

This Day in History

(July 16)

Today is Monday, 25th of the Iranian month of Tir 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 2nd of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1439 lunar hijri; and July 16, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1396 solar years ago, on this day in 622 AD, the Islamic lunar calendar began. It was fixed in 638 AD, 16 solar years after the passing away of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), when confusion arose regarding the dates and years to be followed. During his caliphate Omar ibn Khattab, who had banned the written compilation of the Prophet's hadith and even rejected the collection of the ayahs of the holy Qur'an in book form as *Mus'haf* by Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), received a letter from the governor of Basra that the absence of any years on the correspondence he receives from Medina, make it difficult for him to determine which instructions were most recent. Omar was perplexed, and as usual the magnanimous Imam Ali (AS) came to his rescue by suggesting that the Islamic calendar be dated according to the Prophet's Hijra (migration) from Mecca to Medina. Omar accepted the Imam's advice, but he fixed the date of the beginning of the Islamic year on the 1st of Moharram, in line with the pagan Arab customs, even though the Prophet had migrated on the eve of Rabi al-Awwal.

1128 lunar years ago, on this day in 311 AH, the Iranian Sunni Muslim compiler of hadith, Mohammad ibn Ishaq Ibn Khuzaymah Naishapuri, passed away. He is the compiler of the book *"Mukhtasar al-Mukhtasar min al-Musnad as-Sahih"*, which is known as *"Sahih Ibn Khuzaymah"*. Though not included in the *"Sihah as-Sitta"* or the Six Canonical Hadith Compendiums of the Ahl as-Sunnah, it is considered by many prominent Sunni figures, next only to *"Sahih Bukhari"* and *"Sahih Muslim"*. Like all other compilers of Sunni hadith – all of whom were Iranians – Ibn Khuzaymah failed to have any direct contact with the Infallible Imams or their disciples for determination of authentic hadith, though he has mentioned some of the unsurpassed merits of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

1116 lunar years ago, on this day in 323 AH, the imposter and apostate, Mohammad ibn Ali ash-Shalmaghani, who falsely claimed to be an emissary and gateway to Imam Mahdi (AS), was executed and hanged in Baghdad, when he failed to serve the evil designs of the usurper Abbasid regime in undermining the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt during the *"Ghaybat-as-Sughra"* (Minor Occultation) of the 12th and Last Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) – may Allah hasten his reappearance to cleanse the earth of all vestiges of oppression and corruption, and to establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice.

806 solar years ago, on this day in 1212 AD, The Battle of al-Uqab or Las Navas de Tolosa, occurred in southern Spain between Muslims and Christians. It led to the defeat of the self-styled caliph, an-Nasser of the al-Muwahidin (Almohad) Empire of Morocco-Andalusia by the combined armies of the kingdoms of Portugal, Castile, Aragon, and Navarre.

802 solar years ago, on this day in 1216 AD, Innocent III, the most powerfully politicized Pope of the Catholic sect of Christianity and the most hostile towards Muslims and Jews, died after an 18-year reign. He appeared in a vision the same day to nun, St. Lugarda in her monastery at Aywieres in faraway Belgium, engulfed in flames as punishment for three of the most cardinal sins he had committed in life, and for which he said (before disappearing in anguish) that he would languish for centuries in purgatory. He ordered wars that resulted in the massacre of 20,000 men, women and children of the Albigenses or Cathar sect of southwestern France, and in total disregard to the Muslim-Christian peace accord in Palestine, mobilised the 4th Crusade for invasion of Egypt, which, however, because of fears of facing the powerful Ayyubids, was diverted towards an easier target, that is, the fellow Christians of the Byzantine Empire, and led to the fall of Constantinople and its plunder – all of which the Pope legitimized, regardless of the permanent rift he was causing between the Greek and Latin Churches.

556 lunar years ago, on this day in 883 AH, the Treaty of Istanbul was signed by the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Venice, ending the 15-year war between the two sides as a result of the advance of the Turks under Sultan Mohammad Fateh (conqueror of Constantinople) to the outskirts of Venice.

536 lunar years ago, on this day in 903 AH, prominent Iranian historian, Seyyed Mohammad Ibn Khwandshah Ibn Mahmoud, popular as Mir-Khwand, passed away. Born in Balkh, he lived most of his life in Herat at the Timurid court of Sultan Hussain Bayqarah, and authored the universal history *"Rawzat as-Safa"* (Garden of Purity).

146 solar years ago, on this day in 1872 AD, Norwegian explorer, Roald Engelbregt Gravning Amundsen, was born. In 1904 he located the site of the North Magnetic pole. When he turned his attention to the Antarctic, he achieved his quest to be the first to reach the South Pole (14 Dec 1911). After three unsuccessful attempts, he was among the first to cross the Arctic by air in 1926 when he made a flight across the North Pole.

128 solar years ago, on this day in 1890 AD, the Parkinson Disease and how it develops were identified by English physician, James Parkinson. The main reason for this illness is brain malfunctions, and still no certain treatment has been found for it.

109 solar years ago, on this day in 1909 AD, Iran's Constitutional Revolution forced out Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar as king and replaced him by his son, the young Ahmad Shah. The ousted Shah, who had earlier hired Cossack mercenaries to shell the parliament and attack its members, took refuge in the Russian embassy, which was stormed by the angry people, but he managed to escape and fled to Istanbul, Turkey.

73 solar years ago, on this day in 1945 AD, the US misused science and technology to explode the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos, New Mexico, thereby triggering a race for weapons of mass destruction to the detriment of humanity.

70 solar years ago, on this day in 1948 AD, following resistance, the Palestinian city of an-Nasserah (Nazareth), revered by Christians as the childhood hometown of Prophet Jesus (PBUH), fell to the Israeli troops, and ever since has been under Zionist occupation.

64 solar years ago, on this day in 1954 AD, Henri Frankfort, Dutch-American archaeologist who established the relationship between Egypt and Mesopotamia and documented reconstruction of ancient Mesopotamian culture and art, died. The excavations he directed in Egypt and Iraq led to his writing of 15 books and monographs and about 73 articles for journals about ancient Egypt, archaeology and cultural anthropology, especially on the religious systems of the Ancient Near East.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, Iraq's first president of the repressive Ba'th minority regime, General Hasan Ahmad al-Bakr, was ordered by his masters in London and Washington to resign and hand over power to his more brutal vice-president, Saddam, five months after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Saddam instantly launched a reign of terror by imprisoning and murdering prominent religious and political leaders of the long-suppressed Arab Shi'ite majority, including the reputed scholar, Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Baqer as-Sadr. He also suppressed the ethnic Sunni Kurds of the north and expelled tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens on the pretext of being of Iranian origin. In September 1980, at the behest of the US, he imposed a brutal war on the Islamic Republic of Iran which raged for 8 years. In 1990, he occupied Kuwait and was driven out seven months later by an international coalition. With his downfall in 2003 at the hands of his own backers, the Americans, 34 years of brutal Ba'th minority rule came to its end.

10 solar years ago, on this day in 2008 AD, Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah, in return for the handover of the bodies of two Zionist soldiers, made Israel release five Lebanese prisoners and the bodies of some 200 martyrs. The exchange was the result of indirect negotiations, with the mediation of Germany. Among the liberated Lebanese, were persons from other groups, such as Samir Qantar, who spent almost thirty years in Zionist dungeons, and who was martyred by the Israelis in July 2015 in the Golan Heights of Syria.

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

'Song of Hands' Awarded at Independent Shorts Awards



TEHRAN (IFILM) - Iranian short film "Song of Hands" has won an award at the IMDb Award Listing Qualifier's Independent Shorts Awards (ISA) in the U.S.

Written and directed by Hamzeh Zarei, the Iranian flick grabbed the platinum award for Best Narrative Short at the July 2018 edition of the ISA in Los Angeles.

"Song of Hands" is the story of a kid who loves to play a musical instrument, but the father breaks the instrument.

The short film has so far taken part at

a number of international film events, including the Five Continents International Film Festival in Venezuela.

The ISA is a monthly international film competition, with an annual live screening event in North Hollywood, California.

Each month, the submitted projects are privately screened and judged by a random team of invited experts from academia and film industry, against a high standard of merit.

The monthly winners are automatically qualified to compete and be screened at the ISA annual event.

Ancient Artifacts Discovered in Iran's Mazandaran

SARI (IFP) - A number of ancient artifacts dating back to first millennium BCE have been seized from smugglers in Iran's northern province of Mazandaran, a cultural heritage official announced.

Brigadier General Amir Rahmatollahi, the commander of the protection unit of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Or-

ganization, said that the artifacts were seized by ICHTO forces who acted on information received from people in Behshahr County.

Rahmatollahi said nine artifacts including earthenware jugs were found in two separate operations.

The commander said the smugglers will be put to trial in the near future.



New Method Finds Proteins That Unpack DNA

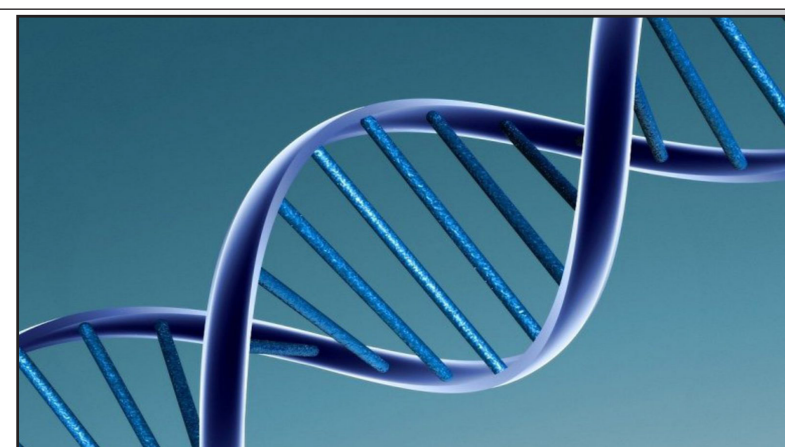
WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - A new method allows researchers to systematically identify specialized proteins called 'nucleosome displacing factors' that unpack DNA inside the nucleus of a cell, making the usually dense DNA more accessible for gene expression and other functions.

"Our genome is very compact, which means there is an accessibility issue," said Lu Bai, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and of physics at Penn State and senior author of the study. "A variety of proteins need to access DNA to copy its information into the RNA that will eventually be used to make proteins, but DNA is tightly wrapped around proteins called histones that are then packed into bead-like structures called nucleosomes. These tightly packed nucleosomes make it hard for other proteins to bind."

"To solve this problem, cells use what we call 'nucleosome-displacing factors' to invade the condensed DNA and open it up. Until this study, we lacked a general method to screen for these factors and evaluate them."

Nucleosome-displacing factors are a special kind of transcription factor, proteins that bind to short, specific sequences of DNA called binding sites to control gene expression. They are also known as pioneer factors in animal cells. The researchers developed a fast, inexpen-

sive "high-throughput" method to screen and categorize large numbers of transcription factors based on their ability to displace nucleosomes. The method artificially incorporates transcription factor binding sites into the nucleosomes and examines which factors are capable of reducing the presence of nucleosomes.



DNA structure.

Picture of the Day



The Post and Telegraph (Communications) Museum of Iran on Imam Khomeini Square, Tehran.

Courtesy: Azad News Agency