

This Day in History

This Day in History (November 1)

Today is Wednesday, 10th of the Iranian month of Aban 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 12th of the Islamic month of Safar 1439 lunar hijri; and November 1, 2017, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1401 lunar years ago, on this day in 38 AH, arbitration was forced upon the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), during the War of Siffin against the heretic, Mu'awiya ibn Abu Sufyan, by a group of hypocrites, deceived at the raising of supposed copies of the Holy Qur'an on spear-points with pleas for peace by crafty Omayyad commander, Amr ibn Aas, at a time when victory was only a matter of moments. Notoriety as "*khwarej*" (renegades) from Islam for their sedition in starting armed insurrection against the Imam by rejecting the result of their own imposed arbitration, this group was later wiped out in the Battle of Nahrawan.

1337 lunar years ago, on this day in 102 AH, Yazid Ibn Muhallab, the former governor of Khorasan, was killed in battle in Iraq with the forces of Yazid Ibn Abdul-Malik Ibn Marwan, the 9th self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime. The Omayyads chased, captured and killed all grown-up male members of the Muhallab clan. Of Omani origin, his father, Muhallab, despite being the son of Abu Sufra, one of the staunch followers of Prophet Mohammad's (SAWA) 1st Infallible Heir, Imam Ali (AS), had sided with the Omayyad usurper Mu'awiya, who sent him to Khorasan, where he ravaged the lands between Kabul and Multan. Muhallab stayed away from the movement of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS), left the Omayyads to side with Abdullah Ibn Zubayr against Mukhtar Thaqafi (Avenger of the blood of the Martyrs of Karbala) and then rejoined the Omayyads when Abdul-Malik Ibn Marwan's tyrannical governor, Hajjaj Thaqafi, eliminated Ibn Zubayr.

803 solar years ago, on this day in 1214 AD the port city of Sinope in Anatolia on the Black Sea coast, surrendered to the Seljuq Turks led by Sultan Kaykavus, who defeated and captured King Alexios of Trebizond, enabling the Muslims to complete the conquest of what is now Turkey.

661 lunar years ago, on this day in 778 AH, the acclaimed Iranian poet, Khwajah Jamal od-Din Salman Saveji, was born in Saveh, near Tehran. The renowned Persian Poet, Hafez, has praised his poetry. His religious poems praise Almighty God and Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

379 lunar years ago, on this day in 1059 AH, Iran's Safavid Empire retook the strategic border city of Qandahar in what is now Afghanistan from the Moghal Empire of the subcontinent. Qandahar was bone of contention between the two otherwise friendly empires.

351 solar years ago, on this day in 1666 AD, Sam Mirza was crowned the 8th Emperor of the Safavid Dynasty of Iran with the title Shah Safi II, after a 7-day mourning for his father, Shah Abbas II. In the first year of his reign, a series of natural disasters, combined with devastating raids by the Cossack Stenka Razin on Iran's Caspian Sea coast, convinced court astrologers that the coronation had taken place at a wrong time. The ceremony was repeated on March 20, 1667, with the Shah changing his title to Suleiman I. He had little interest in administrative affairs, and left political decision-making to his viziers, whose power increased during his long reign of 28 years, during which corruption became widespread and discipline in the army was dangerously lax. Iran also suffered raids by the Uzbeks and Kalmyks during his rule.

262 solar years ago, on this day in 1755 AD, a massive earthquake, followed by a tsunami destroyed Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, killing ninety thousand people. Heavy damage resulted from fires and floods across the Strait of Gibraltar in Morocco killing thousands of people.

133 solar years ago, on this day in 1884 AD, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was adopted at the International Meridian Conference in Washington. Subsequently the International Date Line was drawn up and 24 time zones created. It is commonly used to refer to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Greenwich Village, located on the 0 Latitude, lies some ten km east of London.

99 solar years ago, on this day in 1918 AD, the Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated following its defeat in World War I, resulting in the emergence of Austria and Hungary as two independent states in Central Europe.

89 solar years ago, on this day in 1928 AD, President Mustafa Kemal Ataturk of Turkey, took another anti-Islamic step to sever links between Turkish Muslims and their rich culture, by replacing the Arabicized Persian Alphabet of the Turkish language with Latin Alphabet, setting 1st of January 1929 as the deadline to switch to the new script or face penalties. Ataturk, who had earlier replaced the shari'a law with Swiss-Italian civil code, banned recitation of the holy Qur'an on the radio, prohibited the Azaan or call to the daily prayers from mosques, turned Sufi hospices, like the Iranian Gnostic poet Mowlana Rumi's mausoleum in Konya into museums, forced the people to adopt European dress, and unveiled Turkish women.

82 solar years ago, on this day in 1935 AD, Palestinian author and thinker, Edward Sa'eed, was born in a Christian family in the city of Bayt al-Moqaddas. He left for the US at the age of 17 for higher studies and obtained a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. He enlightened the international community about the oppression of the Palestinian people by the illegal Zionist entity. He was elected to the Palestine National Parliament in 1977, but resigned in 1991 in protest to the compromise with Israel by the Palestine Liberation Organization. He authored several books including "*Culture and Imperialism*", "*The Politics of Dispossession*", and his most important book "*Orientalism*".

66 solar years ago, on this day in 1951 AD, during Operation Buster-Jangle in Nevada, the US regime deliberately exposed 6,500 American soldiers to "Desert Rock" atomic explosions, as a live field test to determine radiation effects on humans, without informing them that they were being treated as laboratory animals.

65 solar years ago, on this day in 1952 AD, the first US test of a thermonuclear device, a hydrogen bomb dubbed "Mike," was carried out at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific, 3,000 miles west of Hawaii. It exploded with a blinding white fireball more than three miles across, completely obliterating Elugelab and leaving an underwater crater - 6240-ft wide and 164-ft deep - in the atoll where an island had once been. An estimated eighty million tons of soil were lifted into the air by the blast. It was a thousand times more powerful than the bomb the US had criminally dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, and a blast greater than all the explosives used during World War 2. The mushroom cloud rose to 135,000 ft (top of the stratosphere) and spread 1,000 miles wide. Within nine months, the Soviet Union tested its own hydrogen bomb, as part of the balance of terror between the two dangerously-armed nuclear powers.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, the prominent religious scholar, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Ali Qazi Tabatabaei, was martyred by the Forqan terrorist outfit. During his political struggles against the Shah's despotic regime, he was imprisoned and banished to remote areas several times. After victory of the Islamic Revolution, he was appointed as Imam Khomeini's representative and the Friday Prayer leader of Tabriz.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil minister, Mohammad Javad Tonggouyan, along with several ministry officials, while on inspection visit to installations in the southwestern parts, was abducted by the invading Iraqi forces, a month after Saddam's launching of the unprovoked war on Iran at the behest of the US. Initially, Saddam's Ba'ith minority regime denied the abduction, but finally claimed he had committed suicide in captivity. Medical examinations of the corpse, coupled with eyewitness accounts of Iranian POWs proved the Ba'ithists martyred the Iranian oil minister through torture.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Iran awarded the top prize in an international cartoon contest on the alleged holocaust in Europe during World War 2, to a Moroccan artist for his depiction of the illegal Zionist entity's apartheid wall in the West Bank of River Jordan with a picture of the Auschwitz concentration camp on it. It suggests that the Israeli repression of Palestinians is worse than Nazi Germany's supposed suppression of Jews.

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

Envoy Urges Iran, India to Boost Cinema Cooperation



NEW DELHI (IRNA) – Iranian ambassador to New Delhi called for increasing cinema cooperation between Iran and India.

"Despite cultural similarities between the two countries, scant attention has been paid to both countries' capacity in producing films jointly," Ghol-

amreza Ansari said on Tuesday addressing a ceremony marking the 1st Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF).

He urged the state and private

sectors to take steps in producing joint films.

"Iran and India can rely on positive aspects of their social, political and economic grounds to foster joint cinema cooperation," he added.

"Guwahati International Film Festival 2017 (GIFF) is the first ever international film festival to be held in Assam, India and is being organized by Jyoti Chitraban (Film Studio) Society with the support of State Government of Assam, India in association with Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute," according to GIFF website.

The festival is underway at Guwahati, Assam in two venues: Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra and Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio.

Exground Film Festival to Host 'It's Raining Slowly'

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short 'It's Raining Slowly' will go on screen at German film festival.

It's Raining Slowly, which is the first joint product of the Qom Youth Cinema Society and the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

and directed by Saeed Nejadi, will be showcased at Exground Film Festival in Germany.

The film has been produced in Turkey, and narrates the story of school students in the 1980s who intend to help their teacher.

Exground Film Festival in Wiesbaden is amongst Germany's most important film festivals for international independent productions and is an important meeting place for journalists, specialized visitors, and guests from the film business.

150-Million-Year-Old 'Sea Monster' Discovered in India

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Paleontologists in India have unearthed the strikingly intact skeleton of an ichthyosaur, a marine reptile more than five meters long that resembled modern dolphins and whales that lived during the dinosaur age.

The nearly 18-foot-long (5.5 meters) ichthyosaur lived during the Kimmeridgian, an age within the Jurassic period lasting from about 157 million to 152 million years ago, the researchers said.

The truly rare find could redefine paleontologists' understanding of how the creatures spread throughout ancient oceans, as the skeleton is the first from the Jurassic era to be found in India. Such fossils are more familiar farther north, paleontologists say, making the Indian skeleton a scientific marvel both for its level of preservation and surprising final resting place.

The Ichthyosaur had large, strong teeth. And this one's bones were embedded among fossilized ammonites and squid-like belemnites.

A close examination of the cracked, worn teeth shows the Ichthyosaur preferred crunchy food.

"We could infer from wear patterns on its teeth that this ichthyosaur was a top-tier predator that fed on hard and abrasive food material, including marine molluscs, fish and possibly other marine reptiles," lead researcher Gun-tupalli Prasad said.

In the interview, Prasad said that ichthyosaurs, or "fish lizards," lived between 250 and 90 million years ago. Native to oceans with warm and humid climates, the ichthyosaurs dominated the

seas alongside sharks and another group of marine reptiles around the time Pangaea — Earth's single supercontinent — was breaking apart.

Indian paleontologists came across the skeleton south of the village of Lodai, located in India's western Gujarat province, in 2016, National Geographic reported. The bones were encased in dense, sedimentary rock and posed a brutal test for excavators working in a region where temperatures hit nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit.



The ichthyosaur skeleton is the first from the Jurassic era to be found in India. (AFP photo)

Picture of the Day



Shadegan Wetland in Khuzestan province is one of the 18 international wetlands registered on UNESCO's Natural Heritage List.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency