

This Day in History

(April 7)

Today is Saturday; 18th of the Iranian month of Farvardin 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 20th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1439 lunar hijri; and April 7, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1567 solar years ago, on this day in 451 AD, Attila the Hun sacked Metz in north-eastern France and attacked other French cities and towns, massacring people and plundering properties.

1426 lunar years ago, on this day in 13 AH, Battle of Yarmouk broke out between the Arab army and the Byzantine or the Eastern Roman Empire, ending six days later in a decisive victory for Muslims. The battle was a series of seesaw engagements near Yarmouk River, along what is now the Syria-Jordan border. It is regarded as one of the most decisive battles in history and marked the first great wave of Muslim conquests, ending the long sway of the then superpowers – the Romans and the Persians. The advent of Islam completely changed the world map with the entire Sassanid Empire and more than half of the whole Roman Empire disappearing forever. An important point to note is that the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), who had led the Muslims to victory in almost all the battles imposed upon Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) by the Arab and Israelite unbelievers, did not participate in the Roman and Persian campaigns, which were led by the neo Muslim and hitherto pagan Arabs, like Khalid bin Waleed, who were subdued by his flashing scimitar, the "Dhu'l-Feqar". Two decades later when these same arrogant victors of the wars against the Romans and the Persians, like Zubayr ibn Awam, Amr ibn Aas, Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan and others, tried to stir up sedition amongst Muslims in Iraq and Syria (the former Sassanid and Byzantine heartlands), Imam Ali (AS) personally assumed command and once again unsheathed the "Dhu'l-Feqar" to decisively defeat them. For instance, Amr ibn Aas, who used to boast of conquering Egypt, ignominiously denuded himself in Siffien while fleeing, in order to escape certain death at the hands of the Prophet's righteous heir.

1389 lunar years ago, on this day around 50 AH, Hazrat Sakina (SA), the second daughter of Imam Husain (AS) – the younger grandson and 3rd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – was born in Medina. Her mother was Rabab, the daughter of Imru al-Qays, who was the chief of the clan of Bakr bin Wa'el. She was present in Karbala during the tragedy that befell the Prophet's Household, resulting in the martyrdom of her father, her brothers, cousins, and her uncles, including the valiant standard-bearer, Hazrat Abbas (AS), to whom she was deeply attached. She was betrothed to her cousin, a son of Imam Hasan (AS) and Qasem's elder brother, who was martyred in Karbala. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Sakina, along with other members of the Ahl al-Bayt, including her two sisters – Fatema and the 4-year-old Ruqayya who attained martyrdom in Damascus – had to suffer imprisonment for a while. Upon return to Medina, she devoted her life to prayer, fasting and worship of God, refusing to marry anyone, saying that no one was worthy of her hand. She was an authority on hadith and the holy Qur'an. She passed away in 117 AH during the imamate of Imam Ja'far Sadeq (AS) and was laid to rest in the Baqie Cemetery.

1094 solar years ago, on this day in 924 AD, Berengar I of Italy, died at the age of 79, nine years after being crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John X following the Battle of Garigliano in southern Italy against the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim Caliphate of North Africa, which from its colony of Sicily held sway over southern Italian principalities. Berengar had been king of several northern Italian principalities since 887 and was backed by the papacy in view of the existential threat to Rome and the catholic sect of Christianity by the growing power of the Muslims in Europe.

783 lunar years ago, on this day in 656 AH, renowned Mu'tazilite Sunni scholar, Izz od-Din Abdul-Hamid ibn Hibbatollah, known as Ibn Abi'l-Hadeed, passed away at the age of 70. Captured by Mongols during the offensive on Baghdad, he was released upon the mediation by prominent figures. His most important book is a voluminous commentary on the "Nahj al-Balaghah" – the collection of the sermons, letters and maxims of Imam Ali (AS), the 1st Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

297 solar years ago, on this day in 1721 AD, Russian Emperor, Peter the Great, attacked Sweden, and after defeating it, imposed the Treaty of Nystad, according to which Finland and parts of Sweden were occupied by Russia.

248 solar years ago, on this day in 1770 AD, prominent English poet, William Wordsworth, was born in England. In 1798, along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, he helped launch the Romantic Age in English literature with the joint publication of "Lyrical Ballads". His magnum opus is considered to be "The Prelude", a semi-autobiographical poem of his early years which he revised and expanded several times. Wordsworth was Britain's Poet Laureate from 1843 until his death in 1850.

229 solar years ago, on this day in 1789 AD, Selim III became the 29th Ottoman sultan and 20th self-styled Turkish caliph on the death of his uncle, Abdul-Hamid I – four months after the disastrous defeat of the Turks by the combined Russian-Austrian armies and the fall of Ochakov in what is now Ukraine to Russia, which massacred all its 20,000 Muslim inhabitants.

207 solar years ago, on this day in 1811 AD, Albanian philosopher, astronomer, mathematician, and religious teacher, Hassan Tahsini, was born in the village of Ninat, Konispol, Albania in the Ottoman Empire, to religious scholar, Osman Efendi.

129 solar years ago, on this day in 1889 AD, acclaimed Latin American poetess and author, Gabriela Mistral, was born in Chile. Admiration of the important status of mothers and their sentiment is evident in her poems. She was the first Latin American poetess to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in (1945).

96 solar years ago, on this day in 1922 AD, German Islamologist, Annemarie Schimmel, was born in Erfurt, Germany in a cultured family. She developed a keen interest in orientalism and obtained her PhD in Islamic studies from Berlin University at the age of 19. The title of her thesis was "The Position of the Caliph and the Qadhi in Late Medieval Egypt". Interested in Islamic mysticism, she mastered several languages, and was fluent in English, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu, and Bengali. She wrote extensively on Islamic culture and became internationally renowned, as an authority on classical Persian poets such as the Iranians Mowlana Jalal od-Din Rumi, Khwajah Hafez Shirazi, and Sheikh Sa'di. In 1954 she was appointed Professor of the History of Religion at Ankara University, where she spent five years immersing herself in the culture and the mystical tradition of that country. She became a professor at the US Harvard University in 1967 and the same year she inaugurated the Indo-Muslim studies program at Harvard, where she remained for the next twenty-five years till 1992. Professor Schimmel received honorary degrees and prizes on several occasions from various countries. She authored over fifty books, in addition to hundreds of articles. She died in 2003 in Bonn at the age of 81.

81 solar years ago, on this day in 1937 AD, Italy launched a massive attack to occupy Albania. Some 10,000 soldiers, backed by 400 planes, defeated the Albanian army in a five-day battle.

72 solar years ago, on this day in 1946 AD, Syria's independence from France was formally recognized.

71 solar years ago, on this day in 1947 AD, US inventor, Henry Ford, died at the age of 84. Born in a poor family, he made watches while working as a mechanic. Later he invented motor cars and built a major auto industrial empire.

70 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, the UN established the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 1950, April 7 has been celebrated as World Health Day.

54 solar years ago, on this day in 1964 AD, following mass protests throughout Iran, the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) was freed from detention by the British-installed and US-backed Pahlavi regime. He was detained by the regime, following his historic speech on the eve of June 4, 1963 against the anti-Islamic and anti-national policies of the Shah.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, the United States of America unilaterally severed relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a year and two months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution which threw into the dustbin of history the British-installed and American-backed despotic Pahlavi regime. The US has never ceased its hostility towards Iran, and in its vain bid to undermine the popular Islamic system of government, has resorted to various plots including the 8-year war during the 1980s through Saddam, and the current illegal economic sanctions. The pretext for the US to sever ties was takeover of its embassy in Tehran by revolutionary students who resented its turning into a den of spies in violation of diplomatic norms. Imam Khomeini (RA) called this US measure as the only good thing Washington has done to the Iranian people, because diplomatic ties were misused for decades to oppress Iran and plunder its resources. The US has continued to plot against Islamic Iran in all spheres – political, economic, military, cultural, scientific etc. – but has failed to succeed, thanks to Divine Grace that enabled the Iranian nation's resolve to attain self-sufficiency in all fields.

23 solar years ago, on this day in 1995 AD, during the First Chechen War, Russian troops began a massacre of Muslim civilians in Samashki, Chechnya, before they were repulsed with great loss. In 1999 Russia launched another war to occupy the oil-rich Caucasian republic. It is worth noting that Chechnya, along with Dagestan, the present day Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia and eastern Georgia, was part of Iranian for the past two millenniums, before being occupied by the Russians, as per the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Gulistan imposed in 1813 on the Qajarid Dynasty.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Takfiri terrorists backed by the US and Saudi Arabia, blew through remote control bags of explosives they had handed to unsuspecting persons at the famous al-Buratha Mosque in northern Baghdad, martyring over a hundred Shi'a Muslim worshippers, and wounding many others.

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

Iranian Art Reaches New Heights at Christie's Auctions



TEHRAN. (HONARONLINE) - Securing some 40 percent of sale total (including buyer's premium: \$2,973,625 for 54 lots), Iranian art reached new heights in the 24th Christie's Dubai. This March, Christie's Dubai brought together two compelling sales: Post-War and

Contemporary Art and Important Watches. The Post-War and Contemporary Art auction offered important examples of 20th and 21st century Middle Eastern art, including works by distinguished Iranian artists like Sohrab Sepehri.

Works by other Iranian artists featuring in the sale from the 1960s through the 1990s included Massoud Arabshahi, Hossein Kazemi, Marcos Grigorian, and Sirak Melkonian, among others. Nine lots sold above \$100 million, of which 5 were from Iran, with Sepehri taking the top auction place, followed in second place by Fahr El-Nissa Zeid (Turkish-Jordanian, 1900-1991), Portrait of Clare Maria, price realized: USD 225,000, and in third place by Farhad Mohsiri and his Le Jeu est fini (Game is Over), price realized: USD 212,500.

Ahmadi's "Wandering Ship" Released for Adolescents

TEHRAN (IBNA) - 'Wandering Ship in the Sea Mist', the new book of celebrated Iranian poet and writer Ahmad Reza Ahmadi for adolescents is published by the Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

According to IBNA correspondent quoting the Public Relations and International Affairs of Iran's Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (CIDCYA), in this fiction



book, Ahmadi once again takes a different look upon the nature of the being and life and prompts the reader to

adopt such a look to the world.

Ahmadi has created many works for children, adolescents and adults. He was selected as the poet of the Fifth Persian Award of Bijan Jalali in 2006, and was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2009.

The book is illustrated by Kamal Tabatabaei and is addressed to the young adults aged 12 to 14. It is released in 36 pages with a print run of 7000 copies.

Scientists Develop New Method to Repair Hearing Loss

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Scientists found a new way to fix cells deep inside the ear, which could help millions of people who suffer hearing loss.

Researchers at University of Southern California and Harvard have developed a new approach to repair cells deep inside the ear. The lab study demonstrates a novel way for a drug to zero in on damaged nerves and cells inside the ear.

"What's new here is we figured out how to deliver a drug into the inner ear so it actually stays put and does what it's supposed to do, and that's novel," said Charles E. McKenna, a corresponding author for the study and chemistry professor at USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. "Inside this part of the ear, there's fluid constantly flowing that would sweep dissolved drugs away, but our new approach addresses that problem. This is a first for hearing loss and the ear. It's also important because it may be adaptable for other drugs that need to be applied within the inner ear."

The research was conducted on animal tissues in a petri dish. It has not yet been tested in living animals or humans. Yet, the researchers are hopeful given the similarities of cells and mechanisms involved. McKenna says since the technique works in the laboratory, the findings provide "strong preliminary evidence" it could work in living creatures. They are already planning the next phase involving animals and hearing loss.

The study breaks new ground because researchers developed a novel drug-delivery method. Specifically, it targets the cochlea, a snail-like structure in the inner

ear where sensitive cells convey sound to the brain.

The researchers designed a molecule combining 7,8-dihydroxyflavone, which mimics a protein critical for development and function of the nervous system, and bisphosphonate, a type of drug that sticks to bones. The pairing of the two delivered the breakthrough solution, the researchers said, as neurons responded to the molecule, regenerating synapses in mouse ear tissue that led to repair of the hair cells and neurons, which are essential to hearing.



Picture of the Day



Stars Valley dating back to about 2 million years ago, created by the erosion of soil, rock and sand caused by wind, rain and storms, is a rare natural masterpiece in the beautiful island of Qeshm, southern Iran.

Courtesy: IRNA