

# This Day in History

(July 27)

Today is Thursday; 5<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Mordad 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1438 lunar hijri; and July 27, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**815 solar years ago**, on this day in 1202 AD, the Battle of Basian occurred in what is now northeastern Turkey following seizure of Erzerum by Rukn od-Din Sulaymanshah II of the Seljuq Sultanate of Roum, resulting in the victory of the Georgians, who though checking the advance of the Turks, failed to take the city.

**718 solar years ago**, on this day in 1299 AD, the invasion of Nicomedia by Osman Bey is considered by historians to be the date of foundation of the Ottoman state.

**741 solar years ago**, on this day in 1276 AD, James I of Aragon, died at the age of 68. An avowed enemy of Muslims, during his long 63-year reign, he occupied the prosperous Spanish Muslim Ta'efa of Valencia (Arabic Balansiya), through treachery, granting asylum to its deposed ruler, the apostate Zayd Abu Zayd, who adopted the Christian name Vicente Bellvis, married a Christian woman, and betrayed the Muslims. The Siege of Burriana in 1233 and the Battle of the Puig in 1237 launched by James were bravely resisted by Zayyan ibn Mardanish of Valencia, who was overpowered in 1238, thereby ending over five centuries of glorious Muslim rule over this region on Spain's eastern coast. James next attacked and occupied the Muslim-ruled Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, exterminating the local Spanish Muslim population and settling Christian Catalans in their place. In 1856, when his body was exhumed, his deformed skull was found to have the crack he suffered as a result of an arrow shot by a Muslim archer that pierced him above his left eyebrow.

**715 solar years ago**, on this day in 1302 AD, the Battle of Bapheus occurred, resulting in a decisive victory for the rising principality of the Ottoman Turks over the Byzantine Empire, and opening up of all of Asia Minor for the Muslim conquest.

**431 solar years ago**, on this day in 1586 AD, potatoes were introduced from the Americas to Britain by Thomas Harriot and cultivated by Walter Raleigh in his estate in Ireland. The origin of the potato is not definitively known, and there are other accounts of its being brought to Europe by the Spanish much earlier.

**245 solar years ago**, on this day in 1772 AD, a treaty was signed by European powers for division of Poland among Russia, Austria, and Prussia. Poland thus ceased to exist until its rebirth in 1918 after the end of World War I.

**182 solar years ago**, on this day in 1835 AD, Italian poet, Giosue Alessandro Giuseppe Carducci, was born. He is regarded as the national poet of modern Italy. In 1906 he became the first Italian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.

**176 solar years ago**, on this day in 1841 AD, Russian Romantic writer, poet and painter, Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov, was killed in a duel at the young age of 27. The most important Russian poet after Alexander Pushkin's death in 1837, and the greatest figure in Russian Romanticism. His works include the short stories "A Hero of our Time", and "Ashiq-e Gharib" (the Turkish fairytale "Stranger Lover"), and the poem "Death of the Poet".

**173 solar years ago**, on this day in 1844 AD, British scientist, John Dalton, died at the age of 78. He conducted extensive research and made several discoveries in the fields of physics, chemistry, and natural sciences.

**137 solar years ago**, on this day in 1880 AD, during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, Afghan forces led by Shir Ali's son Ayub Khan defeated the British Army in a battle near Maiwand.

**71 solar years ago**, on this day in 1946 AD, American writer of novels, poetry and plays Gertrude Stein, died at the age of 72 in France, where she had settled. A literary innovator and pioneer of Modernist Literature, her works included the murder mystery "Blood on the Dining-Room Floor" and "The Biography of Alice B. Toklas".

**38 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, the first Friday Prayer was held in Tehran, and was led by Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmoud Taleqani at Tehran University, on the instructions of the Founder of Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini (God bless him). Friday Prayers were not usually held during the repressive rule of the Pahlavi regime. Following the victory of Islamic Revolution, this major religious-social-political ceremony was revived, and every week Friday Prayers are held all over Iran drawing large multitudes.

**37 solar years ago**, on this day in 1980 AD, the fugitive dictator of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, died in the Egyptian capital, Cairo at the age of 61. He was placed on the Peacock Throne in 1941 by the British who deposed his father, Reza Khan, for his pro German policies despite the fact that he owed his rule to Britain. Mohammad Reza loyally served the British and the Americans, who restored him to power in 1953 through a CIA coup following his ouster by the people's uprising during the movement for nationalization of Iran's oil industry. The US wantonly plundered Iran's wealth, while Mohammad Reza, acting as their agent, brutally suppressed the Iranian people. In February 1979, with the triumph of the Islamic Revolution under the enlightened leadership of Imam Khomeini (RA), the Pahlavi regime was thrown into the dustbin of history after some 54 years of illegal rule by father and son. In January Mohammad Reza fled Iran, initially to Egypt and thereafter to several other countries. But, these countries did not allow his residence. So he returned to Egypt and died over there.

**30 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, Indian ornithologist, Salim Ali, known as the "Birdman of India" died. Born into an Ismaili Shi'ite family, his love of birds started at age 10, when he began writing his observations. Eventually he undertook professional education in ornithology. In 1930 he began a bird survey of Hyderabad State. By 1976, he had published several popular regional field guides of Indian birds for which he is famous. These surveys were based on extensive travels throughout India and Pakistan.

**29 solar years ago**, on this day in 1988 AD, Mersad Operations started in western Iran to crush the MKO terrorists, who launched a wide scale military attack from their bases in Ba'thist Iraq. Equipped with heavy weapons and backed by Saddam, they made a desperate bid to establish a foothold inside Iran through terror tactics, following Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 for ceasefire in the 8-year war imposed by the US. The MKO terrorists' attack was unrealistic. They imagined they could even reach Tehran. But, the Iranian forces, supported by the people, surrounded the MKO army and crushed these foreign-funded terrorists.

**19 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1419 AH, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq as-Sadr was martyred in Iraq, along with two of his sons, by the repressive Ba'th minority regime of Saddam. The people of Iraq demonstrated against this act of state terrorism but were brutally suppressed. He was the father of the present leader of the Sadrist faction of Iraq, Hojjat al-Islam, Seyyed Muqtada Sadr. A year earlier, Saddam had martyred two other leading scholars of the Najaf seminary, Ayatollah Gharavi and Ayatollah Borujerdi.

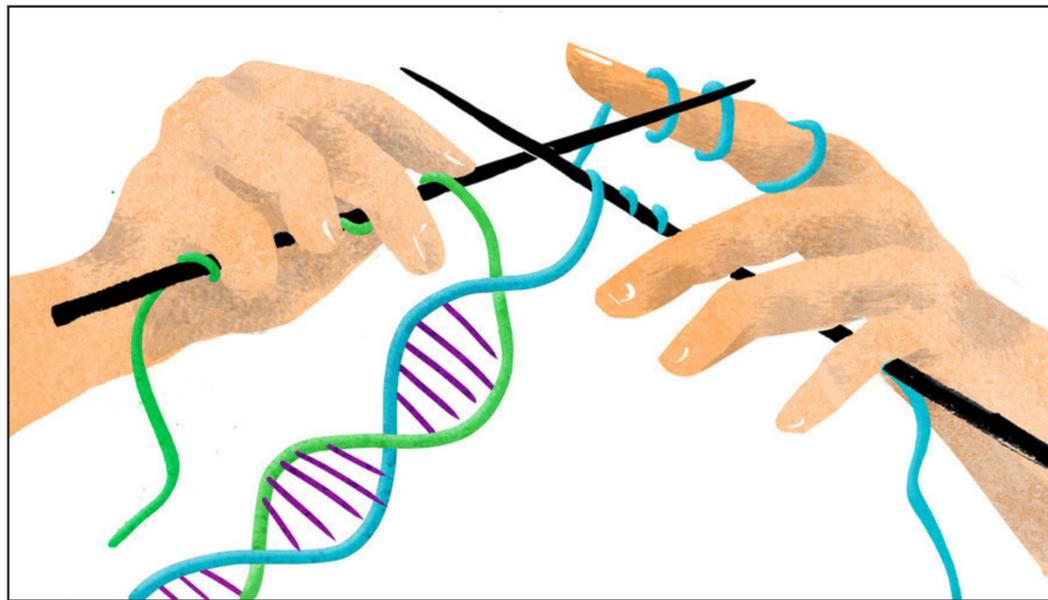
**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2007, US occupation troops attacked Muslims in the holy city of Karbala, martyring scores of people. Simultaneously, US-backed terrorists exploded a truck bomb in Baghdad's Shi'a Muslim neighbourhood of Karradah martyring at least 105 people and injuring 193 others. A year earlier on this same day, US-backed terrorists had fired a rocket and mortar barrage, followed by a car bomb in Baghdad, martyring 32 Shi'a Muslims and wounding 153 others.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that Iran now has 6,000 centrifuges for enriching uranium to its minimum level for peaceful use of nuclear energy, and proposed to the big powers to end their intransigence by resolving the dispute as per NPT and IAEA rules. But his offer was rejected and more illegal sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic. After years of more lawless measures against Iran, including assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and failure to ruin the economy, the 5+1 group finally acknowledged the Islamic Republic's right to have a peaceful nuclear programme by agreeing to 6,500 centrifuges.

**5 solar years ago**, on this day in 2012 AD, the Saudi Arabian regime, as part of its repressive policy against the Shi'a Muslims, detained a number of peaceful protesters in the restive eastern region and opened fire on them in Qatif, wounding several as hundreds marched to demand the release of detainees.

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

# Scientists Use Yeast to Build DNA



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - **Researchers are rewriting the yeast genome from scratch as part of a controversial project aiming to create custom-made chunks of DNA codes.**

New York University researcher Jef Boeke is heading a team of scientists from 11 labs across four continents who are working to "rewrite" the yeast genome,

following a detailed plan they published in March.

One goal of the project is to create codes that can be inserted into cells to alter their function or even improve drug development. For example, mammalian cells or microbes could be created that are better at pumping out medications or new vaccines.

Although yeast has a larger and

more complex genome than the microbes investigated so far, researchers understand the yeast genome well and they know it will exchange man-made DNA for its own. So far, Boeke and colleagues have built about one-third of the genome, which they hope will be completed by the end of the year.

The research may reveal ba-

sic, hidden rules that govern the structure and functioning of genomes. But it also opens the door to life with new and useful characteristics, like microbes or mammal cells that are better than current ones at pumping out medications in pharmaceutical factories, or new vaccines. The right modifications might make yeast efficiently produce new biofuels, Boeke says.

Some scientists look further into the future and see things like trees that purify water supplies and plants that detect explosives at airports and shopping malls.

Also, scientists are working on redesigning human DNA. That's not to make genetically altered people, they stress. Instead, the synthetic DNA would be put into cells, to make them better at pumping out pharmaceutical proteins, for example, or perhaps to engineer stem cells as a safer source of lab-grown tissue and organs for transplanting into patients.

Some have found the idea of remaking human DNA disconcerting, and scientists plan to get guidance from ethicists and the public before they try it.

## Adobe Architecture Area Identified in Northeast Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - **An area with an approximate span of 150 hectares of land which indicates existence of adobe structures and remains of plaster on some walls was identified in Qouchan, Razavi Khorasan province.**

The Public Relations Office of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT), quoted head of the archeological team working on Tass Tappeh, Azita Mirzaei Tuesday as saying the dimensions and form of the adobes discovered from the holes are comparable with the adobes of Tass Tappeh building.

Tass Tappeh historical site, including an adobe castle with a span of two hectares and its peripheral environment, were identified in the course of an identification research work and initial studies have been conducted on it, she added.

She pointed to the fact that the results of the initial studies represent the existence of architectural structures in the northern part of the sites, saying upon observation of the findings this question was raised that whether the architectural structure was relevant with Tass Tappeh building or they were two separate monuments.

The archeologist referred to the launch of documentation activities in the aftermath of the initial identification of the span of the site and said for the preparation of detailed maps to be compatible with global coordinates, the two-frequency GPS was used and then mapping was conducted by using Total camera and flight of the drone for preparing topographical maps and aerial photographs.

## Eye Test Could Help Diagnose Autism

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - **A new study could herald a new tool that helps physicians identify a sub-group of people with Autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The test, which consists of measuring rapid eye movements, may indicate deficits in an area of the brain that plays an important role in emotional and social development.**

"These findings build upon a growing field of research that show that eye movement could serve as a window into a part of the brain that plays a role in a number of neurological and development disorders, such as Autism," said John Foxe, Ph.D., director of the University of Rochester Medical Center Del Monte Neuroscience Institute and co-author of the study.

ASD is characterized by a wide range of symptoms that can vary



in severity from person to person. This unpredictability not only presents a challenge for diagnosis, but also how best to devise a course of treatment. Identifying the specific phenotype of the disorder is, therefore, an essential first step to providing effective care.

The rapid eye movements we

make when we shift our attention from one object to another, known as saccades, are essential to navigating, understanding, and interacting with the world around us. In healthy individuals, these saccades are rapid, precise, and accurate, redirecting the line of sight from one point of interest to another.

## Picture of the Day



Pateh is one of the traditional arts, which is specific to Kerman, southeast of Iran.

Courtesy of Tasnim News Agency