

This Day in History

(August 17)

Today is Thursday; 26th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 24th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1438 lunar hijri; and August 17, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1238 lunar years ago, on this day in 200 AH, Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), started his historic journey from his hometown Medina to Marv in Khorasan, where Mamoun the 7th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, had forced him to come in order to isolate him from the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt. The Imam turned this into an opportunity by preaching the genuine message of Islam to the eager masses wherever the caravan stopped in the cities on the route, such as Basra, Ahvaz, Yazd, and especially Naishapur, where he narrated to a 20,000-plus gathering the famous "Hadith Silsalat az-Zahab" (Golden Chain of Authority). He quoted his father and forefathers as relating from the Prophet who was informed by Archangel Gabriel of God's expression: "The phrase 'there is no god but Allah' is My strong fortress and whoever enters My strong fortress is immune from My wrath". When the caravan started to move the Imam protruded his head from the canopy litter atop the camel and told the gathering: "But there are certain conditions, and I am one of these conditions". He meant to say that only devotion to the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt and practical adherence to their path guarantees entry into Allah's strong fortress in order to be immune from divine wrath. In Marv (presently in Turkmenistan), Mamoun, while greeting the Imam offered to abdicate the caliphate in his favour, but the Prophet's successor aware of the intricate plot to tarnish the impeccable image of the Ahl al-Bayt, politely turned it down. The crafty caliph then forced him, against his will, to agree to be declared his Heir-Apparent. To the frustration of the Abbasid regime, the Iranian masses flocked to Imam Reza (AS), showing him reverence throughout the almost three years he was in Khorasan. An exasperated Mamoun stealthily gave a fatal dose of poison, as a result of which Imam Reza (AS) attained martyrdom and was laid to rest in Sanabad near Tous, which soon grew into Mashhad-e Reza or simply Mashhad as it is known till this day.

1129 lunar years ago, on this day in 309 AH, Iranian mystic, Hussein Mansour al-Hallaj, was executed in Baghdad by the Abbasid caliph, Muqtadar-Billah, on charges of heresy for uttering blasphemous remarks such as "there is nothing in my turban and cloak except God" and the phrase "an'al-Haq" (I am the Absolute Truth). A student of the two Iranian Sufi masters, Sahl Ibn Abdullah at-Tustari and Junayd Baghdadi, he was expelled by both of them for his weird views. Born in Fars to a cotton-carder (Hallaj), he performed at least three Hajj pilgrimages and traveled widely, as far as India and Central Asia. In Baghdad, on refusing to renounce his beliefs, he was flogged, amputated, hanged, burnt, and his remains thrown into the River Tigris.

300 solar years ago, on this day in 1717 AD, a year after start of the Austro-Turkish War, the month-long siege of Belgrade ended with Austrian troops capturing the city from the Ottoman Empire. The Austrian occupation ended in 1739 with liberation of Belgrade by Turkish Muslims who in 1521 had built it as an Islamic city, complete with baths, public fountains, libraries, bazaars, and mosques. In 1807 it was occupied by the Serbs and in 1841 became Serbia's capital.

259 lunar years ago, on this day in 1179 AH, Najm od-Dowla, the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, died of fever within a year of succeeding his father, Mir Ja'far Najafi - known in Indian history as "Traitor" for betraying the legitimate ruler, Nawab Siraj od-Dowla, to the British during the Battle of Plassey. He was succeeded to the nominal office under British protection by his brother, Sayf od-Dowla. Of Iranian origin, the Nawabs of Bengal promoted Persian language in their realm in what is now Bangladesh, and India's Bengal and Bihar.

192 lunar years ago, on this day in 1246 AH, the scholar "Sharif ol-Ulema" Mohammad Sharif Amoli Mazandarani, passed away at the age of 41 in his hometown, holy Karbala. He was the teacher of the celebrated Ayatollah Shaikh Morteza Ansari Dezfali.

183 solar years ago, on this day in 1834 AD, Bosnian revolutionary general, Hussain-Kapetan Gradacsevich, died in Istanbul, after fighting against the policies of the Ottoman Empire and for Bosnian autonomy. Born in Gradacac, he grew up in a political climate, developing a reputation for wise rule and tolerance. When Sultan Mahmud II attempted to mass-recruit the Bosnians into his army in 1830, the Bosniaks led by Hussain Kapetan felt compelled to launch an uprising that lasted for three years. Initially the imperial army was defeated at Novi Pazar, but the revolt failed when Ali-Pasha Rizvan-Begovic defected to Mahmud II, in return for rule over the Vilayet of Herzegovina. Hussain Kapetan was forced to flee to Austria from where he negotiated for his return and was ultimately allowed back but barred from ever entering Bosnia. He moved to Belgrade and then to Istanbul, where he died mysteriously. He was well versed in Turkish and Arabic. Taught by dervishes of the Bektashi order of Iranian origin attached to the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), he built the sprawling Hussainiyya Mosque in Gradacac.

171 solar years ago, on this day in 1846 AD, during the American-Mexican War, the US annexed the vast region of California 21 years after Mexico's independence from Spain. On the end of the 2-year war in 1848, Alta or Upper California became the US State of California, while Arizona, Nevada, Colorado and Utah were also seized by the US, with only the lower region called Baja Peninsula, remaining in Mexico. California was home to 300,000 Amerindians or one-third of all indigenous people throughout North and South America. The Europeans began to decimate the native population, which still numbered 100,000 when the US occupied it in 1846, while the non-native population of California was not more than 8,000. The US, as part of its genocidal policies has almost obliterated Amerindians who today account for a mere 1.7 percent.

167 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, Argentine general and politician Jose de San Martin, who became the 1st President of Peru, died in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, during self-exile. Born in Yapeyu in Argentina, as a boy he moved to Spain with his father, in his teens, he joined the army taking part in Spanish aggressions on the North African coastal Muslim cities of Melilla (in Morocco) and Oran (in Algeria). He also fought in the Peninsular Wars against Napoleon Bonaparte. After a brief sojourn in Britain, in 1812 he set sail for Buenos Aires and joined the revolutionaries. He moved to the adjoining Viceroyalty of Peru, set up the Army of the Andes, and after crossing into Viceroyalty of Chile, he defeated the Spanish armies to liberate Chile. Then he sailed to attack the Spaniards in Lima, and in 1821 was appointed Protector of Peru, whose independence was officially declared the following year. In 1824, after a meeting with fellow liberator Simon Bolivar at Guayaquil, Ecuador, he resigned and set sail for France.

151 solar years ago, on this day in 1866 AD, the 6th ruler of the Asef-Jahi Dynasty of Deccan in south India, Mahboob Ali Khan Nizam ol-Mulk, was born in Hyderabad. In 1889, at the age of three, on the death of his father, Afzal od-Dowla, he was crowned ruler by Prime Minister, Turab Ali Khan Salaar Jung. Besides his native Urdu, he was well versed in Persian, Arabic and English. He founded schools and libraries, and led a lavish life - his extensive wardrobe being the largest in the world along with his collection of Jewels. He was a poet in both Urdu and Persian, and maintained relations with the Qajarid Dynasty of Iran. Many Iranians, including men of letters, settled in the Deccan during his reign.

72 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, Ahmad Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta launched the uprising against Dutch colonial rule. On independence he became the first elected president.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1981 AD, Mullah Saleh Khosravi, an ethnic Iranian Kurd Sunni Muslim religious leader, was martyred by US mercenaries, along with his 18-year old son, at the Jame' Mosque in Sanandaj. As a staunch supporter of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), he was imprisoned several times by the Pahlavi regime. After victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he defended national solidarity and Islamic unity, opposing the anti-revolutionary activities of the mercenary outfits in Kurdistan.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, along with US Ambassador to Islamabad, Arnold Raphel, was killed in a plane crash, thirteen days after the martyrdom of prominent Shi'a Muslim scholar, Seyyed Arif Hussain al-Hussaini in Peshawar - believed to be the dirty work of the state apparatus. Zia, who in a coup in 1977 had seized power from Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, earned lasting notoriety for destabilizing Pakistan in collaboration with the US and Saudi Arabia, for creating sectarian terrorism.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, the first group of Iranian POWs returned home as part of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 that ended the 8-year war the US had imposed on Iran through Saddam.

18 solar years ago, on this day in 1999 AD, a 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck Izmit, Turkey, killing more than 17,000 and injuring 44,000.

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

Numerous Volcanoes Discovered in Antarctica



Researchers believe this is the highest concentration of volcanoes on Earth.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Scientists say the world's biggest volcanic region in western Antarctica may have been discovered.

Researchers at Edinburgh University found a total of 138 volcanoes in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet overlying the West Antarctic Rift System, 91 of which had never before been identified.

Ice coverings have made it difficult to fully map the extent of volcanic activity in the area, scientists report.

They used a mix of aeromagnetic

and aerogravity tools, satellite imagery, and a database of already confirmed volcanoes to pinpoint cone-like structures on the ice sheet.

The new findings can help researchers take a closer look at how the area is influencing ice sheet growth, as they cannot currently determine if the volcanoes are active. Even inactive volcanoes can increase heat flux to the subglacial interface, once again leading to increased melting and a faster rate at which the melting ice flows into the sea.

Rare Parthian Clay Work Samples Identified in Western Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Works and remains from the Neolithic, Copper and Stone, and Bronze Age eras up to the second millennium BC as well as rare samples of clay works in the Parthian era were identified in Kermanshah province in Western Iran.

The surface findings and the high volume of settlement deposits in Noshiravan Hill, Sar Pole Zahab in Kermanshah Province, show that the main settlement in this hill dates back to the Neolithic period and the second millennium BC, the Public Relations Office of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) quoted Sajjad Ali Beigi Head of the exploration team as saying on Tuesday.

All the materials and the clay work findings of the Copper and Stone periods had been commonly used in the Mesopotamian plain and on this basis it should be admitted that these areas in the Copper and Stone periods were parts of the cultural domain of the Great

Mesopotamia, Ali Beigi said.

He also said that Noshiravan Hill is one of the great settlements of the Zahab Plain with a span of about 10 hectares which was studied and surveyed during the project.

He also pointed to the agricultural activities with an aim of developing agriculture, saying such activities have led to the ploughing of the area and even some of the village dwellers are

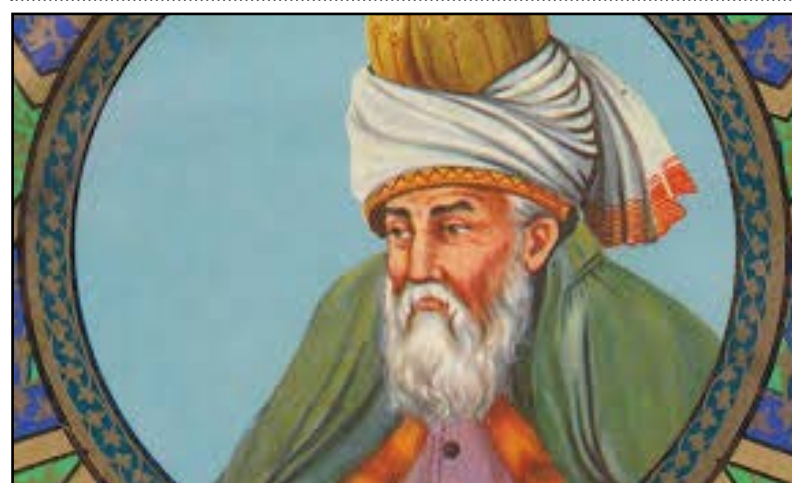
trying to annex parts of the lands to their properties.

The archaeologist pointed to the gathering of a relatively large collection of clay pieces during the exploration operations of the large Noshiravan site and said this collection belongs to the Neolithic period (7th millennium BC), Copper and Middle Stone (5th millennium BC), the second millennium BC and a few examples of the Parthian

era.

Regarding the importance of the site and existence of important evidence from the Middle and New Neolithic periods, especially the second millennium BC, as well as the present threats on the limits and privacy of the area, the plan to determine the limits and privacy of the hill was put on the agenda in line with the cultural studies of the tropical project.

Call for Int'l Commemoration Conference on Rumi Released



TEHRAN (IBNA) — Call for the 5th International Commemoration Conference on Molana ??(Rumi) released, with the motto "From the Reed's Voice to Neynava", by the ?secretariat of the event.?

According to IBNA correspondent, quoting the Secretariat of the program, the call was published with the motto "From the Reed's Voice to Naynava."

The call reads: "The Secretariat of International Commemoration Conference on Molana (Rumi) is proud to announce this year's event, in accordance with the cultural, literary, historical,

philosophical and mystical aspects of Rumi's personality, in collaboration with Rasam Arabzadeh's Cultural and Artistic Institute, with the motto "From the Reed's Voice to Neynava", and with the aim of identifying and supporting the activities of enthusiastic and interested people in Rumi's School, Possibility of participation and better use of the experience and knowledge of experts, individuals and professionals active in this field' and 'the introduction, encouragement and reverence of national and international scholars active in studies on Molana (Rumi)."

Lectures delivered by the well-known experts, the live vocal performance of Alireza Qorbani in describing Rumi, poetry and the awarding of statues and plaques of honor given at the program are included in this event.

The program will be attended by famous figures and artists from Iran, on September 21, 2017, at Abu Reihan Biruni Center for International Conferences in Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran.

Interested individuals can submit their works to the Conference, in the following areas:

- * Literary research on Rumi's poetry and prose
- * Rumi's early and contemporary poets and Sufi mystics influencing his works
- * The study of Rumi's mystical and literary tradition
- * Review of Rumi's works from the perspective of literary criticism and stylistics
- * The study of religious, verbal and mystical thoughts in the works of Rumi
- * The study of the works of Rumi from the perspective of the grammatical and linguistic studies.

The deadline for submitting works which is set for September 1, 2017, and will not be extended.

Picture of the Day



The grand Bazaar of Isfahan is a complete covered town. The old Isfahan society was concentrated around the Bazaar. Credit: Tasnim News Agency