

This Day in History

(May 26)

Today is Saturday; 5th of the Iranian month of Khordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 10th of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1439 lunar hijri; and May 26, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1567 solar years ago, on this day in 451 AD, the Battle of Avarayr between Armenian rebels and the Sassanid Empire took place in what is now the Republic of Armenia in the Caucasus. The Iranians led by Yazdegerd II defeated the Armenians militarily, but were unable to reconvert them to Zoroastrianism. In 484, Emperor Peroz I, as per the Treaty of Nvarsak, granted the Armenians freedom to openly practice Christianity, after the Armenian Church formally separated from the Latin Catholic Church of Rome and the Greek Orthodox Church of Constantinople.

1442 lunar years ago, on this day, three years before Hijra, the First Lady of Islam, Omm al-Momineen or Mother of all True Believers, Hazrat Khadija (SA), passed away in Mecca. She spent 25 years of marital bliss with Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), and as long as she was alive, the Prophet never took another spouse. A staunch monotheist, following the creed of Prophet Abraham, when 15 years after her marriage God formally entrusted her husband with the universal message of Islam, she promptly believed in his mission. As the richest lady of Arabia, she spent all her wealth for the promotion of Islam, and to feed, clothe and shelter the persecuted neo Muslim community, to the extent that when she breathed her last there was no monetary or property inheritance left for her orphaned daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). Since within a year of the passing away of Hazrat Khadijah (SA), the Prophet lost to the cold hands of death his loving uncle and guardian, Hazrat Abu Taleb (AS), the year has become famous in Islamic history as “Aam al-Hozn” (Year of Grief). The Prophet cherished the memory of the faithful Khadija (SA) till the end of his life, despite marrying several women out of social necessity in the last ten years of his life.

1379 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, Imam Husain (AS), the younger grandson and 3rd Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), received the first batch of letters in Mecca from the notables of Kufa inviting him to Iraq for deliverance of the Islamic realm from the Godless rule of Yazid ibn Mu’awiyah. In due course, the number of these letters reached 12,000, and the Imam sent his cousin, Muslim ibn Aqeel, to Iraq to probe the situation. When the tyrant Yazid sent assassins in the garb of pilgrims to assassinate him, the Imam, in order to safeguard the inviolable sanctity of the holy Ka’ba and its surroundings from any spilling of blood, left for Iraq, where those who had ardently invited him, not just turned their backs upon him, but ganged up with the brutal Omayyad hordes to cruelly martyr him, his family members, and his companions, on the plain of Karbala.

954 lunar years ago, on this day in 485 AH, the renowned vizier of the Seljuqid Dynasty, Hassan Ibn Ali Ibn Ishaq Tusi, titled Khwajah Nizam ul-Mulk, was assassinated near Nahavand at the age of 75 while on his way to Baghdad from the capital Isfahan. Nizam ul-Mulk is also widely known for his treatise on kingship titled “Siyasat-Nama” or “Siyar al-Molouk” (Book of Government).

725 solar years ago, on this day in 1293 AD, an earthquake struck Kamakura, Kanagawa, Japan, killing about 30,000.

597 solar years ago, on this day in 1421 AD, the 5th Ottoman Sultan, Mohammad I Chalabi, died after a reign of 8 years, at the age of 31 and was buried at Bursa. He was a son of Bayezid I, while his mother was Dowlat Khatun, was a daughter of Yaqoub Shah, the ruler of the principality of Germiyan and a descendant of the famous Iranian mystic and Persian poet, Mowlana Jalal od-Din Rumi.

506 solar years ago, on this day in 1512 AD, the 8th Ottoman sultan, Bayezid II, died after a 31-year reign, a month after being forced to abdicate the throne by his rebellious son, Selim I. Bayezid II, who brutally suppressed several popular uprisings by the Qizilbash or Shi’a Muslims of Anatolia that were influenced by the Safavid Empire of Iran, is notable for resettling tens of thousands of Jews from Spain throughout the Ottoman Empire after proclamation of the Alhambra Decree by the Christian rulers of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella. Bayezid II engaged in numerous campaigns to conquer the Venetian possessions in Morea. The last of these wars ended in 1501 with his gaining control of the whole Peloponnese Peninsula or present day southern Greece.

381 solar years ago, on this day in 1637 AD, A combined Protestant and Mohegan force under the English Captain John Mason attacked a Pequot village in Connecticut, massacring over 500 Native Americans. The white settlers from Europe were notorious for their genocide of the so-called Red Indians, and their enslavement of the black people kidnapped from Africa and made to toil as slaves in the New World.

365 solar years ago, on this day in 1653 AD, Robert Filmer, the English political theorist who irrationally defended the divine right of kings, died at the age of 65. His best known work, “Patriarcha”, published posthumously in 1680, was the target of numerous Whig attempts at rebuttal, including Algernon Sidney’s “Discourses Concerning Government”, James Tyrrell’s “Patriarcha Non Monarcha” and John Locke’s “Two Treatises of Government”.

315 solar years ago, on this day in 1703 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, died at the age of 70. The detailed private diary Pepys kept from 1660 until 1669 was first published in the 19th century and is one of the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period. It provides a combination of personal revelation and eyewitness accounts of such important events, as the Great Plague of London, the Second Dutch War, and the Great Fire of London.

164 lunar years ago, on this day in 1275 AH, the prominent scholar of Iraq, Sheikh Hussain ibn Shaikh Radhi ibn Sheikh Nasar an-Najafi, passed away.

135 solar years ago, on this day in 1883 AD, Algerian freedom fighter, Seyyed Abdul-Qader ibn Mohi od-Din al-Hassani al-Jaza’iri, died in Damascus, Syria at the age of 75, and was buried near the tomb of the famous Spanish Muslim Gnostic, Sheikh Mohi od-Din Ibn Arabi.

110 solar years ago, on this day in 1908 AD, oil was recovered for the first time in Iran in the Masjid Suleiman area in the southwest, at a 60-meter depth, with oil gushing up to a height of 25 meters. The Masjid Suleiman area is of paramount importance in regard to its mines and hydrocarbons and up to now more than 250 oil wells have been drilled. Iran also possesses the world’s second largest natural gas reserves as well. Oil seepages had been noted for centuries in Iran, where the oozing was used for such purposes as the caulking of boats and the binding of bricks.

52 solar years ago, on this day in 1966 AD, Guyana became independent from centuries of British rule, and four years later became a republic. Guyana was occupied by the Spanish in late 15th century and seized by Britain in the 17th century.

37 solar years ago, on this day in 1981 AD, the 6-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), was set up by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. The goals were given as economic, political, and military coordination to deter foreign threats to the region, but the PGCC has turned out to be an instrument of US neo-colonialist policies in the Persian Gulf, and indulges in sowing seeds of discord and fanning ethnic tensions among Muslims of the region.

37 lunar years ago, on this day in 1402 AH, prominent Islamic scholar, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadouqi, was martyred by MKO terrorists while leading the Friday Prayer in his hometown Yazd. Born in a scholarly family tracing its descent from the famous jurispudent, Abu Ja’far Mohammad ibn Ali Ibn Bab, popular as Shaikh Sadouq, after initial studies in Yazd and Isfahan, he studied Islamic sciences and theology in holy Qom for 21 years. His teachers included Ayatollah Shaikh Abdul-Karim Ha’iri Yazdi, Ayatollah Seyyed Sadr od-Din as-Sadr, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Khwansari, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Boroujerdi, and the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (God bless him). He was politically active against the British-installed and American-backed Pahlavi regime, beginning from the famous 15th of Khordad Uprising. Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he was elected to the Assembly of Experts, and played a valuable role in preparation of Islamic Iran’s Constitution. As a representative of Imam Khomeini, and the Friday Prayer leader of Yazd, he spared no efforts to develop the region, and also visited the frontlines of the war imposed by the US through Saddam.

28 solar years ago, on this day in 1990 AD, Dr. Ali Akbar Siyasi, the Father of Modern Iranian Psychology, passed away in his hometown Tehran at the age of 92. Among the books he wrote are “Introduction to Philosophy” (1947), “Logic and Methodology” (1948), “Mind and Body” (1953), “The Psychology of Avicenna and its similarities with Modern Psychology” (1954), “Logic and Philosophy” (1958), “Intelligence and Reason” (1962), “Criminal Psychology” (1964), and “Psychology of Personality” (1975).

13 solar years ago, on this day in 2005 AD, Iran’s celebrated Mo’azzen or Caller to Prayer, Rahim Mo’azzen Zadeh Ardabili, passed away in Tehran at the age of 80. This Azan is still broadcast by the radio and the TV. He used to say: “During the last years, a spiritual pride had been along with me for recording this prayer call, and this spiritual wealth is enough for me.”

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

International Festivals to Host ‘Nobody’



TEHRAN (IFILM) - Iran animation “Nobody” has been

scheduled to be screened at 2 International Film Festivals.

Based in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Spain, the two festivals to

screen the film include:

1. The 13th edition of Neum Animated International Film Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina (June 30 - July 6 July 2018)

2. The 11th edition of BUEU International Film Festival in Spain. (September 7-15, 2018)

Directed by Elham Taraqi, “Nobody” tells the story of a white cat living in city of black residents. The cat tries hard to get food but no one seems bothered to give any.

The animation has so far succeeded to attend several international animation festivals including 22nd edition of the ANIMAC International Film Festival in Spain, the 11th edition of the ANIMANIMA International Animation Festival in Serbia, and the first edition of Bute Street Film Festival in the UK.

Depression May Speed Up Brain Aging



LONDON (Dispatches) - Psychologists have found a link between depression and an acceleration of the rate at which the brain ages.

Researchers from University of Sussex conducted a robust systematic review of 34 longitudinal studies, with the focus on the link between depression or anxiety and decline in cognitive function over time. Evidence from more than 71,000 participants was combined and reviewed. Including people who presented with symptoms of depression as well as those that were diagnosed as clinically depressed, the study looked at the rate of decline of overall cognitive state -- encompassing memory loss, executive function (such as decision making) and information processing speed -- in older adults.

The study found that people with depression experienced a greater decline in cognitive state in older adulthood than those without depression. As there is a long pre-clinical period of several decades before dementia may be diagnosed, the findings are important for early interventions as currently there is no cure for the disease.

Although scientists have previously reported that people with depression or anxiety have an increased risk of dementia in later life, this is the first study that provides comprehensive evidence for the effect of depression on decline in overall cognitive function (also referred to as cognitive state), in a general population.

Rice Becomes Less Nutritious as CO2 Levels Rise

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will reduce the nutritional value of rice, according to an international research team that analyzed rice samples from field experiments.

“Rice is not just a major source of calories, but also proteins and vitamins for many people in developing countries and for poorer communities within developed countries,” said Professor Kazuhiko Kobayashi of the University of Tokyo, co-author of the recent study and expert in effects of air pollution on agriculture.

Populations in countries with both the highest rice consumption and lowest gross domestic product may experience more malnutrition as the nutritional value of low-cost staple foods like rice declines. Not all varieties of rice responded in the same way, so future research projects may examine the possibility of finding varieties of rice that can



remain nutritious despite the change in the atmosphere.

Researchers analyzed a total of 18 different varieties of rice for protein, iron, and zinc levels. Nine varieties of rice grown in China were used for the vitamin B1, B2, B5, and B9 analyses. Other common names for the vitamins are thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2), pantothenic acid (B5), and folate (B9).

Six hundred million people primarily in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Madagascar consume at least 50 percent of their daily energy and/or protein directly from rice. This was also true in Japan during the 1960s, but current Japanese receive only about 20 percent of their daily food energy from rice.

Picture of the Day



Azarbaijan Museum, established on April 1958, is the major archaeological and historical museum in Tabriz. This Museum, including three exhibition halls, some office rooms and library, is one of the largest museums of Iran.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency