

This Day in History

(November 15)

Today is Wednesday; 24<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Aban 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 26<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Safar 1439 lunar hijri; and November 15, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1452 solar years ago**, on this day in 565 AD, Justin II succeeded his maternal uncle Justinian I as emperor of the Byzantine of Eastern Roman Empire, and ruled for eleven years during which he was embroiled in a devastating war with the Sassanid Empire of Iran in Syria and what is now Turkey. Justin was decisively defeated by Iranian Emperor Khosrow Anushiravan. The Romans agreed to pay 45,000 gold coins to Iran as war reparations. Justin died at the age of 58.

**1151 lunar years ago**, on this day in 288 AH, the mathematician and astronomer, Sabet ibn Qurrah al-Harrani, died. He was from Harran, which is presently under the control of Turkey although historically and culturally it is part of Mesopotamia. Sabet was invited to Baghdad by the Iranian scientists, the Banu Musa brothers, and translated scientific texts from Greek and Syriac languages into Arabic. Sabet ibn Qurrah is said to have translated more than 130 books.

**809 lunar years ago**, on this day in 630 AH, In order to consolidate Muslim rule in northern India, Sultan Shams od-Din Altamash captured the Rajput fortress of Gwalior. A Persianized Turkic slave of Sultan Muiz od-Din Mohammad, the Iranian ruler of Ghor (in Afghanistan), he served as lieutenant to Qutb od-Din Aibak, the founder of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty of India, and later became the latter's son-in-law. He was fluent in Turkic, Persian and Arabic, and was highly educated by his masters in Bukhara, Baghdad and Ghazna. Altamash seized power from Aibak's weak son, Aram Shah, to become Sultan and remained ruler until his death 25 years later. He carried out reforms, invited scholars to his court from Khorasan and Central Asia, defended the country against Mongol attacks, and built several public projects, such as the *“Hauz-e Shamsi”* water reservoir in Delhi, which is still in use. The famous Iranian Islamic scholar, Fakhr od-Din Razi used to visit India when Altamash was governor of Lahore. During his reign, several translations of Arabic books into Persian were undertaken.

(Note: Slaves in Islam are children of non-Muslims bought and brought up as Muslims and equivalent to adopted sons, and on no account should be confused with the concept of slavery in western and other non-Muslim cultures, where such persons are denied all basic rights and treated like chattels.)

**737 solar years ago**, on this day in 1280 AD, German chemist and philosopher, St Albertus Magnus, died. He succeeded in whitening copper with the use of arsenic, after studying the Latin translation of Arabic books, especially those written by the Muslim scientists of Islamic Spain.

**620 solar years ago**, on this day in 1397 AD, Taj od-Din Firouz Shah, grandson of Ala od-Din Bahman Shah (founder of the Bahmani kingdom of Iranian origin) ascended the throne of Gulbarga in the Deccan (southern India), after removing the puppet boy-king Shams od-Din and his Turkic regent, Taghalchin, who five months earlier had blinded Ghiyas od-Din Shah Tahmatan and seized the throne. Firouz Shah, the greatest ruler of the dynasty, reigned for 25 years. The Bahmanis promoted Persian language and poetry, as well as Iranian art, culture, and architecture by inviting from Iran thousands of qualified persons.

**387 solar years ago**, on this day in 1630 AD, German astronomer, Johannes Kepler, died. After studying Latin translations of the works of Muslim scientists, he devised the rule known as ‘Principles of Kepler’ about the movement of planets and discovery of the oval movement of Mercury around its orbit, all of which are believed to have been copied from Arabic texts written by Islamic scientists including the Iranian genius, Abu Rayhan Birouni, and the Spanish Muslim scholar, Ibn Hazm Andalusi, who almost five centuries before Kepler had proved the spherical shape of the earth and how it revolves around the sun.

**148 solar years ago**, on this day in 1869 AD, Russian orientalist, Vasily Vladimirovich Bartold (Wilhelm Barthold), was born. He specialized in the history of Islam and the Turkic people (Turkology). He edited several scholarly journals of Muslim studies, and contributed extensively to the first edition of the Encyclopaedia of Islam. He wrote three authoritative monographs on the history of Islam, namely, Islam (1918), Muslim Culture (1918) and The Muslim World (1922). Most of his writings were translated in English, Arabic, and Persian. His works include: *“Ulugh-Beg”*, *“Turkestan Down to the Mongol Invasion”*, *“Mussalman Culture”*, *“A Short History of Turkestan”*, and *“An Historical Geography of Iran”*.

**133 solar years ago**, on this day in 1884 AD, the Berlin Conference started work for division of Africa and plunder of its rich natural resources by European powers and continued until February 26 of the following year, attended by France, Britain, Russia, Belgium, Germany and Portugal.

**128 solar years ago**, on this day in 1889 AD, Brazil was declared republic by Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca as Emperor Pedro II was deposed in a military coup.

**82 solar years ago**, on this day in 1935 AD, famous Islamic scholar of Lebanon, Seyyed Mohammad Hussein Fazlollah, was born in holy Najaf in Iraq. After 21 years of studying under prominent ulema, he settled in Lebanon, where he was active in social, cultural, religious and political affairs. He established several schools, orphanages, hospitals and libraries. He firmly opposed the illegal Zionist entity and stood against US hegemonic designs on Lebanon.

**49 solar years ago**, on this day in 1968 AD, Iranian poet, Mohammad Hassan Rahi Ma'ayyeri, passed away. He started composing poetry at the age of 17, and while in teen wrote the famous poem *“Shod Khazan”*. Besides *ghazals*, he wrote *mathnavis*. His poems reflect beautiful imagery, eloquence, and delicacy of expression. His famous poem is *“Golhayeh Rangarang”*.

**38 solar years ago**, on this day in 1979 AD, the Assembly of Experts completed drafting and approval of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, to determine the basis of the Islamic system of government in accordance with the holy Qur'an, the hadith and Islamic values, with special focus on social justice and compliance with human rights. The Constitution was duly put to nationwide referendum and approved by the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people, thereby opening a new chapter in the history of constitutions of world countries.

**36 solar years ago**, on this day in 1981 AD, philosopher and holy Qur'an exegete, Ayatollah Allamah Seyyed Mohammad Hussain Tabatabaei, passed away. Born in an academic family in Tabriz, he learned Islamic sciences and Arabic language, and after studying in holy Najaf, Iraq, where he attained the rank of Ijtihad, he returned to Iran to teach at seminaries. An innovative philosopher, an expert mathematician, and an active farmer, in addition to being an Islamic Gnostic and theologian, well versed in literature, he wrote several books, including *“The Principles of Philosophy and the Method of Realism”* and the famous 20-volume exegesis in Arabic titled *“al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Qur'an”*.

**36 solar years ago**, on this day in 1981 AD, Pakistan's prominent Urdu-Persian poet, Khawar Rezavi, passed away. His real name was Seyyed Sibte Hassan. An enlightened scholar, he actively participated in the political and intellectual circles. He was against all types of tyranny, dictatorship, and exploitation. Due to his ideology and political beliefs he became a victim of the oppressive policies of General Zia ul-Haq, the US and Saudi-backed dictator of Pakistan.

**17 solar years ago**, on this day in 2000 AD, Mahdi Edoardo Agnelli, heir and only son of Gianni Agnelli, the Head of Italy's Fiat Group of Automobiles, was martyred by Zionists in Turin at the age of 46. Born in New York, his mother was Princess Donna Marella Caracciolo di Castagneto di Florence. He studied at Princeton University, where after reading the holy Qur'an thoroughly, he converted to Islam and changed his name to Hisham Aziz. He travelled to India and from there to Iran, where he met the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). He soon embraced the truth of the school of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), a move that alarmed the Zionists, the US, and other enemies of Islam, especially his meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. They devised a plan to remove him and pass on inheritance of Fiat's multi-billion dollar fortune to his Jewish nephew (sister's son), John Elkann. His body was found on a river bed beneath a motorway viaduct, with his car nearby, which means, he was thrown down by hired assassins. In 2003, Iran made a documentary on Mahdi Edoardo Agnelli and his name is enshrined in the Museum of Martyrs in Tehran.

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

Iran to Hold Culture Week in Uruguay



TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Culture Week is slated to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, later in November.

The cultural event is slated to be held November 20-24 with the co-operation of the Iranian embassy and the Universidad de la República

(UdelaR) in the Uruguayan capital.

Art in ancient Iran, Iranian cinema, Iranian lifestyle in certain eras, Iranian carpet, and life of Iranian world-known Persian poet Ferdowsi are among the issues to be dealt with at the event.

In relevant remarks in early 2017, Iranian Ambassador to Uruguay Abolfazl Pasandideh and Uruguay's Vice President and Senate Speaker Raul Sendic in a meeting in Montevideo called for broadening of bilateral ties in different fields.

During the meeting in Montevideo,, Pasandideh and Sendic explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation in different fields, political and economic relations in particular.

During the meeting, Pasandideh underlined that last year's visit to Iran by Sendic opened a new chapter in the two countries' relations, and voiced Tehran's eagerness to deepen cooperation with Montevideo in scientific, cultural, industrial and agricultural fields.

Sendic, for his part, expressed satisfaction over the momentum created in ties between the two countries, and emphasized his country's readiness to expand bilateral relations with Iran, including holding the 6th Economic Joint Commission in the Uruguayan capital, Montevideo.

The Uruguayan politician in a visit to Iran last May met with senior Iranian officials, including President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani.

Majidi's ‘Beyond the Clouds’ to Open Indian Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Majid Majidi's ‘Beyond the Clouds’ is set to be the curtain raiser at the 48th International Film Festival of India in Goa on the 20th of November, 2017.

According to the festival's website, the two-hour Indian film was also nominated for the Best Film Award at the London Film Festival 2017. ‘Beyond the Clouds’ is the first Indian film by Majid Majidi which features the South Indian actress, Malavika Mohanan in one of the lead roles, and introduces young talent Ishaan Khattar into the world of cinema. ‘Beyond the Clouds’ is a trilingual film revolving around the adoration of love, life and human relationships between a brother and sister which takes place in the ever bustling city of Mumbai.

Majid Majidi is a prominent Iranian film director who has an illustrious career with a long list of awards and nominations like the 1998 Oscar nomination for the best film and the Grand Prix Des Ameriques award at the 25th Montreal Film Festival, 2001. He is best known for ‘Children of Heaven’ which deals with a brother and sister and their adventures over a lost pair of shoes.

Majidi, along with the lead actors, Oscar winning music director A.R. Rahman and Vishal Bhardwaj is expected to attend the premiere on November 20.

Exercise Increases Brain Size

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Aerobic exercise can improve memory function and maintain brain health as we age, a new study has found.

Researchers from Australia's National Institute of Complementary Medicine at Western Sydney University and the Division of Psychology and Mental Health at the University of Manchester in the UK examined the effects of aerobic exercise on a region of the brain called the hippocampus, which is critical for memory and other brain functions.

They reviewed 14 clinical trials which examined the brain scans of 737 people before and after aerobic exercise programs or in control conditions.

The participants included a mix of healthy adults, people with mild cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's and people with a clinical diagnosis of mental illness including depression and schizophrenia.



Ages ranged from 24 to 76 years with an average age of 66.

The researchers examined effects of aerobic exercise, including stationary cycling, walking, and treadmill running. The length of the interventions ranged from three to 24 months with a range of 2-5 sessions per week.

All in all, the results showed that,

while exercise had no effect on total hippocampal volume, it did significantly increase the size of the left region of the hippocampus in humans.

Lead author, NICM postdoctoral research fellow, Joseph Firth said the study provides some of the most definitive evidence to date on the benefits of exercise for brain health

Picture of the Day



An Iranian baby girl “Ava” was born in a field hospital on Nov 13, 2017, in Sarpol-e Zahab city in Kermanshah two days after a deadly 7.3-magnitude earthquake hit western areas in Iran .

Courtesy: IRNA