

This Day in History

(June 13)

Today is Wednesday, 23rd of the Iranian month of Khordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 28th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1439 lunar hijri; and June 13, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1167 lunar years ago, on this day in 272 AH, the prominent Iranian-Islamic astronomer, philosopher and hadith scholar, Abu Mash'ar Ja'far ibn Mohammad al-Balkhi, passed away in Waset, Iraq, at the ripe old age of 102. Abu Ma'shar, who was Latinized by medieval Europe as Albusaras, Albusar, or Albusar, wrote several books including "Kitab al-Mudkhal al-Kabir ila Ilm Ahkaam an-Nujum", "Kitab al-Milal wa'l-Duwal" and "Kitab Tahawil Sini al-Mawalid" (Book of the Revolutions of the Years of Nativities). These and other works were translated into Latin and Greek and had profound effect on western philosophers and scientists such as Albert, Roger Bacon, Pierre d'Ailly, and Pico Della Mirandola.

982 solar years ago, on this day in 1036 AD, Ali az-Zaher, the 7th self-styled caliph of the Ismaili Shi'ite Muslim Fatimid Dynasty of Egypt, North Africa-Syria, died at the age of 31 due to a plague after a 15-year reign. Son of al-Hakim be-Amrillah, his youth and weakness allowed the Turkic slave guards to seize the vizierate, as a result of which the Empire slipped into decadence, although the bid of the Byzantine Christian Empire to encroach upon Syria and Aleppo was thwarted.

693 solar years ago, on this day in 1325 AD, the famous Muslim worldwide traveler, Shams od-Din Mohammad bin Abdullah, popularly known as Ibn Battuta, began his journey, leaving his home in Tangiers for the Hajj pilgrimage to holy Mecca at the age of 24. Born in the northwest African city of Tangiers, which is now in Morocco, after performing the Hajj, he kept on travelling, visiting over a period of thirty years, most of the Islamic world as well as many non-Muslim lands in the three continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. His journeys including trips to North Africa, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe in the West, and to West Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and China, cover a total of 121,000 km, surpassing by threefold the travels of his near-contemporary Marco Polo of Venice. In Iraq, he visited the holy shrine in Najaf of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), and although a Sunni, he has admitted how people from far and near are cured of their ailments on seeking intercession with God through the First Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). He then travelled all over Iran, and after visiting the Byzantine Empire, Europe and Russia, he arrived in India, where he was appointed the Qazi of Delhi by Sultan Mohammad bin Tughlaq. On his return to his homeland Morocco, he again served as Qazi. He dictated to scribes the details of his travels in his book titled "ar-Rehla". He died in 1369 in his homeland.

187 solar years ago, on this day in 1831 AD, Scottish physicist, Clerk Maxwell, was born. He showed that electrical, magnetic and optical phenomena were all united in a single universal force, electromagnetism, and formulated electromagnetic theory.

153 solar years ago, on this day in 1865 AD, poet and playwright, William Butler Yeats, was born to an Anglo-Irish family in a Dublin suburb. He is best remembered for his poems titled "Byzantium" and "Easter 1916." He won the Nobel Prize in 1923. The first volume of his autobiography was "Reveries over Childhood and Youth", published by him in 1915. "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is his best known poem. He died in 1939.

112 solar years ago, on this day in 1906 AD, Sinn Fein was established in Ireland by prominent journalist, Arthur Griffith, as the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), for independence from British colonial rule. Sinn Fein's efforts finally resulted in independence for Southern Ireland in 1921. The party, alongside IRA, continued its political struggle for unity of Northern and Southern Ireland. Finally, after two years of intense negotiations with the British regime and Protestant parties, the leaders of Sinn Fein signed a peace agreement with London on April 10, 1998, according to which Northern Ireland turned into an autonomous region.

126 solar years ago, on this day in 1892 AD, Grand Ayatollah Shaikh Zain ol-Abedin Mazandarani, passed away at the age of 80 in the holy city of Karbala, where he was based as the "Marja'" or Source of Emulation for Shi'a Muslims worldwide.

97 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, with the influx of the first batch of European Jews, the Palestinians launched their national movement against the Zionists. The British, along with Zionist terrorist bands, brutally suppressed the Palestinian people and continued to bring in hundreds of thousands of illegal Jewish migrants from various parts of Europe that resulted in the illegitimate birth of Israel in 1948.

87 lunar years ago, on this day in 1352 AH, the scholar Seyyed Mohammad Sharif Taqavi Vanaki, passed away at the age of 82, and was laid to rest in the Chehl Akhtaran Cemetery of holy Qom in the mausoleum of Imamzadah Musa al-Mubaraqqa - son of Imam Mohammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), the 9th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

77 solar years ago, on this day in 1941 AD, the Soviet Union, which had occupied the former Romanian province a year earlier, loaded 22,600 Moldovans on cargo trains bound for Siberia, where the deportees were used for forced labor.

74 solar years ago, on this day in 1944 AD, the first ever surface-to-surface missile was used in warfare, when Nazi Germany targeted Britain with its V-1. Until then, only warplanes would bomb enemy sites. Missiles were cheaper than aircraft and prevented loss of life and machines. In the aftermath of World War II, other countries developed missile technology and built today's advanced intercontinental ballistic missiles.

40 lunar years ago, on this day in 1399 AH, Qods International Day rallies were held for the first time throughout Iran on the Last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadhan, following the decision taken four days earlier by the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), for mobilizing world Muslims for liberation of Bayt al-Moqaddas and Palestine. Since then, every year, millions of people in Iran and world countries stage rallies calling for the end of the illegal Zionist entity.

38 solar years ago, on this day in 1980 AD, the Founder of Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini (RA), ordered establishment of Cultural Revolution Headquarters for reformation of universities. The message called for plans to evaluate courses based on Islamic culture and values in order to develop Iran's higher education system by removing influences of undesirable western values.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1983 AD, Iran's lady jurisprudent, mujtaheda, and exegete of the Holy Qur'an, Seyyedah Bano Nosrat Begum Amin, passed away in Isfahan at the age of 97. Daughter of Seyyed Mohammad Ali Amin at-Tujjar, she was married to her cousin, Mirza Moin at-Tujjar. Several ladies of her family were noted for their high degree of religious scholarship. Her aunt was the mujtaheda, Seyyedah Hashimiyah at-Tujjar, while her student and husband's niece was the equally prominent, Seyyedah Iffat az-Zamaan Amin Iftekhar at-Tujjar. She groomed numerous lady students, including the famous Zeenat-as Sadaat Homayuni, the director for thirty years of Isfahan's Women's Seminary Maktab-e Fatemah. Bano Nosrat wrote several books such as the 15-volume exegesis of the Holy Qur'an titled "Makhzan al-Irfan" in Persian. She also authored for the moral uplifting of Iranian women the book "Ravesh Khoshbakhti va Towsiyeh beh Khaharan-e Imani" (Methods of Happiness and Prosperity for Sisters-in-Faith). Another of her excellent books is on the unsurpassed merits of the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali (AS) titled "Makhzan al-La'ali fi Manaqeb Mawla-al-Mawali, Ali." She was a staunch supporter of the Islamic Revolution and was held in deep respect by Imam Khomeini (RA).

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, at around 9 a.m. local time, a sacrilegious bomb attack was carried out by agents of Global Arrogance at the holy shrine of al-Askariyayn at Samarra, resulting in the destruction of the two ten-story high gold-plated minarets, flanking the earlier destroyed golden dome. This was the second bombing of the holy shrine of Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS) and Imam Hassan al-Askari (AS) - the 10th and 11th Infallible Successors of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). The first sacrilegious bomb attack had occurred in Samarra on 22nd February 2006, destroying the shrine's magnificent golden dome. The terrorists were on the payroll of Saudi Arabia and the US. The holy shrine is now under construction on a grand scale.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, in the central Philippines a bus rented by Iranian medical students plunged into a ravine while travelling a mountain road, killing 21 people and injuring 26 others.

6 solar years ago, on this day in 2012 AD, Takfiri terrorists, backed by Saudi Arabia and the US, carried out a series of bombings in Shi'a Muslim areas across Iraq, including Baghdad, Hillah, Balad, Taji, and Kirkuk, martyring over a hundred men, women and children, and wounding over 400 others.

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

Mammoths' Footprints Discovered in Iran



TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's Department of Environment announced on Tuesday that it has discovered samples of mammoths which lived in the country 2mln years ago, indicating that the giant animals lived in ancient Iran.

"Samples of two different genders of mammoths whose bodies were not covered with

wool and lived at least 2mln years ago as well as a piece of a fossilized tusk along with the lower jaw and pieces of the elephant's ivory and upper jaw have been found in Ardebil (city in Northwestern Iran)," Zahra Orak, a senior official at the Department of Environment, said on Tuesday.

He added that the fossils and samples belong to mature elephants, noting that one of the tusks is similar to those of Indian elephants.

Orak said it can be an indication that a similar type of the current Indian elephant lived in Iran 2mln years ago.

A mammoth is any species of the extinct genus Mammuthus, proboscideans commonly

equipped with long, curved tusks and, in northern species, a covering of long hair.

They lived from the Pliocene epoch (from around 5 million years ago) into the Holocene at about 4,500 years ago in Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America. They were members of the family Elephantidae, which also contains the two genera of modern elephants and their ancestors. Mammoths stem from an ancestral species called M. africanavus, the African mammoth. These mammoths lived in Northern Africa and disappeared about 3 or 4 million years ago. Descendants of these mammoths moved North and eventually covered most of Eurasia.

Iran Vocalist to Perform With European Ensembles



Iranian traditional vocalist Mohammad Motamedi.

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian prominent traditional vocalist Mohammad Motamedi will perform jointly with three European ensembles in the Netherlands, late May.

Speaking with Mehr correspondent Alireza Saeedi, Motamedi said he will kick off his new round of international concerts in the form of a new musical project in late May this year in the Netherlands, jointly with three main European music groups.

Elaborating more on his new concert program, Motamedi said he will perform as a singer for the three European ensembles, Colfax Wind Quintet, Matangi String Quartet and Rembrandt Trio, all of which are internationally highly acclaimed in their fields. The virtuoso of the Persian stringed instruments Hossein Alizadeh and Persian Kamancheh Maestro Kayhan Kalhor have also recently performed with the Dutch music ensemble Rembrandt Frerichs Trio in Tehran, he noted.

Pointing to the features of these live performances, held in the form of Oriental Landscape festival, he explained "all three ensembles have a lot of experiences with singers from different countries, and this is for the first time they are to perform with an Iranian singer.

"The concerts will be performed in four cities of Amsterdam on June 15, Assen on June 16, Den Haag on June 21 and Utrecht on June 22," he added.

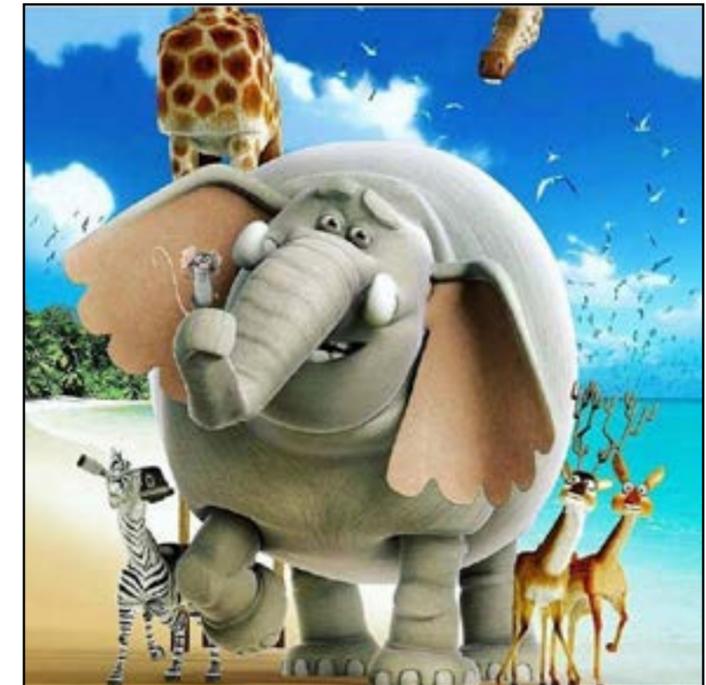
'The Elephant King' Wins Audience Attention at Intl. Annecy Festival

PARIS (Dispatches)-Iran animation "The Elephant King" directed by Hadi Mohammadian won the audience attention at the prestigious Annecy animation festival in France.

The animation produced by Iran-based Honar Pooya Group, went on the silver screen at the beginning of the new Iranian calendar year, during which attracted record breaking audience.

"The Elephant King" has been screened in Lebanon's cinemas selling some \$500,000, said Hamed Jafari, the producer of the animation, adding that there are plans for its screening in Iraq and Jordan.

The animation tells the story of an elephant herd in Africa who has a child that everyone expects to be deputy head of the herd, but contrary to everyone's expectations, the clumsy baby elephant disappoints them all.



One of the most prestigious Animated Film Festival began animation events across the world, Annecy International June 11 and will be closed by June 16.

Picture of the Day



Situated in Iran's Western Hamedan province, Lalejin is considered the main Iranian city regarding the production of pottery items. Some 20,000 individuals live in the city, 60 percent of whom are potters, ceramists or involved in other related jobs. The city was registered as 'World Craft City for Pottery' by UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council in 2016.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency