of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (Iranian National Museum) and Louvre Museum signed in March," Mohammad Reza Kargar said.

In the exhibition valuable items from Louvre Museum related to Egyptian and Ancient Greek civilizations as well as some artworks from France will be displayed for four months in National Museum of Iran.

Kargar explained that the Louvre Museum items have been given to Iran for the first time, which is an indication of the trust between Iran and France as well as the promotion of the two countries' museums.

He also described the event as indicating Iran's security and stability, in addition to a contribution to Iranian people's knowledge and awareness of various civilizations.

The official added that other countries such as Armenia and South Korea will also hold exhibitions in Iran this year.

Mexico had also suggested holding an exposition of its civilization in Iran, he said.

Golab Adineh Wins Best Actress Award at Beijing Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – **Iranian actress Golab Adineh has won Best Actress Award for 'Abji' (The Sis) directed by Marjan Ashrafizadeh at the 7th Beijing International Film Festival in China.**

The seventh Beijing International Film Festival (BJIFF 2017) wrapped up as the Tiantan Award went to 'Luka', a Georgian movie by Giorgi Barabadze.

There were 15 outstanding films

shortlisted for the award from China, Iran, Canada, France, Australia, Finland, Georgia, etc. A total of 424 entries from 59 countries and regions, including 274 international films and 150 domestic films, had participated in the competition.

Iranian actress Golab Adineh Best Actress award for her inspiring performance in Marjan Ashrafizadeh's 'Abji' (The Sis).

The film narrates the story of two women who have lived together for more than 50 years, but the situation doesn't remain the same and then the time comes to part ways.

Abji won the best feature film award at the 4th edition of the Afghanistan International Women Film Festival.

The 7th Beijing International Film Festival will be held in Beijing from April 16 to 23, 2017.

Picture of the Day



An international Quran competition for women is underway here in the Iranian capital of Tehran. Tasnim