

# This Day in History

(November 11)

Today is Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Aban 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Islamic month of Safar 1439 lunar hijri; and November 11, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1334 solar years ago**, on this day in 683 AD, the Godless tyrant, Yazid ibn Mu'awiyah, was struck by divine wrath and fell into the bowels of hell at the age of 36, after committing three most blasphemous crimes during his illegal rule of 3 years and nine months. Born out of wedlock to Maysoun bint Bajdal al-Kulaibi, a nomadic Arab Christian woman who cohabited with the Omayyad usurper, Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, and suckled by whores, he was named as caliph by the latter on his deathbed in Rajab 60 AH, in gross violation of the treaty of 41 AH with Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The first thing the libertine Yazid did was to demand allegiance to his ungodly and un-Islamic rule from the Prophet's younger grandson Imam Husain (AS), and when this was rejected he had the Imam mercilessly martyred in Karbala in 61 AH along with 18 members of the Prophet's family, including the 6-month infant, Ali Asghar. The children and womenfolk of the Prophet's progeny were then dragged as captives to his court in Damascus. The second abominable crime committed by him was to attack the holy city of Medina in Zilhijja 63 AH after the infamous Battle of Harra in which 10,000 people were massacred, including hundreds of the Prophet's companions. Yazid's soldiers entered Medina, desecrated the Prophet's shrine, and were given permission to loot public property and rape women for three days – resulting in the birth of several thousand illegitimate children that year who are known in history as *"Awwlad-e Fitna"*. In the beginning of Rabi al-Awwal 64 AH, Yazid ordered his forces to attack Mecca and storm the holy Ka'ba. Catapults were placed on mountains overlooking the *"Masjid al-Haram"* (Sacred Mosque) to hurl blazing naphtha pots at Islam's holiest sanctuary. The Symbolic House of God caught fire and was almost burnt to the ground when the attack was called off because of Yazid's sudden death this day in Damascus. Yazid, who since the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS), suffered severe bouts of headache, collapsed in the state of drunkenness in the toilet and died. His whole body had turned black. Some 58 years later in 132 AH, when the Abbasid caliph, Abu'l-Abbas as-Saffah, ordered the opening of the graves of the Omayyad caliphs, including that of Mu'awiyah, and the burning of their bones, only a piece of a leg bone was found in Yazid's grave and nothing else except blackened dust resembling ashes after the body and skeleton has been burnt, which indicates divine punishment. Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims consider Yazid an infidel for openly saying there was neither any Prophet nor divine revelation. At the sight of Imam Husain's head placed before him in a tray, he wished if only his infidel ancestors were alive to see how he has avenged the death of his kinsmen killed in the Battles of Badr and Ohad against the Prophet.

**1087 lunar years ago**, on this day in 352 AH, the Arabic poet, Abu'l-Qasem Ali ibn Ishaq al-Baghdadi, passed away at the age of 42. Incidentally, he was born on this same day of 20th of Safar. Most of his poetry is on the unrivalled merits of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) and the Infallible Imams. He lived for some time at the court of Amir Saif ad-Dowlah Hamdani in Aleppo and has praised this gallant ruler for his love of the Ahl al-Bayt, as well as his exploits against the Byzantines.

**862 solar years ago**, on this day in 1155, King Alfonso VIII of Castile was born. He is notorious for his wars against Spanish Muslims with the help of Christian mercenaries from other parts of Europe.

**810 lunar years ago**, on this day in 629 AH, the Sunni Hanbali narrator of hadith, Abu Bakr Ibn Naqih, died in Baghdad. He travelled widely over Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt to gather hadith, and is the author of the book *"at-Taqyeed"*. Among his students is the well-known religious scholar and historian, Ibn Asaker, the author of the voluminous book History of Damascus, who has recorded in his work the details of 400 ayahs of the holy Qur'an that God revealed to Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) on the merits of his vicegerent, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

**204 solar years ago**, on this day in 1813 AD, the Battle of Crysler's Farm resulted in the victory of a combined British and Canadian army over a larger American force, causing the US to abandon its St Lawrence campaign.

**196 solar years ago**, on this day in 1821 AD, the acclaimed Russian author, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, was born. In 1849, he was arrested and imprisoned on political charges. Following his release, he created valuable works in Russian literature. He wrote a number of novels, including *"Karamazov Brothers"* and *"Crime and Punishment"*.

**186 solar years ago**, on this day in 1831 AD, Nat Turner, the black Afro-American who led the so-called "slave revolution" in the US, was executed.

**135 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1303 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar, Sheikh Ja'far Shushtari, passed away. His power of speech, piety, and strong memory was known to all. He was an accomplished jurist and spent all his life, guiding people and carrying out religious duties. He founded several students and authored numerous books, including *"Usoul ad-Din"* (Fundamentals of Religion)

**129 solar years ago**, on this day in 1888 AD, Indian scholar and statesman, Abu'l-Kalam Azad was born in the holy city of Mecca where his parents were residing. He was at the forefront of the struggle for the independence of India from the British rule, led by M.K Gandhi. He was elected to the parliament after India gained independence in 1947, and subsequently served as Minister of Education. As a scholar of Urdu, Arabic, Persian and English languages he wrote many valuable books, including an exegesis of the holy Qur'an, titled, *"Tarjuman al-Qur'an"*. He was greatly influenced by the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century Iranian thinker, Seyyed Jamal ad-Din Asadabadi, especially concerning the importance of Ijtihad in awakening the Muslim societies. Among his other works are *"War from the Islamic Point of View"* and *"Shaheed-e Azam"* (The Great Martyr) which is a book on Imam Husain (AS).

**128 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, jurist Mullah Ahmad Khowaini Qazvini passed away in Qazvin at the age of 68.

**99 solar years ago**, on this day in 1918 AD, World War I formally ended after four years with the victory of the Allied Powers, namely Russia, Britain, France, and Italy, and the defeat of the Axis Powers, namely Germany, Bulgaria, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. More than 15 million people were killed and 20 million others were wounded, while the damage inflicted was estimated at \$150 billion.

**64 solar years ago**, on this day in 1953 AD, the polio virus, which is the cause of one of most dangerous illnesses, was discovered by Dr. Jonas Salk, who later also discovered the polio vaccine. Currently, polio has been eradicated from many countries, and has been reduced in several others. Nonetheless, the struggle against the fatal polio virus continues to this day.

**42 solar years ago**, on this day in 1975 AD, Angola in southwest Africa became independent.

**35 solar years ago**, on this day in 1982 AD, a command unit of the Zionist occupation forces in the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon was destroyed in a daring martyrdom-seeking operation by the youthful Ahmad Qaseer, who sacrificed his life for his country by blowing up 89 Israeli terrorist soldiers and wounding 86 others. Israeli forces had advanced till the environs of the Lebanese capital, Beirut, by June 1982 martyring thousands of civilians and wounding thousands of others. Thus, the destruction of the command unit of Zionist forces in southern Lebanon, which took place a while after the destruction of the headquarters of the US and French occupation forces in Beirut, was a major and important factor that turned the tide of the war against the aggressors, and forced the Israelis to retreat from Beirut.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2004 AD, head of Palestine self-rule Authority, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat, died at the age of 75 in a hospital in Paris under suspicious circumstances – believed to be poisoning by the illegal Zionist entity.

**12 solar years ago**, on this day in 2005 AD, Syrian film producer and director, Mustafa Aqqad, was killed in a terrorist bomb blast in Amman, Jordan, along with his daughter, at the age of 75. He is best known for producing and directing the films *"Mohammad, Messenger of God"* in 1976, also known as The Message, and *"Lion of the Desert"* in 1980 on Omar Mokhtar the leader of the Libyan people's struggle against Italian colonial rule.

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

# Tehran to Host 11th Int'l Digital Media Exhibition

TEHRAN (IRNA) – The 11th International Digital Media Exhibition will open in a ceremony on Saturday with the ministers of culture and Islamic guidance and communications and information technology in attendance.

An advisor to the culture and Islamic guidance minister, Seyyed Morteza Mousavian, told IRNA on Friday that Culture Minister

Seyyed Abbas Salehi and Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi will address the opening ceremony on Saturday.

He said that three major domestic achievements in the field of digital media will be unveiled at the ceremony.

Further acquaintance with the latest developments in the field of digital media is

one of the main objectives of the exhibition, Mousavian said.

Holding over 120 specialized workshops and meetings on cyberspace and digital media are among the side sections of the exhibition, he said.

The 11th International Digital Media Exhibition will open in Imam Khomeini Mosalla on Saturday and will end on November 18.

## Food List for Managing Rheumatoid Arthritis Symptoms, Progression



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Scientists recommend a list of foods that can help patients control rheumatoid arthritis, joint stiffness and pain, joint destruction and oxidative stress.

A list of food items with proven beneficial effects on the progression and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis has been

provided in a new study published in Frontiers in Nutrition. The authors suggest incorporating these foods into the diet to support the management of this debilitating autoimmune disease.

"Regular consumption of specific dietary fibers, vegetables, fruits and spices, as well as

the elimination of components that cause inflammation and damage, can help patients to manage the effects of rheumatoid arthritis," says Dr. Bhawna Gupta, who completed this study together with Ms. Shweta Khanna and Mr. Kumar Sagar Jaiswal at the Disease Biology Lab, School of Biotechnology, KIIT University, India. "Incorporating probiotics into the diet can also reduce the progression and symptoms of this disease."

Foods highlighted as reducing the progression and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis range from fruits such as dried plums, blueberries and pomegranates, to whole grains, the spices ginger and turmeric, as well as specific oils and teas. They can provide a range of beneficial effects, such as low-

ering inflammatory cytokines (chemicals released by the immune system that can cause problems in rheumatoid arthritis patients), reducing joint stiffness and pain, as well as lowering oxidative stress -- the ability of the body to counteract or detoxify harmful chemicals.

"Our review focused on specific dietary components and phytochemicals from foods that have a proven beneficial effect on rheumatoid arthritis," says Dr. Gupta. "Pharmaceutical companies may use this information to formulate 'nutraceuticals'. Nutraceuticals have an advantage over chemically-tailored medicines as they are not associated with any side effects, originate from natural sources and are cheaper."

## Study Shows Sheep Recognize Human Faces

LONDON (Dispatches) - Eight female trained sheep were able to recognize four celebrity faces and distinguish them from unfamiliar people.

"Face recognition is a sophisticated process, but they've got big brains, they see other sheep, and they use this processing to recognize one another," said one of the study's authors Professor Jenny Morton at Cambridge University.

The research was published in Royal Society Open Science, and scientists said the work might have implications for learning about neurodegenerative diseases, such as Huntington's and Parkinson's, two neurodegenerative diseases.

During the experiment, the sheep were presented with two screens on the wall. One screen would randomly show the face of one of the four celebrities and the other would remain blank, display an object or display the face of an unknown person.

If the sheep correctly identified the person, they were rewarded with food pellets. Video of the tests shows the sheep looking at both pictures before trotting toward one and breaking an infrared beam with their noses, thus releasing the re-

ward. If they chose incorrectly, a buzzer rang and the sheep left the area without a treat.

"We're hoping that with treatments that improve Huntington's pathology, we'll see the reversal of some of the cognitive changes," said Morton. "We want to understand how the disease starts so we can start thinking about preventing it."



## Picture of the Day



The kiwi fruit is harvested on a 520-hectare garden in Astara County, Gilan Province. The crops will be packaged for export to neighboring countries.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency