

This Day in History

(May 27)

Today is Saturday; 6th of the Iranian month of Khordad 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1438 lunar hijri; and May 27, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Today marks the First Day of the blessed fasting month of Ramadhan – the month of revelation of the Holy Qur'an and the season of divine blessings. In description of the grandeur of this month, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) has hailed its days and nights as the best days and nights of year, while calling on Muslims to benefit from the blessings of Ramadhan. The Night of Qadr marks the night that the Holy Qur'an was revealed. The martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet's 1st Infallible Successor, Imam Ali (AS) and the birth anniversary of his elder son, Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the 2nd Infallible Imam, are the other important events of Ramadhan. We call on God Almighty to assist us to make use of the spiritual blessings of the fasting month of Ramadhan in the best possible manner.

1230 lunar years ago, on this day in 208 AH, the virtuous lady Seyyedah Nafisa passed away at the age of 63 in Fustat in what later became Cairo in Egypt, while engrossed in the recitation of the holy Qur'an. Daughter of Hassan al-Anwar and granddaughter of Zayd al-Ablaj, a son of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS) – the elder grandson and 2nd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – she was born in Medina and was the wife of Seyyed Ishaq al-Mo'tamen, a son of Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir.

1010 lunar years ago, on this day in 428 AH, Abu Ali Hussain Ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina, the prominent Iranian Islamic genius, who was a physician, mathematician, philosopher, and astronomer, passed away at the age of 58 in the western Iranian city of Hamedan.

705 lunar years ago, on this day in 732 AH, the Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, was born in Tunis into an affluent Spanish Arab family that had settled in North Africa because of Christian onslaughts.

685 solar years ago, on this day in 1332 AD, the Muslim historian and historiographer, Abdur-Rahman Ibn Mohammad Ibn Khaldun, was born in Tunis into an affluent Spanish Arab family that had settled in North Africa because of Christian onslaughts. He is regarded as one of the forerunners of modern historiography, sociology, and economics.

453 solar years ago, on this day in 1564 AD, John Calvin, French pastor and theologian, was burnt alive at the stake at the age of 55 by the Catholic Church on accusations of distorting the Christian Bible.

314 solar years ago, on this day in 1703 AD, Saint Petersburg was founded by Tsar Peter the Great of Russia, on the estuary of Neva River flowing into the Baltic Sea, a fortnight after he had captured during the Great Northern War what was then the Swedish fortress of Nyenskans in the land called Ingermanland inhabited by the Finnic tribe of Ingrians.

180 solar years ago, on this day in 1837 AD, the Treaty of Tafna was signed by Algerian freedom-fighters led by Sufi scholar Amir Seyyed Abdul-Qader al-Hassani and France, which had invaded Algeria in 1830 to supplant the declining power of the Ottomans – who were preoccupied with the western-supported rebellion in the Province of Yunanistan that led to the emergence of Greece as a new country.

112 solar years ago, on this day in 1905 AD, during the Russo-Japanese War: The Battle of Tsushima began. Commonly known as the "Sea of Japan Naval Battle", it was fought in the Tsushima Strait between Korea and Japan, and was naval history's only decisive sea battle fought by modern steel battleship fleets, as well as the first naval battle in which wireless telegraphy (radio) played a critically important role.

107 solar years ago, on this day in 1910 AD, the German bacteriologist and discoverer of the cause of tuberculosis, Robert Koch, died at the age of 67. He conducted research on the reasons behind cholera and anthrax as well. He visited South Africa, Egypt, and India for researches on ailments such as malaria. In 1905, he was awarded the Nobel Prize.

91 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, the prominent Iranian poet, Abdul-Jawad Adib Naishapuri, passed away at the age of 63. He went blind in childhood due to smallpox, but continued to learn sciences enthusiastically and after honing his skills in Arabic literature and other sciences of his era, he started to lecture these subjects. Gradually, he turned into a skilled poet. Selection of appropriate terms and precise meanings are the strong points of his poetry. His Diwan of poems consists of beautiful verses in Persian and Arabic.

91 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, the uprising of Moroccan Muslims against the Spanish and French colonizers failed. The leader of this uprising, Abdul-Karim Rifi, after initial victories suffered defeats and the colonial powers massacred thousands of Muslims.

87 solar years ago, on this day in 1930 AD, Indian-Iranian lexicographer and critic, Karim Imami, was born in Calcutta, India, which was a frequent destination of his father, a tea merchant from Shiraz. He learned English from his father and returned to Iran and studied English literature at University of Tehran, and later at the University of Minnesota in the US. He became a journalist in the early 1950s for the English language Iranian daily "Kayhan International". During the 1960s, he translated contemporary Persian poetry into English. In 1967, he was named editor-in-chief at Franklin Books, where he was instrumental in the publication of quality books and training younger writers and editors. He also founded Soroush Press, the publishing arm of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting – IRIB – (Radio and TV), and established the Zamineh Bookstore in Tehran, a meeting place for writers, intellectuals, and book lovers. In the final decade of his life he was an active contributor to "Motarjem", an Iranian quarterly dedicated to the translation and translators. He died of leukemia in Tehran.

68 solar years ago, on this day in 1949 AD, the Iranian literary figure, researcher, and historian, Allamah Mohammad Qazvini, passed away. Among his services to culture and literature was to prepare photographs and copies of Persian manuscripts in European museums. He has left behind annotations on a number of books, including an introduction to the *Shahnamah* of Ferdowsi.

53 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, died in office in New Delhi at the age of 75.

30 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, Palestinian-American philosopher, Isma'il Raji al-Faruqi, was murdered at the age of 65 along with his wife, Lois Lamy, at his home in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, by agents of the Zionist entity.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2009 AD, in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, a terrorist bombing in a mosque at Zahedan left 25 people martyred. Investigations pointed to the hands of the US and the Zionist entity, who are trying to stoke sectarian tensions as part of the plot to divide the Muslims.

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

Holy Ramadhan Begins in Iran Today



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The holy day, May 27 in Iran, an official Office announced. Addressing a press conference, Ali-Reza Movahed-nejad announced that 150 moon-sighting groups were instructed to sight the Ramadan crescent nationwide. Movahednejad predicted that the holy month will last for 30 days this year. The advent of Ramadhan may vary from country to country depending on the situation of the moon. Since the new moon is not in the same state at the same time globally, the beginning and ending dates of Ramadan depend on what lunar sightings are received in each location. As a result, Ramadhan dates vary in different countries, but usually only by a day. This is due to the cycle of the moon.

New Way to Slow Cancer Cell Growth

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Researchers have identified a new way to potentially slow the fast-growing cells that characterize all types of cancer.

By removing a specific protein from cells, researchers from the University of Rochester's Center for RNA Biology were able to slow the cell cycle, which is out of control in cancer. The findings were made in kidney and cervical cancer cells in the laboratory and are a long way from being applied in people. But, they could be the basis of a treatment option in the future.

Researchers identified a protein called Tudor-SN that is important in the "preparatory" phase of the cell cycle -- the period when the cell gets ready to divide. When scientists eliminated this protein from cells, using the gene editing technology CRISPR-Cas9, cells took longer to gear up for division. The loss of Tudor-SN slowed the cell cycle.

"We know that Tudor-SN is more abundant in cancer cells than healthy cells, and our study suggests that targeting this protein could inhibit fast-growing cancer cells," said Reyad A. Elbarbary, Ph.D., lead study author and research assistant professor in the Center for RNA Biology and the department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Elbarbary, who works in the laboratory of senior study author Lynne E. Maquat, Ph.D., an expert in RNA biology, adds that there are existing compounds that block Tudor-SN that could be good candidates for a possible therapy.

Moon Dust From Apollo 11 Expected to Sell for Millions

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - When astronaut Neil Armstrong returned from the Apollo 11 mission, he had a bag containing rock fragments and dust he collected from the moon's surface. But over the years the bag mysteriously disappeared.

Now these important space artifacts will go up for auction on July 20, 2017.

NASA had unknowingly lost track of the bag, which protected the Earth and space craft from lunar pathogens, says Cassandra Hatton, a vice president at Sotheby's. At that time former Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center curator Max Ary gained possession of the item, along with other space memorabilia, to display in his museum.

Later, the bag was confiscated from Ary and offered three



Serial number of the lunar sample bag from Apollo 11 that contains space dust. Courtesy: Sotheby's

different times in 2014 by a small auction house on behalf of the U.S. Marshall's service, but never received a bid.

Carlson sent the bag to be authenticated by the Johnson Space Center. The bag's distinct serial number led NASA to confirm the items inside were from the Apollo 11 mission.

The bag represents one of the greatest achievements in space exploration and the chance to own a rare piece of history. Sotheby's estimates the relic could sell for \$4 million.

The item will be up for bid as a part of Sotheby's inaugural Space Exploration-themed auction in New York on July 20 at 2 p.m. ET.

Picture of the Day



Abu Hamid bin Abu Bakr Ibrahim-Attar, (1110 - 1221), born in Neyshabur was a Persian poet, theoretician of Sufism during the Seljuq period. His tomb is in Iran's northeastern city of Neyshabur.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency