

This Day in History

(July 17)

Today is Monday; 26th of the Iranian month of Tir 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 22nd of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1438 lunar hijri; and July 17, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1097 lunar years ago**, on this day in 341 AH, the Iranian poet, Abu Ishaq Kesa-i Marvazi, was born in the Khorasani city of Marv (seized by Russia in 1884 and currently in Turkmenistan). He lived in the waning years of the Iranian Samanid Dynasty of Bukhara and the rise of the Turkic Ghaznavid Dynasty of Ghazna. Hence he has written poems in praise of the rulers of these two dynasties, before embracing the truth of the school of the Ahl al-Bayt. Thereafter he devoted his life to writing poetry on the merits of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and Imam Ali (AS).

**814 solar years ago**, on this day in 1203 AD, Byzantine emperor, Alexios III Angelos, fled into exile as Constantinople was sacked by savage hordes from western Europe that had banded together to launch the 4th Crusade on Egypt and Palestine. Scared of the power of Muslims the Crusader hordes turned instead upon fellow Christians to destroy centuries of civilization in a seditious move supported by Pope Innocent III, the head of the Catholic sect of Christianity in Rome, who despised the Greek Orthodox Church.

**615 solar years ago**, on this day 1402 AD, Zhu Di, ascended the throne of China as the Yongle Emperor of the Ming Dynasty. Though he favoured Confucianism, he called for the construction and repair of Islamic mosques. Two mosques were built by him during his 22-year reign; one in Nanjing and the other in Xi'an. He sponsored several long voyagers by Admiral "Zheng He" (real name Shams od-Din), who visited Arabia, East Africa, Egypt and the Persian Gulf. Seven expeditions were launched between 1405 and 1433.

**530 solar years ago**, on this day in 1487 AD, Shah Ismail I, the Founder of the Safavid Empire of Iran, was born in Ardabil to the head of the Safaviyya Sufi order, Shah Haidar, and his wife Martha – daughter of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler, Uzun Hassan. In 1500, as the direct descendant of the famous mystic, Safi od-Din Ardabili, he launched his campaign in Erzinjan (presently in Turkey). He crowned himself in Tabriz as king of all Azarbaijan after defeating Shirvan-Shah and taking control of Baku with a 7,000 force of the Turkic tribes known collectively as Qizl-Bash (Red-Heads) from the colour of their caps. By 1509, he unified all of Iran, Iraq, parts of Anatolia, Caucasus, Central Asia, and western Afghanistan, assuming the title of Shah of Persia. After a 23-year reign he passed away at the age of 37. It could be said he gave to Iran its present national, religious and cultural identity. The dynasty founded by him lasted 235 years and revived Iran's Islamic glories in science, art, architecture, philosophy, culture, Persian literature, and promotion of the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt. He checked the eastward expansion of the Ottomans despite the setback he suffered in the Battle of Chaldiran.

**429 solar years ago**, on this day in 1588 AD, Me'mar Sinaan, the chief Ottoman architect, died. He designed over three hundred structures such as mosques, caravanserais, public baths, and libraries, including the Selimiyyeh Mosque in Edirne, the Suleymaniyyeh Mosque Complex in Istanbul, the Rustom Pasha Mosque, and the Shahzadeh Mosque. He was a contemporary of Italian Renaissance architects and sculptors, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Michelangelo.

**326 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1112 AH, the renowned scholar, Seyyed Ne'matollah Jazayeri passed away in Pol-e Dokhtar, south-western Iran, where his mausoleum is a site of pilgrimage. Born in an island in the estuary of the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers near Basra; hence his epithet 'Jazayeri'; he had his education in Shiraz, where his teachers included Sheikh Ja'far Bahrani, the celebrated Mullah Sadra Shirazi, and Seyyed Hashem Ahsai. After marriage, he moved to the Safavid capital, Isfahan, where his teachers were Mohaqeq Sabzevari, Sheikh Horr Ameli, Mullah Mohsen Faiz Kashani, and the famous Allamah Baqer Majlisi. He became a great scholar and groomed several students, besides writing books on a wide variety of subjects. He later left for Iraq but because of restrictions placed by the Ottoman occupiers he did not stay there for long. Invited by the governor of Khuzestan, he moved to southwestern Iran where he established mosques and religious schools. He served as Sheikh ol-Islam in the Shustar region, and also preached in southern Iraq where he strove to abolish the enmity amongst Arab tribes. His books include an exegesis of the holy Qur'an titled "Oqoud al-Marjaan", "Riyadh al-Abraar fi Ma'rafat al-Aimmat al-Athaar" (on biographies of the Infallible Imams), "Qissas al-Anbiyya" (Accounts of the Prophets), and "al-Anwar an-Nu'maniyya fi Ma'rafat an-Nishaat al-Insaniyya". Among his descendants are prominent religious scholars, academicians, and statesmen, spread over Iran, Iraq, Bahrain and the Subcontinent, including his great grandson, Seyyed Abu'l-Qassim Jazayeri Shushtari, titled "Mir Alam", the early 19th century prime minister of the state of Haiderabad-Deccan in southern India. In Lucknow in northern India, his descendants included the scholar Mufti Seyyed Mohammad Abbas Jazayeri Shustari (1809-1869) and his equally scholarly son, Mufti Seyyed Ahmad Ali.

**286 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1151 AH, the scholar, Mohammad Hussain Khatoun-Abadi, passed away. He was an authority in theology, literature, and hadith. Among his valuable compilations, mention can be made of "al-Alwaah-us-Samawiyyah" (Heavenly Tablets).

**246 solar years ago**, on this day in 1771 AD, the Bloody Falls Massacre occurred in what is now the Arctic region of Canada, when scores of men, women, and children of the Amerindian Inuit tribe were massacred in cold blood by the British.

**227 solar years ago**, on this day in 1790 AD, the Scottish philosopher and economist, Adam Smith, died at the age of 67. His book "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" catapulted him to fame, earning him the title of Father of Modern Economics.

**206 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1232 AH, the jurisprudent and theologian, Mullah Ali Akbar Eji Isfahani, passed away. He authored several books, including "Zubdat-al-Ma'aref".

**108 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1330 AH, the Ottomans withdrew from Libya in conformity with the Treaty of Ouchy after losing the war with invading Italy.

**105 solar years ago**, on this day in 1912, French mathematician Henri Poincare, died. His analysis on light, electricity, algebra, geometry, and possibilities calculus are important. His "Poincare Conjecture" holds that if any loop in a given three-dimensional space can be shrunk to a point, the space is equivalent to a sphere.

**104 solar years ago**, on this day in 1913 AD, French Muslim thinker, Professor Roger Garaudy, was born in Marseilles. During the German occupation of France in World War 2, he was locked up in labour camps from 1940 to 1943 by the Nazis. For 36 years he was a senior member of the French Communist Party, before his conversion to Islam as a result of the impact on Europe of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. His courage in exposing the evil of the Zionists made him a target of the enemies of humanity. The release of his book: "The Case of Israel: A Study of Political Zionism" led to his trial, while his other book: "The Founding Myths of Modern Israel" once again infuriated the Zionists. Professor Garaudy was tried in a kangaroo court in France for exposing the myth of the Holocaust. He passed away at the age of 99.

**99 solar years ago**, on this day in 1918 AD, Russia's Last Tsar, Nicholas II, was executed by the Bolsheviks on the orders of Vladimir Lenin. His wife, son, 4 daughters, and 4 servants were also executed. The bodies were dug up in 1991. A reburial was carried out in St. Petersburg in 1998.

**81 solar years ago**, on this day in 1936 AD, the prominent Iranian calligrapher, Mirza Mohammad Hussein Saifi Qazvini, popular as "Emad al-Kuttab", passed away.

**49 solar years ago**, on this day in 1968 AD, a coup hatched in Baghdad with British help removed Col. Abdur-Rahman Aref and put in power the repressive Ba'th minority party, with Gen. Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr as president and Saddam as vice president. For 35 years the Ba'thists terrorized Iraq, in addition to imposing the 8-year war on Iran. US in 2003.

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, France unilaterally severed diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran after years of open hostility and military and financial support for the MKO terrorist outfit as well as the repressive Ba'th minority regime of Saddam during the US-imposed war. At the same time, France refused to pay the one-billion-US dollar loan which it had borrowed from Iran before the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

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

Iranian Scientist Disgraces Trump's Travel Ban



The late scientist Maryam Mirzakhani.

NEW YORK (IRNA) – The American news channel CBS in a report on Saturday about the sad demise of the Iranian math genius Maryam Mirzakhani referred to her as an instance of Trump's Travel Ban idiocy.

"In recent month, her name was often invoked as an example of folly of President Trump's Travel Ban," said the American news channel.

Mirzakhani the first Iranian and also the first woman who won the Fields Medal which is known as the Nobel Prize of mathematics, was a 40-year-old professor of the Stanford University when she succumbed to cancer in a U.S. hospital on Saturday.

In a report about Mirzakhani's great achievements and her magnificent talents in mathematics, CBS mentioned

the discriminatory Travel Ban by the U.S. President Donald Trump which has taken effect since June 29.

The new rules tighten visa policies affecting citizens from six majority Muslim nations: Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Iran.

People from those countries who need new visas will now have to prove a close family relationship or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or a business in the United States.

In 1994, Mirzakhani won a gold medal in the Hong Kong International Mathematical Olympiad, to be the first female Iranian student to have received a gold medal in mathematics. In the 1995 Toronto International Mathematical Olympiad, she became the first Iranian student to receive a perfect score and win two gold medals.

The late Mirzakhani obtained her BSc in mathematics (1999) from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran. She went to the US and got a PhD from Harvard University in 2004.

Born on May 3, 1977, she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013, a year before she set the record of the

first ever woman to win the prestigious Fields Medal.

The new biased rules for traveling to the United States are definitely depriving the world to have such geniuses.

Iranians who live in America are among the highest educated people in the United States. They have historically excelled in business, academia, the sciences, arts, and entertainment.

In a very recent instance of the US government applying the discriminatory Travel Ban rule, an Iranian cancer researcher traveling to the United States to work as a visiting scholar at Boston Children's Hospital was detained, along his wife and three children, aged 6, 3 and 7 months, upon entering Boston Logan International Airport, despite having a valid "visiting work visa that was issued in May," according to Boston Globe newspaper.

It is obvious that the world of science will suffer from such actions by the US government and the world cannot benefit from the major and magnificent scientists such as late Mirzakhani for the betterment of the humanity.

'The Servant' Wins 2nd Best Animation Award at SFBFF 2017

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian animated piece 'The Servant' by Farnoosh Abedi has won the second Best Animation Award at the 20th San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF).

The 20th edition of San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) announced Farnoosh Abedi's highly-acclaimed animation 'The Servant' as runner up in the best animation category of the American film festival. The

first prize went to 'Abina and the Important Men' by Soumyaa Behrens.

According to Abedi, 'The Servant' narrates the familiar story of a master and his servant, the story of a writer's encounter with a gigantic insect: a cockroach. The cockroach becomes a servant but gradually begins to realize that it deserves better conditions, so it tries to turn the table and change the game in its own favor. The man,

however, attempts to preserve the current situation but soon realizes that the game has no rules.

'Servant' has recently won Best Short Animation award at Querétaro International Film Festival in Mexico, as well as the 2017 Silver Scream Festival in California and the Audience award at 13th International Fantastic Film Festival of Porto Alegre (Fantaspoa) in Brazil.

San Francisco Black Film Festival

was founded to celebrate African American cinema and provide a platform for Black filmmakers, screenwriters, and actors to present their art. It was later expanded to include a global perspective, accepting films worldwide from filmmakers and screenwriters who are of African descent and others.

The 20th edition of San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) was held on 15-18 June 2017 in California, U.S.

Iran Develops Prototypes for 6 Sanctioned Medicines

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Iranian Vice President of Science and Technology Mustafa Qane'i said on Sunday that domestic pharmaceutical companies have managed to manufacture prototypes for six sanctioned

medicines.

Qane'i said that 21 medicines out of the 41 that were under sanctions and needed a permit from the U.S. Treasury to be exported to Iran, are now being produced in the country

by knowledge-based companies and ready to be exported.

Six other medical items have also been produced in recent years and will be industrially produced in a few years, added Qane'i.

Qane'i also said that only 14 items of medical equipment are not produced inside the country, and Iran's Department of Biotechnology Development is ready to support their domestic development.

Six Iranian Films at Durban International Film Festival

TEHRAN (ISNA) – The 38th Durban International Film Festival in South Africa will host three feature films, two documentaries and an Iranian short film.

The Iranian feature films participating in the festival are: "A Long Day" directed by Babak Bahram Beigui, "Abji" (Sister) directed by Marjan Ashrafizadeh and "Nakouk" directed by Amir Pourkian.

"Advantage" directed by Mohammad Karat and "Papli" directed by Mehdi Zamanpour-Kiassari are the two Iranian documentaries at the South African festival.

The short film "Retouche" directed by Kaveh Mazaheri will also be presented at this event.

The Durban International Film Festival (DIFF) kicked off on Thursday July 13 in the coastal city of Durban in South Africa and will last till July 23.

Picture of the Day



Saholan cave is located 43km east of the city of Mahabad, in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan. Situated in a small hill of limestone the cave has two entrances.

Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency