

This Day in History

(May 24)

Today is Thursday; 3rd of the Iranian month of Khordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1439 lunar hijri; and May 24, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1008 lunar years ago, on this day in 431 AH, Mohammad Ibn Mikaeel Ibn Seljuq, known as Toghril Beg, won the Battle of Dandanaqan, and seized Khorasan from the Ghaznavid Empire, thereby heralding the rise of the Seljuq Turks of Central Asia as a new power in Iran, and eventually Anatolia (Turkey), Syria, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf coastline of the Arabian Peninsula. Highly Persianized in culture and language, the Seljuqs who ruled for over a century-and-a-half, played an important role in the development of the Turk-Persian tradition, even exporting Persian culture to Anatolia.

984 lunar years ago, on this day in 455 AH, the Seljuqid ruler, Mohammad ibn Mikaeel ibn Seljuq, popular as Toghril Beg, died at the age of 75 in Rayy, south of Tehran, where his grave in a conical mausoleum still stands. He established the vast Seljuqid Empire, by seizing Khorasan from the Ghaznavids and subsequently occupying Baghdad on the secret invitation of the scheming Abbasid caliph, al-Qa'em-Billah, to end the 110-year rule of the Iranian Buwaihdi Dynasty of Iraq-Iran. To legitimize his rule and expand his empire, he forced the figurehead Abbasid caliph to give him his daughter in marriage, and to sign decrees for wars against the Byzantine Christian Empire in Anatolia and the Syrian territories of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim caliphate of Egypt-Syria-Hijaz-North Africa.

764 lunar years ago, on this day in 675 AH, Najm od-Din Ali Dabiraan Qazvini al-Katebi, the prominent Iranian astronomer, philosopher, logician, theologian and chemist, passed away. He was part of the scientific team assembled by his teacher, Iranian-Islamic genius Khwaja Nasir od-Din Tusi, at the famous observatory of Maragha, and wrote numerous books on various topics, including "Jame' ad-Daq'eq". His work on logic, titled "ar-Risala ash-Shamsiyya", was commonly used as the first major text on logic in madrasahs, until the twentieth century and is perhaps the most studied logic textbook of all time.

667 solar years ago, on this day in 1351 AD, Abu'l-Hassan Ali ibn Othman, the sultan of the Marinid dynasty of Morocco who liberated Gibraltar from the Christian Castilian occupation, died in exile in Fez in the High Atlas Mountains at the age of 54 after a reign of 17 years. In North Africa he extended his rule over Tlemcen and Ifriqiya, which together covered the north of what is now Algeria and Tunisia. Under him the Marinid realms in the Maghreb briefly covered an area that rivaled that of the preceding al-Muwahhidin or Almohad Empire. He was forced to return from Spain due to a revolt of Arab tribes, but was shipwrecked, and lost many of his supporters. His son Abu Inan Faris seized power in Fez.

475 solar years ago, on this day in 1543 AD, the Polish astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, died at the age of 70. After learning of scientific facts from the Latin translation of Arabic books written by Islamic scholars, he was the first European to boldly speak of the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

392 solar years ago, on this day in 1626 AD, the native Amerindians of Manhattan Island, were hoodwinked and deceived by Peter Minuit, the Director of German origin of the Dutch colony of New Netherland or what is now New York State, to sell their land for a hotchpotch of European trinkets worth only a paltry amount of 60 guilders or 23 dollars. The original inhabitants of the area were unfamiliar with the European notions and definitions of ownership rights. For the Indians, water, air and land could not be traded. Such exchanges would also be difficult in practical terms because many native groups migrated between their summer and winter quarters. It can be concluded that the Amerindians went home with totally different interpretations of the so-called sales agreement that was nothing but deceit on the part of the white invaders from Europe to deprive them of their ancestral lands.

332 solar years ago, on this day in 1686 AD, German-Dutch physicist and inventor of the thermometer, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, was born. He lived in Holland most of his life, and in 1714 invented the mercury thermometer by developing the Fahrenheit temperature scale.

196 solar years ago, on this day in 1822 AD, Ecuador gained independence from Spanish colonial rule after three centuries, because of the efforts of the famous Venezuelan revolutionary leader, Simon Bolivar. Ecuador covers an area of 283,000 sq km.

118 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, during the Second Boer War, Britain annexed to its colony of South Africa the Orange Free State, which was an independent Boer sovereign republic in southern Africa. Its name derives partly from the Orange River, which in turn was named in honour of the Dutch ruling royal family, the House of Orange, by the Dutch settlers under Robert Jacob Gordon. The official language in the Orange Free State was Dutch.

88 solar years ago, on this day in 1930 AD, the name "Pluto" was chosen and announced by Roger Lowell Putnam, trustee of Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, for the newly-discovered ninth planet of the solar system called Planet X by its discoverer Clyde Tombaugh on 13 March the same year.

36 solar years ago, on this day in 1982 AD, the southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr was liberated from the yoke of the Ba'hist invaders by Iran's Muslim combatants in the heroic Bayt al-Moqaddas Operations, after a year and 8 months of occupation. It was a decisive victory that completely turned the tide of the imposed war against Saddam, thereby shattering the equations of his backers in the West and the East, including the Arab reactionary regimes of the Persian Gulf, which had bankrolled his aggression on Islamic Iran. This historic event is marked every year as "The Day of Resistance and Victory".

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, the Zionist entity illegally settled 14,400 Ethiopian Jews in occupied Palestine. But, these black Jews are faced with numerous economic and social discriminations in Israel, and merely treated as cheap labour.

26 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, Serbian forces confined over 3,000 Bosnian Muslims and Croats in inhuman conditions at the Keraterm prison camp. Damir Dosen served as a shift commander at the Keraterm prison camp in northwestern Bosnia. Detainees were killed, sexually assaulted and beaten. In 1999 Dragan Kulundzija, a former shift commander at Keraterm, was arrested on charges of killing and torturing prisoners. In 1999 Dosen was arrested for war crimes and flown to Hague for trial.

25 solar years ago, on this day in 1993 AD, Eritrea in Northeastern Africa, gained independence from Ethiopia. Between the two World Wars it was briefly occupied by Italy. Eritrea lies on the coastlines of the Red Sea. It covers an area of almost 117,000 square km, and shares borders with Ethiopia, Sudan, and Djibouti.

18 solar years ago, on this day in the year 2000 AD, Zionist occupation troops were forced to retreat from southern Lebanon and the so-called Southern Lebanese Army made up of Christian mercenaries disintegrated due to the resistance and steadfastness of Lebanese people, led by the legendary anti-terrorist movement, Hezbollah. It was the first defeat of Israel in its confrontation with popular and Islamic forces inspired by the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

13 solar years ago, on this day in 2005 AD, Iranian poet Mohammad Reza Aqasi, passed away at the age of 46. Born in Tehran, he is famous for his "Mathnavi" or Long Ode on the history of the Shi'a Muslims and the Ahl al-Bayt or Blessed Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He also wrote excellent poetry on the heroics of Iran's Muslim combatants on the battlefields of the 8-year war imposed by the US on the Islamic Republic through Saddam of Iraq's repressive Ba'ith minority regime.

7 solar years ago, on this day in 2011 AD, in India, representatives of eight countries with large wild elephant populations pledged to eradicate poaching of the animals and smuggling of ivory to ensure their survival for future generations. The "Elephant 8 Ministerial Meet" included officials from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Botswana, Congo, Kenya and Tanzania. The elephant which is the largest living quadruped on earth is often the target of poachers for its tusks claimed to have aphrodisiac qualities, besides the prized ivory from which handicrafts are carved. In ancient times, elephants were used as war machines to intimidate and frighten rival armies. Today in many countries, the elephant, beside its use as a beast of burden, is trained as a riding animal on which processions are taken out, including religious, such as the famous Ashura mourning procession on the 10th of Moharram in Hyderabad, India, where the "alam" or banner of Imam Husain (AS) is carried on an elephant, behind which rows upon rows of mourners march, beating their chests in grief for the tragic martyrdom of the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

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

Iran Opens First Autism Library



TEHRAN (IFP)-Iran's Autism Association has opened a library in Tehran which helps autistics socialize with each other and raises public awareness about the disorder.

Saeedeh Saleh Ghaffari, the head of the association, said in an address to the opening ceremony on Tuesday that the library will help autistics boost their knowledge regarding their disease, as it owns a vast collection of autism

books. Saleh Ghaffari said official figures by Iran's welfare organization say seven to eight thousands of Iranians suffer from autism, but she believes the real number of Iran's autistic population could be up to ten thousand.

According to a figure announced by the World Health Organization in 2013, reviews across the world estimate one child in 160 has an autism

spectrum disorder.

Saleh Ghaffari said in Iran the rate is higher than the global average and this has aggravated problems of the association, which works to empower families of autism patients.

The head of the association said one of the basic problems facing Iran's autistic population is a lack of understanding among people on how to treat them and accept them in the society.

"Autistic patients should be able to show themselves in the society," he said.

The library, an initiative by an autistic member of the association, will be run by autistics themselves.

The building of the library was offered to the association by a Tehran donor.

Several celebrities, including actors Shabnam Qolikhani and Fatemeh Goudarzi, as well as a UNICEF representative, attended the opening ceremony.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is defined as a wide range of conditions characterized by challenges with speech and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviors and social skills. ASD is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

Lack of or delay in spoken language, lack of spontaneous or make-believe play, lack of interest in peer relationships, and persistent fixation on parts of objects are among other signs of this disorder.

Awareness about autism is growing in Iran through TV shows and educational campaigns. But families still struggle without any outside help and worry about the future when they are gone.

Swiss Association Signs MoU With Sa'adi Foundation

TEHRAN (IBNA) -- The Association Papillon in Switzerland signed a memorandum of understanding with Iranian Sa'adi Foundation to develop Persian language.

According to IBNA correspondent quoting the public relations department of Sa'adi Foundation, the MoU was signed at a meeting attended by the representatives of both institutes.

Based on this memorandum of understanding, Sa'adi Foundation will hold courses of Persian language in Switzerland within the framework of its standards.

Furthermore, The Association

Papillon is committed to use the teaching sources compiled by Sa'adi Foundation and employ teachers approved by the foundation, or if it's necessary, the teachers of Papillon Association may attend the Persian teaching courses of the foundation.

Sa'adi Foundation is also tasked with giving support to the talented students of Persian language, preparing and sending Persian language instructors to Switzerland

and holding special workshops.

Cooperation in compiling and printing educational books, organizing Persian courses for the illiterate Afghan people and Iranians who have been born in Switzerland are among the other tasks to be accomplished by the foundation.

In 2016, The Association Papillon won the award "Hail to Stranger" in Switzerland.

Peppermint Oil Controls Nausea in Pregnant Women

TEHRAN (ISNA) - A new study published in Journal of Reproduction & Infertility, affiliated to Jahad Daneshgahi, has explored the effect of peppermint oil on nausea in pregnant women.

Scientists at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Iran have investigated the effect of inhaling the scent of peppermint oil on this type of nausea, referred to as NVP in medicine, Sina Press reported.

The clinical trial was carried out on 56 pregnant women, who visiting Health Center at the university, had complained about NVP.

Here, three questionnaires including Demographic and Midwifery Questionnaire, PUQE Questionnaire and final questionnaire were adopted.

The results show that nausea in the subjects under study decreased by about 30% following inhaling the scent of peppermint oil. However, this reduction was not statistically crucial since satisfaction with the treatment was nearly the same in both the treated subjects and those that had received placebo.

This similarity sounds to be due to some neurological mechanism which is the cause of nausea in pregnant women. Therefore, scientists argue that empowering women to keep their calm while pregnant is vital to reduce the severity of their nausea.

'Pet Man' to Compete at British Lancaster Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian short animated piece 'Pet Man' by Marzieh Abrar-Paydar has made it into the screening program of the 9th Lancaster Film Festival in England.

The 9th edition of Lancaser Film Festival will be held on 23-24 June 2018 in Lancaster in the North

West of England.

Abrar-Paydar's film will go on screen in the animation section of the festival.

'Pet Man' tells the story of an animal dealer who falls asleep in his shop and has a nightmare where he is trapped inside an animal cage. In his attempt to escape from the

animals, he encounters various obstacles.

'Pet Man' has previously won many a number of international awards, including best film award and best characterization award in Kent's Canterbury Festival, best short animation award from the 2nd Sao Paulo Times Film Festival.

Picture of the Day



Aftab International Circus is performs in northern Province of Zanjan, Iran.

Courtesy: IRNA