

## This Day in History

(August 9)

Today is Thursday; 18th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 26th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1439 lunar hijri; and August 9, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1640 solar years ago**, on this day in 378 AD, the Battle of Adrianople in what is now Edirne in the European part of Turkey resulted in a resounding defeat for the Roman Empire and the killing of Emperor Valens, along with over half of his army, by a joint force of Visigoths and the Iranian semi nomadic Alans – ancestors of present day Ossetians of the Caucasus in Georgia and the southwestern part of the Federation of Russia. Valens, who reigned for 14 years was constantly embroiled in wars, especially with Shapur II of Iran's Sassanid Empire in northeastern Syria, southeastern Anatolia, and Armenia. The Alans who were offshoots of the Iranian Scythians or Sakas which were once widespread throughout Central Asia before the influx of Turkic tribes from Eastern Asia, infiltrated Europe as far as Spain, from where they crossed over into Northern Africa, were Europeanized and Christianized in the course of history.

**1185 solar years ago**, on this day in 833 AD, Abdullah al-Mamoun, the 7th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid dynasty, died at the age of 48 near Tarsus in what is now southwestern Turkey, during a campaign against the Byzantine Empire. Of his 24-year reign, four years were involved in civil war with his step brother, Amin, the rival caliph in Baghdad whom he ordered killed. Born to Haroun's Iranian concubine, Marajil, his capital was initially the Khorasani city of Marv (currently in Turkmenistan). Mamoun earned lasting notoriety for forcing Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), to come to Marv from distant Medina, as part of his plot to isolate the Ahl al-Bayt from the ummah. When his plot failed and the Imam's popularity grew among the people during his 2-year sojourn in Khorasan, Mamoun martyred the Prophet's rightful heir in Tous through a fatal dose of poison.

**845 solar years ago**, on this day in 1173 AD, construction began of the campanile of a cathedral in the Italian city of Pisa – later to be known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It took two centuries to complete.

**717 lunar years ago**, on this day in 722 AH, Iranian Sunni Hanafi scholar, Sa'd od-Din Mas'oud ibn Omar Taftazani, was born in Taftazan near Qochan in Khorasan. He wrote books and treaties on grammar, rhetoric, theology, logic, law and the exegesis of the holy Qur'an. His works were used as textbooks for centuries in Ottoman madrasahs. The bulk of his writing is in Arabic, although he wrote a commentary of the Qur'an in his native Persian and translated the poems of the famous Persian poet, Mosleh od-Din Sa'di of Shiraz, into Turkic.

**518 solar years ago**, on this day in 1500 AD, during the 4-year Ottoman-Venetian War, the Turks captured Methoni and Messenia in southern Greece, as part of the gradual conquest of the Peloponnese Peninsula.

**387 solar years ago**, on this day in 1631 AD, John Dryden, English poet, playwright, critic, and translator was born. He died at the age 69.

**251 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1188 AH, Jalal od-Din Haidar Shuja od-Dowla, the Nawab Wazir of the Moghal Empire and ruler of the Naishapuri dynasty of Iranian origin of the State of Awadh, died in his capital Faizabad after ruling for 21 years. He was succeeded by his son Asaf-od-Dowla.

**204 solar years ago**, on this day in 1814 AD, the Amerindian Creek Tribe was forced to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson by the expansionist US, thus giving up huge parts of Alabama and Georgia to the white European settlers. As part of the genocide of the native population, successive US regimes from time to time encroached upon the lands of the Amerindians, and almost exterminated them.

**73 solar years ago**, on this day in 1945 AD, three days after the US act of state terrorism in dropping an atomic bomb on the unsuspecting Japanese city of Hiroshima, faraway from any warfront, Washington repeated its crime against humanity by targeting another Japanese city with an atomic bomb, and this time the port of Nagasaki, where almost 50,000 people were instantly killed and tens of thousands of others severely injured.

**53 solar years ago**, on this day in 1965 AD, Singapore was expelled from the Federation of Malaysia and became the first and only country to gain independence unwillingly. In 1819, Britain was leased what is now Singapore by the Sultan of Johor, and after independence from British rule, joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963.

**44 solar years ago**, on this day in 1974 AD, US president Richard Nixon, was forced to resign due to tapping of phones of rival Democrats during the presidential campaign of 1972. Known as the Watergate scandal because of the situation of the Democratic Party's headquarters in the locality of the same name in Washington, the disclosure of the ruling Republicans' plot made the House call for Nixon's impeachment. Hence, to prevent further controversy, he resigned by handing over power for the remaining two years of his term to vice-president, Gerald Ford.

**34 solar years ago**, on this day in 1984 AD, prominent Iranian writer and translator, Abu'l-Qassem Najafabadi "Payandeh", passed away at the age of 71. Born in Najafabad, after completing his studies in Isfahan, he settled in Tehran, and became a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines. For over 40 years he was active in producing several works, which included a translation of the holy Qur'an, as well as the translations of important Arabic works into Persian, such as "Muruj az-Zahab" of the historian al-Mas'oudi, and Abu Ja'far Tabari's monumental history "Tarikh Rusol wa'l-Muluk".

**32 solar years ago**, on this day in 1987 AD, in the Persian Gulf, pilot of an Iranian jet showed his remarkable dexterity and control of the skies when targeted by US Navy F-14 "Tomcat" fighter. In the ensuing dogfight, the Iranian pilot deftly evaded the two missiles fired at it by the aggressor American jet-fighter whose volleys completely missed their target, thus causing frustration and forcing it to flee the Iranian skies in fear of retaliatory action by Iran.

**20 solar years ago**, on this day in 1998 AD, a day after the US-Saudi created Taliban terrorists occupied the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif and violated the diplomatic immunity of the Iranian consulate by brutally martyring 8 diplomats and IRNA journalist Mahmoud Saremi, they massacred in cold blood over four thousand men, women, and children of the Hazara Shi'a Muslim community.

**10 solar years ago**, on this day in 2008 AD, Palestinian revolutionary poet and author, Mahmoud Darwish, who won numerous awards for his literary output and was regarded as the Palestinian national poet, died at the age of 66, three days after heart surgery at a hospital in Houston, US. His body was flown to Ramallah in the West Bank of River Jordan for burial. Born in al-Birwa in Western Galilee and driven into exile along with his parents by illegal Zionist settlers from Europe who set up the spurious state of Israel, he later returned briefly to Occupied Palestine before being banned from re-entry because of his joining of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In his works, Palestine became a metaphor for the loss of the Garden of Eden, birth, resurrection, the anguish of dispossession and exile. He has been described as incarnating and reflecting the tradition of the political poet in Islam, and the man of action whose action is poetry. His prose works include "Farewell War Farewell Peace", "A River Dies of Thirst", and "Something about the Homeland". Among his famous poetical works are "Wingless Birds", "Ode to Beirut", and "The Adam of Two Edens".

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

# Google Pays Homage to Persian Polymath



TEHRAN (IFP)-Giant search engine Google changed its logo on August 7, 2018, as a tribute to renowned Iranian polymath

Avicenna.

Iranians take pride in Avicenna, who was a medicine and philosophy

heavyweight.

Currently, more than 400 titles of books authored by the eminent scientific figure are available, of which 240 titles are accessible via Google.

Historical documents show Avicenna was born in Afshaneh village near Bukhara (a city in Uzbekistan today, and one of the cities of Great Iran in the tenth century). His mother tongue was Persian, and his father was an official serving with the Samanid government. He was a child prodigy and soon managed to overtake his own teacher. Avicenna was very intelligent. He memorized the holy Quran at the age of 10. At 16, he began to study medicine. He became very famous in the field of medicine at the age of 18. Later on, he became an expert in philosophy as well.

Some describe him as "omniscient" because he was an expert in physics, chemistry, medicine, philosophy, mathematics, psychology and geography.

Among his famous books is "The Canon of Medicine." It is a five-volume medical encyclopedia which was used as the standard medical textbook in the Islamic world and Europe up to the 18th century. The Canon still plays an important role in Unani medicine.

Another major book authored by Avicenna was "The Book of Healing." The scientific and philosophical encyclopedia is divided into four parts: logic, natural sciences, mathematics and metaphysics.

Interesting enough, half of Avicenna's works are versified. His poems appear in both Arabic and Persian.

## Four Int'l Festivals Screen 'Alphabet'

TEHRAN, (MNA) – Iranian short animation "Alphabet" directed by Kianoush Abedi will go on screen at four international film festivals.

The 11th Iranian Film Festival in San Francisco, the 3rd edition of Slemani International Film Festival in Iraq, 2018 Revolution Me Film Festival in New York City and Alexandre Trauner Art/Film Festival in Hungary are four events that will screen Iranian short movie 'Alphabet'.

The 6-minute animated piece narrates the story of people who have forgotten life and are



A still from the "Alphabet".

separated from knowledge and truth. The animation depicts a nation that has forgotten the alphabet to life, cannot see, cannot hear, and cannot speak, but the words are waiting for them impatiently.

"Alphabe" has so far joined some international film events, winning a number of awards, including the best short film award at the 5th Sayulita Film Festival in Mexico, the Best Experimental and Animation award at the 6th Speechless Film Festival as well as the 15th Southside Film Festival in the US, and the 5th edition of Tripoli Film Festival in Lebanon.

## Link Between Appendicitis and Allergies

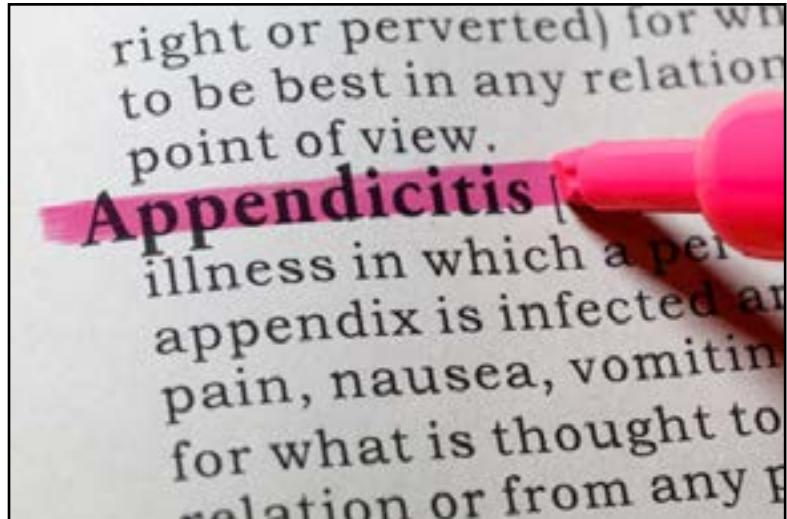
STOCKHOLM (Dispatches)-Children with allergies have a lower risk of developing complicated appendicitis, according to a new study.

"In a study of all the children who underwent surgery for appendicitis in Lund, Sweden, over the span of a decade, we found that the most common form of allergy, such as allergy to pollen and animal fur, was associated with a three times lower risk of developing complicated appendicitis. The lower risk

remained when we adjusted for other parameters known to increase the risk of serious appendicitis, such as lower age and long-lasting symptoms," says Martin Salö, a researcher at Lund University and physician at Skåne University Hospital.

"The outcome of the study supports the theory that complicated appendicitis has a different immunological development compared to uncomplicated appendicitis. The results also provide clues that we hope can lead to the development of new diagnostic aids such as blood tests," concludes Martin Salö.

Appendicitis is widespread among children and young people, and the condition is the most common cause of emergency abdominal surgery in the world.



Appendicitis definition (stock image).

## 'Era of Constitutional Revolution' On Air Soon

TEHRAN (IFILM)---Iranian series "Era of Constitutional Revolution" has been scheduled to be on ifilm channel's playlist.

Airing of the series, produced by Ali Ladoni and directed by Mohammad-Reza Varzi, is to commence on August 8, 2018.

The series narrates the historical events at the turn of the twentieth century when Iran is ruled by the decrepit Qajar Monarchy.

The weak-willed Shah of Iran continuously gives concessions to colonial powers, and is surrounded by traitors who collaborate with England to turn Iran into a servant state.

Among the cast are Akbar Abdi, Shahram Abdoli, Mohammad Sadeqi, Mohammad-Reza Sharifinia, Reza Rouygari, Iraj Rad, Mohammad Motee, Hessam Navvab-Safavi, Jamshid Mashayekhi, Azita Hajiyan, Tina Pakravan, Jamshid Jahanzadeh, Changiz Vosouqi, Daryoush Kardan, Saeed Sheikhzadeh, Mohammad-Reza Sharifinia, Yousef Sayyadi, and Zahir Yari.

## Picture of the Day



New play 21s, directed by Niusha Mehrabi, has gone on stage at Mehregan Theater until August 11.

Courtesy: Honaronline