

This Day in History

(June 18)

Today is Monday; 28th of the Iranian month of Khordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 4th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1439 lunar hijri; and June 18, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1400 solar years ago, on this day in 618 AD, Li Yuan became Emperor Gaozu of Tang, initiating three centuries of Tang Dynasty rule over China.

1277 solar years ago, on this day in 741 AD, Byzantine emperor, Leo III the Isaurian, died at the age of 56 after a reign of 24 years, having seized the throne treacherously in 717, by deceitfully orchestrating the defeat of the Omayyad siege of Constantinople.

727 solar years ago, on this day 1291 AD, Alfonso III of Aragon died at the age of 26 years. He was hostile to the Muslims of Spain and during his 6-year reign occupied the Muslim state of Manurqa in the Balearic group of islands in the Mediterranean Sea – known today as Minorca

206 solar years ago, on this day in 1812 AD, the US Congress declared war on Britain and Canada. The war lasted two years and eight months. Although no boundary changes occurred, its outcome resolved many issues which remained from the rebellion of the 13 New England colonies that declared themselves the United States of America and fought the 8-year war (1775-1783) to force the British to grant independence. The US declared war for several reasons, including trade restrictions brought about by Britain's continuing war with France, the impressments of American merchant sailors into the Royal Navy, British support of American Indian tribes against US expansion, and American plan in annexing British North American territory (part of modern-day Canada).

203 solar years ago, on this day in 1815 AD, the decisive Battle of Waterloo marked the end of the power and conquests of French emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. Fought near the village of Waterloo in Belgium, the British and the Prussian armies led by Duke of Wellington and Von Blucher, sealed the fate of Napoleon, who was subsequently captured by the British and sent to exile to Saint Helena Island, where he died a few years later.

179 lunar years ago, on this day in 1260 AH, the prominent Indian Islamic scholar, Seyyed Mohammad Dildari, was born. He initially learned sciences under his father and later on under the renowned Islamic scholars of his day. Thereafter, he compiled numerous valuable books. Among the 40 works he left behind, mention can be made of "Emad al-Ijtihad" on jurisprudence.

118 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, Empress Dowager Longyu of China ordered all foreigners killed, including foreign diplomats and their families.

97 lunar years ago, on this day in 1342 AH, Grand Ayatollah Abdul-Hussain Lari passed away at the age of 79 and was laid to rest in Jahrom. He completed his higher studies in holy Najaf, Iraq, where after attaining the status of Ijtihad, he was deputized to Iran's Fars Province by Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi – famous for his fatwa against tobacco to save Iranian economy from British exploitation. Ayatollah Lari led the people of Shiraz and Fars during the Constitutional Revolution, and firmly backed the people of Tangistan, near Bushehr in the struggle against British invasion of 1915. He groomed several students and wrote around 40 books on jurisprudence, theology, Hadith, and social issues.

90 solar years ago, on this day in 1928 AD, Norwegian polar explorer, Roald Engelbregt Amundsen, disappeared along with five crew in the Arctic at the age 55 and was given up as dead after a search of several months. The bodies were never found.

82 solar years ago, on this day in 1936 AD, the famous Russian author and political activist, Alexei Maximovich Peshkov, known by his penname Maxim Gorky ("bitter advice" in Russian), died at the age of 68. It is believed that he was killed by agents of Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin. Born in Nizhny Novgorod, the abysmal poverty of his family, forced him to work during his studies. He started writing stories very soon and while working at railway workshop at Tbilisi, Georgia, his first story was published in the local newspaper. His stories brought him money and fame. He focused on the miserable life of the Russian people and sought solutions to social problems. The brutal shooting of workers marching to the Tsar with a petition for reform on 9 January 1905 (known as the "Bloody Sunday"), which set in motion the abortive Revolution of 1905, made Gorky closely associated with Vladimir Lenin and Alexander Bogdanov's Bolshevik wing of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. He wrote the play "Children of the Sun", nominally set during an 1862 cholera epidemic, but universally understood to relate to contemporary events. He next wrote the famous book "Mother", in admiration of the struggles of Russian workers and as a result had to leave Russia in 1906. He lived in exile, mostly on the Italian island of Capri until an amnesty granted in 1913 on the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty allowed him to return to Russia, where he continued his social criticism. During World War I and the revolutionary period of 1917, his apartment turned into Bolshevik staff headquarters. These relations became strained, however, after his newspaper "Novaya Zhizn" was subjected to Bolshevik censorship during the ensuing civil war. Gorky published a collection of essays critical of the Bolsheviks called "Untimely Thoughts" in 1918. The essays call Lenin a tyrant for his senseless arrests and repression of free discourse, and an anarchist for his conspiratorial tactics. Gorky compared Lenin to the Tsar. He termed Lenin "a cold-blooded trickster who spares neither the honor nor the life of the proletariat." He was exiled and spent the period from 1921 to 1928 living abroad, mostly in Sorrento, Italy, where he wrote several successful books. On the personal invitation of Stalin, he returned definitively to the Soviet Union in 1932, and for a while was officially feted by the dictator for propaganda purposes. With the increase of Stalinist repression, especially after the assassination of Sergei Kirov in December 1934, Gorky was placed under house arrest. Two years later after the sudden death of his son, he also suspiciously died.

65 solar years ago, on this day in 1953 AD, Egypt became a republic, ending the 150-year rule of the Khedive Dynasty founded by Mohammad Ali Pasha, the Albanian general of the Ottoman Sultan. Egypt's failure in its confrontation with the illegal Zionist entity in 1948 war led to resentment among Egyptians toward King Farouq, leading to formation of a secret organization in the army, known as the Free Officers Movement, opposed to British domination. In 1952 a coup led by Major General Mohammad Najib and Colonel Jamal Abdun-Nasser, forced the king to abdicate in favour of his young son Ahmad Fouad, who was subsequently deposed this day on announcement of the republic and declaration of Najib as president. A year later Najib was ousted by Nasser, who espoused the Pan Arab policy for revolutions in different Arab states.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, the prominent jurisprudent Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Khosrowshahi, passed away in his hometown Tabriz, four months after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, for the success of which he had openly announced support for Imam Khomeini (RA) at the start of the Khordad 15 uprising (June 5, 1963), braving imprisonment from the regime. In fact, right since his youthful years as a religious student he was a fierce opponent of the anti-Islamic policies of the British-installed Pahlavi potentate, Reza Khan, who exiled him to Semnan and later Mashhad, where he benefitted from the classes of the leading ulema. Later when the political atmosphere of Iran became a bit relaxed, he shifted to holy Qom where he attained the status of Ijtihad, and embarked on teaching.

21 solar years ago, on this day in 1997 AD, Turkish premier, Najm od-Din Erbakan, was undemocratically removed from office by the laic military generals because of his attempts to restore to the Muslim masses of Turkey their denied rights and lost identity. Born in the northern city of Sinop, he studied Mechanical Engineering at Istanbul University, on the completion of which he left for Germany to obtain a PhD at Aachen University. On return to Turkey, he was appointed a university professor in 1967. He entered politics in 1969, and was soon elected MP. He founded several Islamic-oriented parties, which the military authorities forcibly dissolved. He became leader of the Welfare Islamic Party in 1987, and in 1996 was democratically elected as Prime Minister. His Islamic policies were unbearable for the Kemalist military, the Zionist entity called Israel, and the US. He was ousted a year later, his party was outlawed, and he was banned from political activities for five years. Erbakan died in 2011 at the age of 84.

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

Asiatic Cheetah Spotted in Qasr-e Shirin



TEHRAN (MNA) – Acting Governor of Qasr-e Shirin in Kermanshah province said an Asiatic cheetah has been spotted by Army forces stationed in the County on Saturday. Moradali Tatar said army forces stationed in the area reported on Saturday the sighting of an

Asiatic Cheetah in Hedayat village near Tangeh Hammam in Qasr-e Shirin County in west of Iran

He added that necessary coordination has been made with the area's department of environmental protection and trap cameras will be soon installed in Hedayat village in order to capture footage of this endangered species

He said the sighting of an Asiatic Cheetah will increase the significance of Qasr-e Shirin both nationally and internationally

Back in March, four Asiatic cheetahs were sighted in Touran Biosphere Reserve in Shahroud, Semnan Province.

Gene Therapy Restores Some Spinal Cord Function in Rats

LONDON (Dispatches)-When given the gene therapy, rats with spinal cord injuries were able to accurately reach and grasp for objects.

Scientists using gene therapy on rats with spinal cord damage were able to prompt the animals to relearn some hand movements, offering promise for people who have suffered certain traumatic injuries.

Researchers at King's College London tested new gene therapy for regenerating damaged tissue in the spinal cord that can be turned on and off using a common antibiotic. When turned on, rats

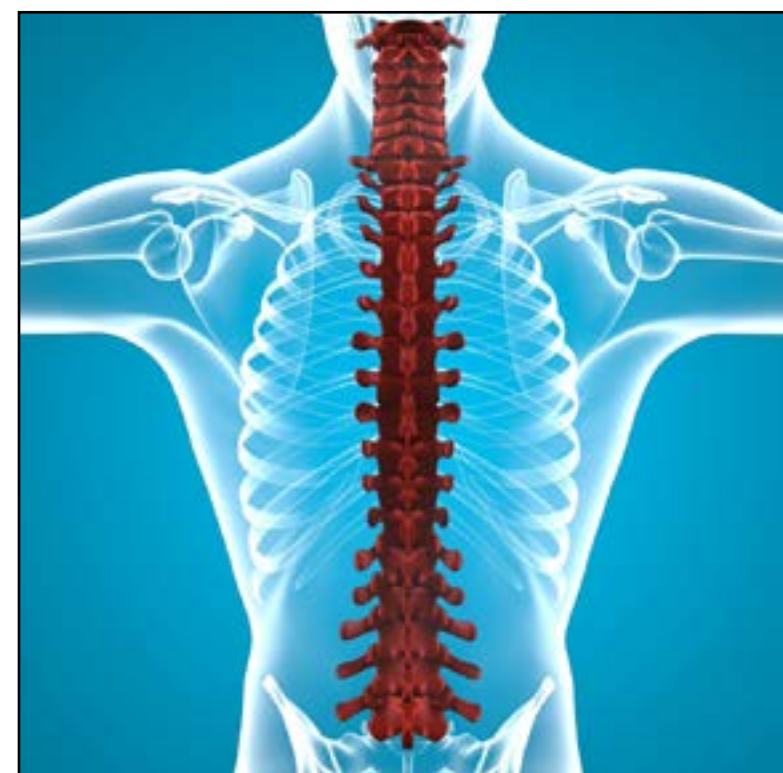
were able to learn skilled hand movements again.

Most spinal cord injuries happen at the neck and affect all four limbs. People who experience such injuries are often unable to perform common, everyday actions that require hand function, such as writing, brushing their teeth and picking up objects.

Elizabeth Bradbury, a professor of regenerative medicine and neuroplasticity at King's College said that the ability to control how long the regenerative therapy is administered is "exciting" because it "means we can hone in on the optimal amount of time needed for recovery."

"Gene therapy provides a way of treating large areas of the spinal cord with only one injection, and with the switch we can now turn the gene off when it is no longer needed," Bradbury said.

Researchers administered the gene therapy to rats with spinal injuries that most closely resembled the type humans experience after traumatic impacts such as falls or automobile accidents. Emily Burnside, a research associate at King's College Institute of



Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, said that rats and humans use similar sequences of coordinated movements when reaching and grasping for objects.

When the rats received the gene therapy for two months, they

were able to accurately reach and grasp sugar pellets. Researchers also observed a drastic increase in activity in their spinal cords. This suggests that new connections were forming in the networks of the nerve cells.

Iran Film Lineup Heads to Ecuador



TEHRAN (IFILM) - A lineup of Iranian films is currently in competition at FECIP - Portoviejo Film Festival in Ecuador.

"Are You Volleyball?" by Mohammad Bakhshi, "Dream" by Mohammad Farajzadeh and Barzan Rostami's "Balance" are among the titles in competition.

The list also includes "Oneness" by Shahab Ghaffari and Mina Hosseinabadi, Shapour Haghghat's "The Silence", Araz Pourvatan's "Free Fly from the Fifth Floor" and "Sara" by Hadi Shariati.

Portoviejo Film Festival is a nascent festival where art makers share for four days of magic on the big screen.

The second round of the film event is scheduled for June 14-17, 2018 in Portoviejo city of Ecuador.

Picture of the Day



Iran's southern port city of Bandar Lengeh's Fekri house was known as a trade and commerce center of this city.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency