

This Day in History

(July 18)

Today is Wednesday, 27th of the Iranian month of Tir 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 4th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1439 lunar hijri; and July 18, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1954 solar years ago, on this day in 64 AD, the Great Fire of Rome caused widespread devastation and raged on for six days, destroying over half of the city. Emperor Nero, who had usurped the throne through treachery, torched the city while sadistically enjoying the sight of its burning from a hill. A Godless pagan, he persecuted, tortured and killed the monotheist followers of Prophet Jesus (PuH).

1302 solar years ago, on this day in 716 AD, Mohammad bin Qasim, the Arab governor of Iran on behalf of his tyrannical uncle and father-in-law, Hajjaj bin Yousuf, and conqueror of Sindh – in present day Pakistan – was killed at the age of 20, as a result of imprisonment and torture ordered by the new Omayyad caliph, Sulaiman bin Abdul-Malik, who was a bitter enemy of the bloodthirsty Hajjaj. Among the reasons for Bin Qasim's ruthless campaign to seize Sindh and try to push into India, was the refuge offered by the local rulers to Iranians and Arab Muslims fleeing the reign of terror of Hajjaj, on whose death, 50,000 men and women -- mostly followers of the Prophet's Household -- were found in prisons.

1094 solar years ago, on this day in 924 AD, the powerful Abbasid vizier, Abu'l-Hassan Ali ibn Mohammad ibn al-Furat, was executed along with his son al-Muhassin, at the age of 69, shortly after deposition, mainly because of his military failures against the Qarmatian revolt. He served three times as vizier under caliph al-Muqtadir, despite being a follower of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Intelligent and well educated, Ali emerged into prominence as an able fiscal administrator and deputy to his older brother Ahmad. Eventually he came to lead one of the two major and rival court factions during Muqtadir's caliphate, the Banu'l-Furat – the other being the group of officials around the commander-in-chief Mu'nis al-Muzaffar and the vizier Ali ibn Isa al-Jarrah – a convert to Islam from Christianity. Ibn al-Furat played an important role in the rise of Muqtadir as caliph in 908, going on to serve as vizier for the next four years, during which time he succeeded in re-incorporating Fars Province in central Iran into the Abbasid caliphate and to restore a measure of authority over the Sajids of Azarbaijan. After a second tenure as vizier during 917-918, he was imprisoned by his successor, and was released in 923. Soon after he became vizier for the third and last time. Ibn al-Furat distinguished himself as an extremely able fiscal administrator committed to the reform of abuse and the raising of state revenues without oppression. At the same time, his primary loyalty was not to the Abbasid regime, but to the progress of followers, who formed almost a Twelver Sh'ia "secret politico-religious party".

823 solar years ago, on this day in 1195 AD, the Battle of Alarcos in Spain resulted in a resounding victory for the al-Muwahhedin ruler, Abu Yusuf Ya'qub al-Mansur, over King Alfonso VIII of Castile.

783 lunar years ago, on this day in 656 AH, the famous Arabic poet, Baha od-Din Zuhayr Abu'l-Fazl Ibn Mohammad al-Muhallabi, died in Cairo at the age of 74. Born in Mecca, he travelled to Egypt where he became a poet at the court of the Ayyubid Kurdish dynasty, and finally became vizier of the ruler, Sultan as-Saleh. His Diwan was translated into English in two volumes by E.H. Palmer in 1876-77.

758 lunar years ago, on this day in 681 AH, the Iranian historian Ata-Malik Jowaini, passed away at the age of 58 in Azarbaijan. His famous history is titled "Tarikh-e Jahan-Gusha". It was translated into English by John Andrew Boyle under the title: "The History of the World-Conqueror" and the 2nd edition published in 1997. It should be noted that his brother, Shams od-Din Mohammad, who had been Sahib-e Divan (or Finance Minister) and vizier for 22 years under three Ilkhans – i.e. Hulagu, Abaqa and Ahmad Tekuder – was martyred by the next ruler, Arghun Khan, on the alleged poisoning of his father Abaqa Khan, who actually died of excessive drinking.

728 solar years ago, on this day in 1290 AD, King Edward I of England issued the Edict of Expulsion, banishing all Jews, which numbered around 16,000. The expulsion was culmination of over 200 years of conflict between Christians and Jews on the matter of usury, for which the Israelites are still notorious.

676 solar years ago, on this day in 1342 AD, Shaikh Hassan Juri, one of the prominent leaders of the Sarbadaran Movement was martyred in the Battle of Zava, near what is now Torbat-e Haideriyeh in Khorasan, because of disunity in his ranks. It is said that he was killed by traitors among his own forces, rather than by the opposite side led by Mu'iz od-Din Hussain, the ruler of the Kartid Dynasty of what is now western Afghanistan. The Sarbadaran movement was launched in Khorasan by Imami religious scholar, Sheikh Khalifa Mazandarani, against the repressive rule of the Ilkhanid Mongols, especially the local governor Togha Timur, who was notorious for his cruelty and high taxation of the people. The movement, which was mostly made up of the downtrodden was centered in Sabzevar from where it spread to neighboring cities. Its charismatic leaders included Hassan Juri and later Ali Mu'ayyad, all of whom revived the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). For the next 50 years, the Sarbadar – a Persian term which means, head bound on gallows, to signify their readiness for martyrdom – ruled most of northeastern Iran, although not on dynastic basis. They regarded as their spiritual leader, Shaikh Mohammad Jamal od-Din al-Makki al-Ameli of what is now Lebanon, who was subsequently martyred in his homeland by the enemies of the Ahl al-Bayt, and earned immortality as Shaheed al-Awwal (First Martyr). When Amir Timur swept from Central Asia across Iran ending the Ilkhanid Dynasty, he respected the Sarbadaran and even appointed many Sabzevaris to high posts in Iraq and Iran.

627 solar years ago, on this day in 1391 AD, Amir Timur defeated Tokhtamysh of the Golden Horde in present day southeast Russia in the Battle of Kondurcha River.

235 solar years ago, on this day in 1783 AD, the English astronomer, William Herschel, discovered the nature of galaxies. He observed the stars with the telescope he invented and proved that the Milky Way Galaxy consists of stars, while the Solar System is also part of this galaxy. He also discovered the Planet Uranus. He died at the age of 84 years in 1822 AD.

201 solar years ago, on this day in 1817 AD, English author Jane Austen died at age 41. Her works of romantic fiction, made her one of the most widely read writers. Her realism, biting irony and social commentary have gained her historical importance among scholars and critics. Among her best works are: "Sense and Sensibility" (1811), "Pride and Prejudice" (1813), and "Emma" (1815).

100 solar years ago, on this day in 1918 AD, Nelson Mandela, South African lawyer and politician, and 1st native President, was born in the village of Mvezo in Umtata, then a part of South Africa's Cape Province.

93 solar years ago, on this day in 1925 AD, Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler, published "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle). He wrote this autobiographical manifesto as National Socialist leader serving a prison sentence. In this book, which was widely received by the public, Hitler outlined his political ideology and future plans.

30 solar years ago, on this day in 1988 AD, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598, for ceasefire in the 8-year war imposed by the US through Saddam of the repressive Ba'ath minority regime of Iraq. Tehran accepted the Resolution due to some of its positive aspects, especially the clauses related to identification of the aggressor and payment of war compensations. However, despite the acceptance of Resolution 598 by Islamic Iran, Saddam and his Ba'athists continued their aggressions until formal establishment of ceasefire in August 1988. Though years later, the UN officially declared Ba'athist Iraq as aggressor and initiator of the 8-year war, war reparations were never paid to Iran.

12 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, takfiri terrorists backed by the US and Saudi Arabia blew up a booby trapped car amongst a crowd of Shi'a Muslim labourers in the city of Kufa, martyring over 60 people and wounding 105.

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

South Korea Screens 'The End of Dreams'



A still from "The End of Dreams".

TEHRAN (IFILM)-Mohammad-Ali Talebi's "The End of Dreams" has been screened at 2018 Busan International Kids & Youth Film Festival (BIKY) in

South Korea.

The film went on the silver screen during the opening ceremony of the festival which was held on July 11 in the South Korean city of Busan.

Talebi, the creator of the work says the story of the film is inspired by the reality that might happen anywhere in the world.

The movie tells the story of a kid who does something wrong and then to save himself of the consequences, keeps what he has done a secret from his family. The stashing of the secrets itself causes the kid troubles.

Mr. Mahmoud, who is one of the characters of the film, reflects upon the director himself, as he shared with a media.

He is a man who has high respect for humans, nature and animals and wishes

for God's people to conduct a peaceful coexistence.

The director has also mentioned that his goal in making the film has been to teach the kids and their parents how to have a constructive interaction.

The flick has so far been screened at some international festivals including 2018 Zlin Children and Youth International Film Festival in the Czech Republic and Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) in Bangladesh.

BIKY serves as the focal point for the international Kids and Youth network with the film, video, culture involving children and teenagers. Rather than simply watching movies, the festival aim to learn about generosity and diversity by cultural/cinematic mediation, a page on the festival's website reads.

Magnetized Wire to Detect Human Cancers

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)-A magnetic wire used to snag scarce and hard-to-capture tumor cells could prove to be a swift and effective tactic for early cancer detection, according to a new study by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

The wire, which is threaded into a vein, attracts special magnetic nanoparticles engineered to glom onto tumor cells that may be roaming the bloodstream if you have a tumor somewhere in your body. With these tumor cells essentially magnetized, the wire can lure the cells out of the free-flowing bloodstream using the same force that holds family photos to your refrigerator.

The technique, which has only been used in pigs so far, attracts from 10-80 times more tumor cells than current blood-based cancer-detection methods, making it a potent tool to catch the disease earlier. The technique could even help doctors evaluate a patient's response to particular cancer treatments: If the therapy is working, tumor-cell levels in the blood should rise as the cells die and break away from the tumor, and then fall as the tumor shrinks.

For now, Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD, professor and chair of radiology and director of the Canary Center at Stanford for Cancer Early Detection, is focused on the wire as a cancer-detection method, but its reach could be much broader.

"It could be useful in any other disease in which there are cells or molecules of interest in the blood," said Gambhir, who developed the wire with the help of his colleagues. "For example, let's say you're checking for a bacterial infection, circulating tumor DNA or rare cells that are responsible for inflammation in any of these scenarios, the wire and nanoparticles help to enrich the signal, and therefore detect the disease or infection."

Iran Major Center of Goat Domestication in SW Asia



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Paleogenetic studies show that the Iranian Plateau has been one of the 3 centers of goat domestication in South West Asia for 11000 years.

According to the press office of the National Museum of Iran, recent paleogenetic studies on archaeological goat bone remains from the last 11,000 years bring new information on the initial stages of domestication in South West Asia.

The results of this study were recently published in the scientific journal Science. This new research was performed with the collaboration of forty researchers from across the world among which eleven researchers from Iranian scientific centers supervised by Dr. Marjan Mashkour, an associate

researcher of the National Museum of Iran and the University of Tehran.

According to Dr. Mashkour the research run on the Iranian Plateau zooarchaeological material, originates from ten archaeological sites as a result of a joint collaboration between the Osteology Department of the National Museum of Iran, the Archaeozoology section of the Archaeometry Laboratory of the University of Tehran, the National Museum of Natural History of Paris and the Smurfit Institute of Genetics of Trinity College of Dublin in Ireland. Archaeological goat bones cover a long period from the Neolithic to medieval periods (11000 to 1000 years ago) and were recovered from various localities in the Zagros and in the North East of Iran.

She said the results demonstrate that several strains of wild prehistoric goats have been domesticated during a complex process involving three distinct regions including the Iranian Plateau, as an important center. Genomic data were produced for 83 prehistoric goats from the Near and Middle East who lived between the end of the Paleolithic and the end the Middle Ages and show a complex process of domestication from 11000 years ago. She insisted that during the Early Neolithic, there were at least three domesticated lineages of different origins (southern Levant / eastern Mediterranean, Anatolia, and the Iranian Plateau) that gave birth to domestic lineages. However, she added the structured picture collapsed after the Neolithic and the lineage A became dominant in South West Asia. These results for the early Neolithic period show the transmission of knowledge, know-how and technics between human communities in this part of the world and refute human migrations in the initial stages of domestication, as it was previously thought. This new research, Dr. Mashkour said, echoes the same picture seen on human genetics of the early Neolithic population of the Zagros and adjacent areas that was published in 2016 in Science, in another joint publication with the National Museum of Iran and European teams.

Picture of the Day



The fifth edition of Four Corners of Imagination Group Art Exhibition is underway in the Artists Forum. Organized by the Association of Iranian Sculptors, the show will run through in three halls until 24 July.

Courtesy: Honaronline