

This Day in History

(June 25)

Today is Sunday; 4th of the Iranian month of Tir 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 30th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1438 lunar hijri; and June 25, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1382 solar years ago, on this day in 635 AD, Emperor Gaozu, founder of the Tang Dynasty of China, died at the age of 69, some 9 years after abdicating the throne in favour of his son, Li Shimin (Emperor Taizong), following 8 years of rule during which he united all of China and carried out reforms, such as equal distribution of lands and lowering of taxes. Born Li Yuan, he served as governor of what is now Shanxi Province under the Sui Dynasty on whose disintegration in 617 he defeated all contenders to establish in 618 the Tang Dynasty that ruled China for three centuries.

721 lunar years ago, on this day in 716 AH, the 8th ruler of the Ilkhanid Dynasty of Iran-Iraq-Afghanistan-Caucasus-and Anatolia, Sultan Oljeitu Khodabanda, died at the age of 36 after a reign of 12 years and ten months, and was buried in the famous mausoleum of Soltanieh that he had built for himself near Qazvin in northwestern Iran.

282 lunar years ago, on this day in 1155 AH, the prominent gnostic and source of emulation (marja'), Seyyed Mohammad Mahdi Tabatabaie Bahr al-Uloom, was born in the holy city of Karbala, before the dawn of Eid al-Fitr, in a family related to the celebrated Allamah Majlisi. Initially taught by his scholarly father Seyyed Morteza ibn Mohammad Boroujerdi, he later studied under Shaikh Yousuf Bahrani (writer of the book of "Hada'eq an-Nasera"), before enrolling at the famous seminary of holy Najaf, where he studied under the famous Waheed Bahbahani.

195 solar years ago, on this day in 1822 AD, a group of black people in the US whose ancestors were kidnapped by Europeans from Africa and sold as slaves in the America, returned to Africa and settled down in the land which is today known as Liberia. This country was initially administered like one of the US states, but in 1847, it became a republic and its first president was Joseph Roberts, who had been enslaved in the State of Virginia.

141 solar years ago, on this day in 1876 AD, the white racist US administration suffered a severe setback in the Battle of the Little Bighorn that it imposed on native Amerindians in Montana. General George Armstrong Custer, who had vowed to decimate mostly Sioux and Cheyenne tribes as part of Washington's policy of forcing them into the so-called reservations by seizing more of their ancestral plains, was instead wiped out along with over 250 of his horsemen of the 7th US Cavalry. The US pursues a policy of genocide against Amerindians and black people in addition to indulging in state terrorism on the international scene.

117 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, the Taoist monk Wang Yuanlu discovered the Dunhuang Manuscripts, a cache of ancient texts that are of great historical and religious significance, in the Mogao Caves of Dunhuang, China. Dating from the 5th to early 11th centuries, the manuscripts include works ranging from history and mathematics to folk songs and dance. Most of the religious manuscripts are Buddhist, but other religions including Daoism, Nestorian Christianity and Iranian Manichaeism are also represented. The majority of the manuscripts are in the Chinese and Tibetan languages. Other languages represented are Khotanese, Sanskrit, Sogdian, Tangut, Old Uyghur language, and Hebrew. The manuscripts are a major resource for academic studies in a wide variety of fields including history, religious studies, linguistics, and manuscript studies.

114 solar years ago, on this day in 1903 AD, George Orwell, British novelist, essayist and critic, was born in India as Eric Arthur Blair. He took his pen name in 1932. His books included "Animal Farm" (1945) and "1984" (1949), which attacked totalitarianism. He died in 1950.

67 solar years ago, on this day in 1950 AD, in the wake of wide-scale provocations by the US, North Korea had no choice but to swiftly advance into the south. A UN resolution, however, not only halted the offensive but provided the US to invade North Korea. The timely entry of the Chinese army led to the retreat of US forces and liberation of North Korea.

54 solar years ago, on this day in 1963 AD, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (God bless him), was transferred from holy Qom to the Eshratbad military barracks in Tehran by the notorious intelligence outfit, SAVAK, following the historic mass uprising of 15th Khordad (June 5). Forty days later, the Pahlavi regime exiled him to Turkey, from where a year later he moved to Iraq and took up residence in Najaf near the holy shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), before returning to Iran in February 1979 to lead the Islamic Revolution to victory that ended 2,500 years of monarchy.

42 solar years ago, on this day in 1975 AD, Mozambique in southeast Africa became independent from Portuguese rule, after offering tens of thousands of martyrs. Mozambique lies on the Indian Ocean coast of Africa, and shares borders with Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Muslims account for over 20 percent of the population of Mozambique, which is actually a Portuguese corruption of the name of the chief Arab trader of the land, Mosa al-Bique.

26 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, Croatia and Slovenia became independent from the Federation of Yugoslavia, or more properly from the Serbs. Croatia and Slovenia are located in the Balkan region, which for several centuries was ruled by the Ottoman Turks. Still a sizeable Muslim minority exists in both the countries.

25 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, Ayatollah Madani Kashani passed away at the age of 93. In addition to grooming numerous scholars, he also shouldered social responsibilities and assisted the needy. He has left behind a large number of compilations, including "Fara'ez al-Moqaleddin", and "Kashf al-Haqayeq".

4 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, Hamad bin Khalifa Aal-e Thani of the Persian Gulf Sheikdom of Qatar, formally handed power to his 33-year son Tamim, following orders from the US, and refusal by Washington to review its decision regarding the client regime in Doha. Hamad himself had seized power from his father Khalifa bin Hamad on 27 June 1995, on the orders of the US, while the latter was in Geneva, Switzerland on a pleasure trip. It is interesting to note that Khalifa who is still alive at 83 years of age, had come to power by deposing his cousin, Sheikh Ahmad bin Ali on 22nd February 1972 while the latter was on a hunting trip in Iran and had ruled since 1960 when his own father, Ali bin Abdullah had abdicated in his favour under British pressure. Qatar is currently facing pressures by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt for pursuing an independent policy and maintaining diplomatic, trade and industrial ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

Tehran to Host Int'l Cartoon Contest on Trump



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's capital Tehran will organize an international cartoon contest on U.S. President Trump with participation of over 500 cartoonists from 75 coun-

tries across the world.

The contest dubbed "International Trumpism Cartoon and Caricature Contest" will open at Tehran's Art Bureau on July 3; the

works will be then put on display in public places across the capital, Masud Shojai-Tabatabai, the secretary of the contest, told Mehr News on Friday.

According to him, 1614 works by 558 cartoonists from 75 countries have been submitted to the event; 168 cartoonists participating in the event are from Iran, and the rest from Far East, Indonesia, China, Japan, the U.S. and European countries.

Shojai-Tabatabai said that politics had a strong influence in bringing attention to the contest, adding "most of the submitted works are from Latin America; 55 cartoonists alone are from Brazil."

"Trump is a metaphor for us, and we will look into a certain way of thinking in this contest that is based on hatred, sexism and racism," he added.

The contest will be held on July 3, concurrent with the anniversary of the downing of Iran Air Flight 655 by USS Vincennes, leading to the loss of life of 290 innocent civilians.

Smartphone Nearby Reduces Brain Power

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Your cognitive capacity is significantly reduced when your smartphone is within reach — even if it's off — suggests new research.

Researchers from the McCombs School of Business at

The University of Texas at Austin conducted experiments with nearly 800 smartphone users in an attempt to measure, for the first time, how well people can complete tasks when they have their smartphones nearby even when they're not using them.

They found that participants with their phones in another room significantly outperformed those with their phones on the desk, and they also slightly outperformed those participants who had kept their phones in a pocket or bag.

The findings suggest that the mere presence of one's smartphone reduces available cognitive capacity and impairs cognitive functioning, even though people feel they're giving their full attention and focus to the task at hand. "We see a linear



trend that suggests that as the smartphone becomes more noticeable, participants' available cognitive capacity decreases," Ward said. "Your conscious mind isn't thinking about your smartphone, but that process -- the process of requiring yourself to not think about something -- uses up some of your limited

cognitive resources. It's a brain drain."

The researchers also found that participants who were the most dependent on their smartphones performed worse compared with their less-dependent peers, but only when they kept their smartphones on the desk or in their pocket or bag.

Tehran to Hold Int'l Conference on Combating Sand Storms

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Tehran is organizing an international conference on combating sand and dust storms with participation of representatives from over 30 countries across the world from July 3-5 2017.

The Conference will be hosted by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UN Environment and the UN Development Program.

The Conference will be opened by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani.

"The Conference will be opened in the presence of President Hassan Rouhani, two deputies of UN Secretary General and a number of ministers from various countries," said the executive secretary of the conference Yousef Rashidi in a press conference on Saturday.

So far 31 countries, including Italy, France, Germany, China, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Pakistan, Armenia, Chad, Iraq, Turkey, India, Jordan, South Korea, Slovakia, Serbia and the United States have confirmed participation in the event.

Picture of the Day



Anzali port is one of the most active harbors among the five Caspian Sea littoral states and is the biggest northern seaboard of Iran.

Credit: Tasnim News Agency