

This Day in History

(September 13)

Today is Wednesday, 22nd of the Iranian month of Shahrivar 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 22nd of the Islamic month of Zi'l-Hijjah 1438 lunar hijri; and September 13, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1486 solar years ago, on this day in 531 AD, Khosrow I started his 48-year reign as the 22nd Emperor of the Sassanid Empire. Known as Anoushirvan the Just he is the epitome of the philosopher-king in Iranian history. It was in his era that the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was born in Mecca. Khosrow's social, military, administrative, and tax reforms were adopted by the Muslims when they took over the Sassanid Empire. He patronized scholars and invited scientists from Greece, India, China and other places. The outcome of this synthesis resulted in what is known as the "Bimaristan", the first hospital that introduced a concept of segregating wards according to pathology. Greek pharmacology fused with Iranian and Indian traditions resulted in significant advances in medicine that were later utilized by the Muslims. In his foreign policy, Anoushirvan, after agreeing to an "Eternal Peace" with Justinian of the Eastern Roman Empire that proved abortive, pursued a prudent policy to thwart Roman-Byzantine designs in Syria, Anatolia, and Armenia. He made sure the Roman Empire would never be a threat to the Sassanid Empire by keeping close contacts with the Goths, the Huns, the Arabs, and the people of Yemen, which land he brought under Iranian influence to control the trade between India and Europe through the Red Sea and Egypt. In the northeast, he kept the Turks under check and his reign signifies the promotion of the Silk Road between ancient China, India, and the western world.

1378 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, the staunch Muslim, Maysam at-Tammar (Date-Seller), was brutally martyred in Kufa, Iraq, by Obaidollah Ibn Ziyad, the tyrannical governor of the Godless Yazid. Of Iranian origin, he was born near Nahravan and circumstances had made him a slave of an Arab family. He was purchased and manumitted by the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), who taught him the correct meaning and interpretation of the holy Qur'an, spiritual values, and exoteric and esoteric sciences. The Imam had prophesied Maysam's martyrdom, saying he would be hanged from a tree, and that after chopping off his hands and feet, the ungodly Omayyads would cut his tongue for his defence of Islam and his speaking of the merits of the Prophet and the Ahl al-Bayt.

957 lunar years ago, on this day in 481 AH, the famous Iranian Gnostic and poet, Khwaja Abdullāh Ansari, known as "Pir-e Herat", or Senior Citizen of the Khorasani city of Herat, passed away in his hometown (currently in Afghanistan). He was a descendant of Abu Ayyub Ansari, a companion and host in Medina of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He mastered Arabic and Persian literature, theology, hadith, and exegesis of the Holy Qur'an. His exegesis of the Holy Qur'an is titled "Kashf al-Asraar". He composed excellent poetry in Persian, and authored several works in Arabic as well.

696 solar years ago, on this day in 1321 AD, Italian poet, Dante Alighieri, known as "Father of Italian Language", died. He is famous for his book "Commedia", which at times, although anti-Islamic and blasphemous, shows extensive borrowings from Islamic sources. It is known as "Divine Comedy" for its Christianization of the themes. Dante's work shows borrowings from "Risalat-al-Ghufran" (Epistle of Forgiveness) of the atheist Syrian Arabic poet Abu'l Ala al-Ma'arri, who in his imaginary journey in the realms of afterlife includes dialogues with people in Heaven and Hell. Scholars note that Dante heavily borrowed from "Kitab al-Miraj" of the Iranian Sunni Muslim Hadith scholar, Abu'l-Qasim Abdul-Karim ibn Hawazin ibn Abdul-Malik al-Qushairi an-Naishaburi. Dante also derived many features about the hereafter from the writings of the Spanish Muslim Gnostic Mohy od-Din Ibn al-Arabi.

580 solar years ago, on this day in 1437 AD, the Battle of Tangier resulted in a crushing defeat for the Portuguese invasion force by Moroccans. To preserve his army from total destruction, Prince Henry negotiated a treaty promising to return Ceuta (occupied earlier in 1415) to Morocco. As it turned out, the terms of the treaty were never fulfilled; the Portuguese broke their promise to return Ceuta.

443 solar years ago, on this day in 1574 AD, the Ottoman fleet led by Ulugh Ali Raeis liberated Tunis from Spanish occupation after decisively defeating the combined naval forces of Spain, Portugal, France, and the papal states of Italy.

419 solar years ago, on this day in 1598 AD, Philip II of Spain died after a 42-year reign, during which he was constantly embroiled in naval battles with the Ottoman Turks, who inflicted several defeats upon him. A bigoted Catholic, in addition to being an avowed enemy of Muslims, he considered Protestants as heretics, and assembled a large armada in 1588 for the abortive invasion of England. In Mediterranean his navy was no match against Turks.

197 lunar years ago, on this day in 1241 AH, the second Russo-Iranian war started. The cause was the continued hostility of Russia that had seized the northwestern territories of Iran in the Caucasus. Despite the courage displayed by Prince Abbas Mirza who achieved initial success and pushed back the Russians, the Iranian army was defeated because of lack of supply and support from Tehran, where Fath-Ali Shah was immersed in inefficiency and pleasures. The Turkmenchai Treaty was forced upon Iran, which had to cede the region of Daghestan and areas north of the River Aras, including what is now the Azerbaijan Republic.

135 solar years ago, on this day in 1882 AD, the Battle of Tel al-Kabir occurred in Egypt. After discontented Egyptian officers under Ahmad Urabi revolted, the British on the pretext of protecting their vested interests in the country, and in particular the Suez Canal, attacked the Egyptians and defeated them with the help of 7,000 Indian mercenary troops.

117 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, Filipino fighters defeated the invading US army in the Battle of Pulang Lupa, during the US-Spanish War.

110 solar years ago, on this day in 1907 AD, Ayatollah Mirza Ibrahim Khoeyi, was martyred during the Constitutional Revolution in his hometown Khoey. He wrote many books including "ad-Durrat-on-Najafiyya" a commentary on "Nahj al-Balagha" - the collection of the Sermons, Letters and Aphorisms of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

97 solar years ago, on this day in 1920 AD, the prominent activist of the Constitutional Era, Sheikh Mohammad Kheyabani, was martyred by forces of the despotic Qajar Dynasty. He strove to awaken the people against the infiltration of foreign powers, believing that the root cause of the problems of the Islamic Ummah, were the oppressive rulers and their colonial masters. Following the ouster of Mohammad Ali Shah and his fleeing from Iran in 1908, Kheyabani was elected to the parliament in Tehran as representative of the people of Tabriz. He launched his uprising following signing of the ominous pact with Britain in 1919.

95 solar years ago, on this day in 1922 AD, the Great Fire of Izmir, started four days after the Turkish forces liberated Izmir from Greek occupation, and raged for 10 days until extinguished on September 1922, destroying much of the port city. An estimated 10,000-100,000 Greek and Armenian invading troops are said to have perished in the fire.

69 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, invasion of the Muslim kingdom of Haiderabad-Deccan by the Indian Army started. The invasion code-named "Operation Polo" was ordered by hardline Deputy Premier, Vallabhbhai Patel, to forcibly annex Deccan to India, despite the fact that following the British withdrawal from the Subcontinent in August 1947 and the birth of India and Pakistan, the landlocked kingdom, which was the size of France, had chosen to remain independent, and had even sent a representative to the UN for membership. Britain also betrayed the ruler, Osman Ali Khan Nizam ol-Mulk Asef Jah VII, conveniently forgetting the tens of millions of pound-sterling given by him as aid during the First and Second World Wars, as well as the pacts and treaties with his ancestors at the start of colonial rule. The Indian army invaded from four points and after several days of resistance, sensing the situation hopeless, the ruler negotiated surrender to avoid any further bloodshed of Muslims, thereby ending 224 glorious years of the rule of his dynasty founded by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's general of Central Asian Persian stock, Qamar od-Din Khan Nizam ol-Mulk Asef Jah. Some 200,000 mostly Muslim civilians were slaughtered by the Indian army.

24 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, Yasser Arafat betrayed the Palestinian cause by signing an accord with the Zionist entity to accept the illegal existence of the Israel. Israel, after gaining several concessions from Arafat, made the false promise of granting statehood to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but has never kept its words till this day.

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

Iran Celebrates Cinema Day



A scene from the Iranian movie "Ch" directed by Ebrahim Hatamikia which depicts Mostafa Chamran's life, who was Iran's first defense minister after the Islamic Revolution.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian cinema stars and cultural officials marked the 'National Cinema Day' on September 12.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi has issued a message of felicitations to the family of Iranian cinema on the occasion of National Cinema Day.

"During its one hundred years of

life, the Iranian cinema has produced unprecedented, admirable and everlasting cinematic works that will forever remain in the memory of those who share a passion for the culture and art of this land," Bahram Ghasemi said in his message on Tuesday.

He also said, "the impressive and influential presence of Iranian cinema in numerous international film festivals has

presented a clearer and more profound image of Iranian culture and arts to the world."

Ghasemi further thanked all the members of Iran's cinema who have improved the place of Iranian nation and arts in the world by making use of the diplomacy of arts and cinema and presenting an accurate understanding of the realities of Iran.

Iran has been celebrating Cinema Day on September 12 since 2000 when the country hosted a festival dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the cinema of Iran. The history of Persian cinema began in 1900 when the Qajar dynasty's Mozaffar ad-Din Shah instructed the royal photographer Mirza Ebrahim Khan Akkas Bashi (the Photographer) to purchase filmmaking equipment in order to document the Shah's visit to Europe.

The first public screening in Iran took place in 1904. The first feature-length film, titled 'Abi and Rabi', was made in 1930 by Ovanes Ohanian. The first sound film was 'Lor Girl' made by Ardeshir Irani in 1933. The first Iranian female filmmaker is Shahla Riahai who made 'Marjan' in 1956. Iranian cinema's first and only Palme d'Or was awarded to Abbas Kiarostami's 'Taste of Cherry' in 1997. The first Academy Award for an Iranian film was awarded to Asghar Farhadi's 'A Separation' in 2012.

After the victory of the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, numerous filmmakers created movies to show the Islamic Republic's achievements on the silver screen.

Researchers Find 'Internal Clock' Within Live Human Cells

NEW YORK (NYU News) - A team of scientists has revealed an internal clock within live human cells, a finding that creates new opportunities for understanding the building blocks of life and the onset of disease.

"Previously, a precise point of a cell in its life cycle could only be determined by studying dead cells," explains Alexandra Zidovska, an assistant professor of physics at New York University and the senior author of research, which appears in the latest issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). "However, with this discovery, which shows that the nucleus exhibits rapid fluctuations that decrease during the life cycle of the cell, we can enhance our knowledge of both healthy and diseased human cells."

The study, which also included Fang-Yi Chu, an NYU doctoral candidate, and Shannon Haley, an NYU undergraduate, sought to expand our understanding of the cell nucleus during the cell cycle.

It's long been established that the shape and size of the cell nucleus change dramatically during a cell's life. Unknown, however, was whether or not the nucleus changes its shape over short periods of time. This was largely due to technical limitations of carrying out such measurements in living cells.

To capture this dynamic, the scientists used a state-of-the-art fluorescent microscope that enables them to see extremely small and very fast shape changes of the cell nucleus in living cells.

The researchers discovered that the human cell nucleus has a previously undetected type of motion: its nuclear envelope flickers, or fluctuates, over a period of a few seconds. Notably, the amplitude of these changes in shape decreases over time during the cell cycle. Moreover, this motion marks the first physical feature that systematically changes with the cell cycle.

"Therefore, this process can serve as an internal clock of the cell, telling you at what stage in the cell cycle the cell is," explains Zidovska. "We know that structural and functional errors of the nuclear envelope lead to a large number of developmental and inherited disorders, such as cardiomyopathy, muscular dystrophy, and cancer. Illuminating the mechanics of nuclear shape fluctuations might contribute to efforts to understand the nuclear envelope in health and disease."

Iranian Researchers Find Link Between Alzheimer's, Bipolar Disorder

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian researchers at Royan Research Institute have proven that the agent responsible for the Alzheimer's disease is similar to that in patients with bipolar disorder.

Kourosh Shahpasand discussed with Mehr News Agency correspondent the latest findings of his team in regard to the Alzheimer's disease and bipolar disorder, saying "after years of conducting research and experiments on the Alzheimer's and its links with other diseases, we reached the conclusion that the agent responsible for destroying brain cells in patients with diabetes due to stress of high blood sugar, forms in the brain of the patients and kills brain cells."

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease that has a negative effect on memory and other important cognitive functions. Currently there is no cure for a disease but medications and management strategies are used to temporarily alleviate its symptoms.

Shahpasand, who is a winner of the U.S. Alzheimer's Institute's research grant, expressed hope that trial and clinical research to immunize people will yield positive results.

He went on to add, "so far, it wasn't



Dr. Kourosh Shahpasand, a researcher at Harvard Medical School and Royan institute faculty member

clear which agent caused the death of brain cells in diabetes, but in this project we managed to discover this agent."

"One could say that patients with diabetes are more at risk of the Alzheimer's disease. In fact, Alzheimer's is called type 3 diabetes," he added.

Shahpasand maintained, "our research on cells of patients with bipolar disorder revealed that the agent responsible for Alzheimer's

disease is the same agent for the bipolar disorder."

Noting that the project aims at vaccinating people against Alzheimer's, he said "since the agent in both cases is the same, we can use the treatment for Alzheimer's disease for patients with bipolar disorder."

According to him, the project has yielded results in a cellular environment and needs to be conducted on animal and human environments as well.

Picture of the Day



Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, with its numerous historical, natural and cultural attractions, is known as the land of stones and color. The province is the second largest province in Iran.

(Photo: Tasnim)