

This Day in History

(June 23)

Today is Saturday; 2nd of the Iranian month of Tir 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 9th of the Islamic month of Shawwal 1439 lunar hijri; and June 23, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1329 lunar years ago, on this day in 110 AH, the well-known interpreter of dreams, Mohammad Ibn Sirin, died at the age of 77. Born in the Iraqi port city of Basra to a bondmaid and a father of Greek-Syrian ancestry, named Sirin, who was given by Caliph Omar Ibn Khattab as a slave to Anas bin Malek – the not so obedient servant of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – he was of sharp memory and worked as a cloth merchant. After learning the holy Qur'an and the hadith literature, he led an ascetic way of life and soon established himself as an interpreter of dreams. His sources of narration are rather weak because of his lack of access to the Prophet's blessed progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt.

738 solar years ago, on this day in 1280 AD, the Spanish Muslim defenders of the Emirate of Granada decisively defeated an invasion by European Christian mercenaries at the Battle of Moclin. Amir Mohammad II personally led the attack on the Castilian and Leonese invaders around the city of Moclin, inflicting heavy casualties. In addition to the common foot soldiers, over 2,800 Castilian-Leonese knights, most of the knights in the service of the Order of Santiago, were defeated and killed by the Muslim forces.

482 solar years ago, on this day in 1536 AD, French priest, John Calvin formally raised his objections in Geneva, Switzerland, against the beliefs of the Catholic Church, as part of the Protestant Movement founded earlier by Martin Luther. He set up a council of priests to administer Geneva as per his beliefs which he elaborated in a book, in which he rejected the power of the Pope and the Church. Calvinism, as his belief is known, erred in ascribing predestination to God Almighty, alleging that good or bad deeds committed by human beings have no impact on their fate in afterlife. This wrong belief led many Christians to freely commit all sorts of abominable sins on the false assumption that Jesus will save them in the Hereafter. Calvin was burnt alive in 1564 by the orders of the Catholic Church for distorting the teachings of the Bible.

453 solar years ago, on this day in 1565 AD, Ottoman naval commander, Turgut Ra'ees, died during the Siege of the Mediterranean island of Malta by the Turks. Born into a Greek family, he had converted to Islam at an early age, and grew up into an expert gunner and sailor, whose services were utilized by the Ottomans during the conquest of Mamluk Egypt. He subsequently served as admiral in the Mediterranean Sea, and for over forty years subjugated and captured many islands and the coastal areas of the Italian kingdoms and Spain, never allowing the Genoese, the Venetians, and the Spanish fleets to dominate the region or setting foot on the north African coast. He freed the Libyan sea port of Tripoli from the 21-year occupation of the Christian Knights. He liberated the fort of Jerba near Tunis from Spanish occupation after a 63-day siege, and earlier he took control of the Mediterranean island of Corsica and the city of Catania in Malta to free some seven thousand Muslim captives. For his services, Sultan Sulaiman appointed him Beglarbeigi of Algeria and later promoted him to Pasha (governor) of Tripolitania. He greatly adorned Tripoli and made it the most beautiful of the Mediterranean coast. He also built Tunis and made it into a leading trade centre. At the time of his death, he was serving as supreme Ottoman naval commander of the Mediterranean, having succeeded to the post in 1546 on the death of the famous Khayr od-Din Pasha (Barbarosa or Redbeard).

402 solar years ago, on this day in 1616 AD, Moghal Prince Shah Shuja was born in Ajmer to Prince Khorram, who was later crowned Emperor Shah Jahan. Shuja's mother was the lady of Iranian origin, Arjamand Bano, titled Momtaz Mahal, in whose memory her beloved husband built the famous wonder of the world, the white marble mausoleum Taj Mahal in Agra. Shuja, who was a follower of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, was appointed governor of the provinces of Bengal and Bihar in 1641 and in 1648 his father added the province of Orissa to his dominions – a post he held till 1661 when he was killed in the 2-year war of succession. The bid for the throne started in 1659 among the four sons of the bedridden Moghal Emperor Shah Jahan. Shah Shuja after declaring himself emperor in Dhaka (currently capital of Bangladesh) marched towards Delhi, but lost a decisive battle at Khajwa to his younger brother Aurangzeb, who sent the Iranian general Mir Jumla to pursue him. Shah Shuja fled to Arakan in what is now Myanmar or Burma, where the local ruler after receiving him, demanded jewels for a safe passage to Mecca, but in the end betrayed and killed him, along with his sons and daughters.

261 solar years ago, on this day in 1757 AD, the Battle of Plassey took place in Bengal between the forces of Nawab Mirza Mohammad Siraj od-Dowlah and the British, who with the help of traitors like Mir Ja'far, Rai Durlabh and Omichand, defeated the Indian forces. The young Siraj od-Dowlah, who was of Iranian origin was caught and murdered, and Robert Clive, the commander of the British forces, installed Mir Ja'far – also of Iranian origin – as the new Nawab of Bengal, after extracting huge concessions from him. With this battle the British established their foothold in India and would over the next half-century take control of most of the Subcontinent.

110 solar years ago, on this day in 1908 AD, Iran's first parliament following the victory of the Constitutional Movement, was attacked by the Qajarid king, Mohammad Ali Shah and closed down. On the Shah's orders, the Cossack brigade, led by Russian Colonel Vladimir Liakhov, besieged the parliament resulting in a confrontation with the constitutionalists. Several Iranian freedom fighters were martyred, while many others were incarcerated or sent into exile. Among those hanged by the king were the prominent preacher Malik ul-Motakallemin and Mirza Jahangir Khan Shirazi, the editor of the daily "Soor-e Israfeel".

79 solar years ago, on this day in 1939 AD, the French colonialists illegally handed over to Turkey the Syrian port city of Iskenderun, along with the historical city of Antakya (Antioch) and what is now called the Hatay Province, as reward to Kamal Ataturk for his anti-Islamic policies. This led to flare up of anti-French sentiments in Syria, which has not given up its claim to this region, which has now become the base of terrorists operating against the government of Syria with the support of Turkey, France, Britain, the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

57 solar years ago, on this day in 1961 AD, during the Cold War, the Antarctic Treaty, which set aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve and banned military activity on this continent of the South Pole, came into force.

33 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, a bomb planted by Sikh terrorists aboard Air India Flight 182 brought down the Boeing 747 down off the coast of Ireland killing all 329 aboard. The flight was on its way from Montreal, Canada to Delhi, India, with a stopover in London.

29 solar years ago, on this in 1989 AD, the Syrian Christian Michel Aflaq, who founded the terroristic Arab Ba'th Party, died in Baghdad at the age of 79. He was a personal friend of the tyrant Saddam, but was derided by the Syrian Ba'th Party which expelled him from Syria and called him a thief who actually stole the ideas of the Alawite Arab nationalist Zaki al-Arsuzi. Aflaq and the Ba'thists believed in violent measures in seizing power and brutally crushing any resistance to their chauvinistically seditious designs. Saddam had built a turquoise-domed mausoleum for Aflaq, but today his heavily-damaged tomb, after being used by US troops as a temporary barracks, has been turned into a shopping mall, with the grave disappearing under a supermarket stacked with a variety of goods, such as foodstuff, track suits, and DVDs hailing the freedom of Iraq from the 35-year reign of terror of the repressive Ba'th minority regime.

5 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, Egypt's prominent religious scholar, Sheikh Hassan Shehata, was brutally martyred by a gang of Takfiri terrorists in the village of Abu Mussalam in Giza Province, in the early morning hours after holding night prayers and supplications on the auspicious eve of 15th Sha'ban, the birth anniversary of the Lord of the Age, Imam Mahdi (AS), the 12th and Last Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny). The Takfiris, who are the avowed enemies of the Blessed Household of the Prophet of Islam, burst into the house and dragged Shehata and four other Muslims, beating them violently until they died. Unfortunately, Egypt's first ever democratically elected president, Mohammad Morsi, despite his claims of Islamic unity, turned a blind eye to this horrible act of terrorism, and was overthrown in a US-Saudi backed military coup ten days later.

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

Iran, Tajikistan Keen On Strengthening Cultural Ties



Former Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan Ali-Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari.

TEHRAN (MNA) – Former Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan Ali-Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari called for strengthening and enhancing cultural commonalities and popular communications

between the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan.

Currently, joint cultural programs are followed up between Iran and Tajikistan seriously, he stressed.

Tajikistan is regarded as a part

of great Khorasan and for this purpose, Iran has more cultural and ethnical commonalities with neighboring Tajikistan, he said, adding, "it is a matter of happiness to say that Tajik people attach

great importance to their Iranian counterparts."

Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country that set up its embassy in Tajikistan after the collapse of USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic), he maintained.

He further noted to strengthening popular relationship between the two countries of Iran and Tajikistan and said, "for this purpose, Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association was set up in 2007, so that we could strengthen ties between people of the two countries significantly."

"We are following up common cultural activities in Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association," he said, adding, "although Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) are suffering from shortage of financial resources, it was tried to promote cultural relationship between the two countries through commemorating luminaries, organizing exhibitions of book and night of poetry."

Shabestari proposed setting up a permanent secretariat for the collection of bilateral researches that can increase knowledge of people of the two countries on luminaries and distinguished personalities.

Iran Festival of Youth Music Announces Deadline for Entries



TEHRAN (IFILM) - The National Festival of Youth Music announces deadline for entries.

The musicians have to send their artworks before June 25, 2018 to participate at the 12th edition of the event.

Over 500 solo and group performances in various genres will be performed by the young musicians during the event – also called the Festival of Junior Music.

The festival will be divided into various parts such as a traditional section, the latter of which will be moderated by veteran musician Hossein Alizadeh.

Musicians in the classical style as well as regional performances are also featured at the event.

The Iran Music Association is the main organizer of the 11th National Festival of Youth Music.

High Salt Intake Linked to Early Death



BOSTON (Dispatches) - A new study confirms that not only eating foods high in salt contributes to high blood pressure, but linear relationship extend to increased risk of cardiovascular disease and death, report researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"Sodium is notoriously hard to measure," said Nancy Cook, ScD, a biostatistician in the Department of Medicine at BWH. "Sodium is hidden -- you often don't know how much of it you're eating, which makes it hard to estimate how much a person has consumed from a dietary questionnaire. Sodium excretions are the best measure, but there are many ways of collecting those.

In our work, we used multiple measures to get a more accurate picture."

Sodium intake can be measured using a spot test to determine how much salt has been excreted in a person's urine sample. However, sodium levels in urine can fluctuate throughout the day so an accurate measure of a person's sodium intake on a given day requires a full 24-hour sample. In addition, sodium consumption may change from day to day, meaning that the best way to get a full picture of sodium intake is to take samples on multiple days.

While previous studies have used spot samples and the Kawasaki formula, the team assessed sodium intake in multiple ways, including estimates based on that formula as well as ones based on the gold-standard method, which uses the average of multiple, non-consecutive urine samples. They assessed results for participants in the Trials of Hypertension Prevention, which included nearly 3,000 individuals with pre-hypertension.

The gold-standard method showed a direct linear relationship between increased sodium intake and increased risk of death. The team found that the Kawasaki formula suggested a J-shaped curve, which would imply that both low levels and high levels of sodium consumption were associated with increased mortality.

Picture of the Day



Alamut Fortress in northwest of Tehran.

Courtesy: IRNA