

## This Day in History

(February 24)

Today is Sunday; 5<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Esfand 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 18<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1440 lunar hijri; and February 24, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1716 solar years ago**, on this day in 303 AD, Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered the destruction of the newly built Christian church in Nicomedia in what is now Turkey, and the burning of all scriptures. Although he resigned two years later and was no longer the Emperor, the persecution of Trinitarian Christians as well as the monotheistic followers of Prophet Jesus (AS), lasted a total of 8 years, ending in 311 with the death of his successor, Galerius, who was also an obstinate pagan.

**1494 lunar years ago**, on this day 54 years before Hijra the blessed marriage took place in Mecca, of Abdullah ibn Abdul-Muttaleb and Amenah bint Wahb (peace upon them), the parents of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). It is worth noting that the Prophet's parents and grandparents, as well as all his ancestors descending from the Prophets Ishmael and Abraham (peace upon them), and extending right up to the Father of mankind, Adam, were upright monotheists, who had neither worshipped idols nor had ever deviated from the path of the One and Only Creator. Abdullah was a pious handsome young man from whose forehead a light shone out, indicating that he would be the father of a very blessed person. Many ladies of Arabia sent their proposals for marriage to him but Abdullah left the matter to his father to decide. Abdul-Muttaleb, who knew the divine promise that his grandson would be the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, approached the Bani Zuhrah clan and sought the hand of the chaste and virtuous Amenah for his son. The nuptials were celebrated in Mecca with great rejoicing, and on consummating of the marriage, the light was transferred to Amenah from Abdullah, and within a year resulted in the blessed birth of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

**1304 solar years ago**, on this day in 715 AD, Walid ibn Abd al-Malik, the 6th self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, died in Damascus at the age of 47 after a 10-year reign, during which Arab armies conquered the Iberian Peninsula in the West and penetrated deeper into Central Asia and India, in addition to gaining territory against the Byzantines in Anatolia (modern day Turkey). Walid I has earned lasting notoriety for martyring through poison, the Prophet's great-grandson and 4th Infallible Heir, Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) – the son of Imam Husain (AS), the Immortal Martyr of Karbala.

**671 lunar years ago**, on this day in 769 AH, the acclaimed Persian poet Mahmoud ibn Amir Yameen od-Din, popularly known as Ibn Yameen Faryumadi, passed away at the age of 84. Born in Faryumad near Sabzevar in Khorasan, northeastern Iran, he is said to have been the court poet of the Shi'a Muslim Sarbedar dynasty. Over 5,000 of his poems, mainly aphorisms, have survived, including *qasidas* (or panegyrics) and *mathnawis* (or long odes) of a philosophical and mystical nature.

**493 lunar years ago**, on this day in 947 AH, a treaty was signed in Istanbul between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Venice, ending the 3-year naval war, with the Venetians paying three million gold liras as war damages to the Turks, in addition to ceding all islands in the Aegean Sea as well as key mainland holdings in the Peloponnese Peninsula.

**421 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1019 AH, famous Iranian scholar, Seyyed Noorollah Shoushtari Mar'ashi, was martyred in Agra, India, at the age of 63, due to the jealousy of pseudo jurists, who framed up false charges against him for being promoted to "*Qazi al-Quzzat*" (Chief Judge) of the Moghal Empire. A prolific writer, he wrote several books, including "*Majalis al-Momineen*" and "*Ahqaq al-Haq*", before being martyred on insinuation of the enemies of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

**386 solar years ago**, on this day in 1633 AD, British naval administrator and Member of Parliament, Samuel Pepys, who is now most famous for the detailed diary of important events he kept for a decade, was born in London.

**220 solar years ago**, on this day in 1799 AD, the French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte who had occupied Egypt to prevent it from turning into a British colonial base, attacked the Ottoman province of Shaam (made up of present day Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine including the illegal entity called Israel). In response, the Ottoman Sultan declared war on France, and though Napoleon had some initial success, the French forces were forced to withdraw from Shaam because of British and Russian support for the Ottoman Turks.

**198 solar years ago**, on this day in 1821 AD, English poet, John Keats, died of tuberculosis at the young age of 26 in Rome. Born in London, he was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets, along with Byron and Percy Shelley. Today his poems and letters are some of the most popular and most analysed in English literature.

**159 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1281 AH, the great scholar, Ayatollah Shaikh Morteza Ansari Dezfuli, passed away in holy Najaf, Iraq, at the age of 67. His most important works are the "*Rasa'el*" and the "*Makaseb*", of which the latter is a book of detailed Islamic Commercial Law, and is still taught today in the Hawza. Among his students was Grand Ayatollah Mirza Mohammad Hassan Shirazi, who issued the famous "fatwa" against the British monopoly on tobacco that saved Iranian economy. Another prominent student was the pan-Islamist thinker, Seyyed Jamal od-Din Asadabadi.

**151 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1289 AH, the concession to exploit Iran's vital sources was granted to a British colonialist agent, Julius De Reuters, by the Qajarid King, Nasser od-Din Shah. It included exploitation of Iran's mines and forests, building railway, and setting up a bank, post office and telegraph lines to serve London's vested interests. The people and religious scholars, led by Mullah Ali Kani, unanimously opposed the grant to Reuters. As the people led by the ulema mounted their opposition, the concession was annulled, but as compensation Reuters was given the right to set up the Imperial Bank and print currency notes in Iran for sixty years.

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

# Dubai to Host Int'l Conference on Al-Ghazali in 2021



Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali (1058-1111).

TEHRAN (MNA) - The International Research Organization will host a conference on Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali (1058-1111), an Islamic theologian in Dubai, Qatar in early 2021.

The International Conference on Al-Ghazali (ICAG 2021) will be held in the Qatari city of Dubai on February 14-15, 2021.

The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share

their experiences and research results on all aspects of Al-Ghazali.

The two-day event will also provide a premier interdisciplinary

platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns

as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Al-Ghazali.

Prospective authors can contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high-quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Al-Ghazali are invited for presentation at the conference.

Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali (1058-1111) was an Islamic theologian, jurist, philosopher, cosmologist, psychologist and mystic of Persian origin. He remains one of the most celebrated scholars in the history of Sunni Islamic thought.

## Highly Critical Bug Threatens Millions of Websites



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Administrators of websites running the Drupal content management software (CMS) are urged to take immediate action to mitigate a newly discovered a vulnerability that can lead to remote execution of PHP code under specific circumstances.

Millions of sites that run the Drupal content management system run the risk of being

hijacked until they're patched against a vulnerability that allows hackers to remotely execute malicious code, managers of the open source project has warned.

CVE-2019-6340, as the flaw is tracked, stems from a failure to sufficiently validate user input, managers said in an advisory. Hackers who exploited the vulnerability could, in some cases, run code of their choice on

vulnerable websites. The flaw is rated highly critical, Ars Technica said.

Project managers are urging administrators of vulnerable websites to update at once. For sites running version 8.6.x, this involves upgrading to 8.6.10 and sites running 8.5.x or earlier upgrading to 8.5.11. Sites must also install any available security updates for contributed projects after updating the Drupal core. No core update is required for Drupal 7, but several Drupal 7 contributed modules do require updates.

Popular hacking target Drupal is the third most-widely used CMS behind WordPress and Joomla. With an estimated 3 percent to 4 percent of the world's billion-plus websites, that means Drupal runs tens of millions of sites. Critical flaws in any CMS are popular with hackers, because the vulnerabilities can be unleashed against large numbers of sites with a single, often-easy-to-write script.

## Sleep in Teens Impacts Cognition



SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Researchers at Duke-NUS Medical School have demonstrated for the first time that different sleep schedules with the same total sleep opportunity over 24 hours may have dissimilar effects on cognition and glucose levels.

The researchers measured cognitive performance and glucose levels following a standardized load in students, aged 15-19 years, during two simulated school weeks with short sleep on school days and recovery sleep on weekends. On school days, these students received either continuous sleep of 6.5 hours at night or split sleep (night sleep of 5 hours plus a 1.5-hour afternoon nap)

"We found that compared to being able to sleep 9 hours a night, having only 6.5 hours to sleep in 24 hours degrades performance and mood. Interestingly, under conditions of sleep restriction, students in the split sleep group exhibited better alertness, vigilance, working memory and mood than their counterparts who slept 6.5 hours continuously. This finding is remarkable as the measured total sleep duration over 24 hours was actually less in the former group," added Prof. Michael Chee, Director of the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience

## Picture of the Day



A male and female leopard in captivity at Tehran Zoological Garden mated naturally for the very first time. Their cubs are expected to be born in 100 days.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency