

## This Day in History

(August 15)

Today is Wednesday; 24th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 3rd of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1439 lunar hijri; and August 15, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**1382 solar years ago**, on this day in 636 AD, a series of 6-day military encounters, known as the Battle of Yarmouk started near Yarmouk River in Palestine between the neo-Muslim Arab forces and the Christian armies of Byzantine (Eastern Roman Empire), resulting in the decisive victory of Muslims and opening the way for Islamicization of Syria.

**1300 solar years ago**, on this day in 718 AD, the naval and land forces of the Omayyad regime of Damascus were forced to lift the Second Arab Siege of Constantinople after a year and a month of unsuccessful efforts to conquer the capital of the Byzantine Empire. The First Siege of Constantinople during the years 674-78 by Mu'awiyya ibn Abu Sufyan had ended in failure.

**1240 solar years ago**, on this day in 778 AD, the Battle of Roncevaux Pass occurred in the Pyrenees Mountains in Spain between the rearguard of the retreating army of Charlemagne of France and the Basques, resulting in the death of the famous knight, Roland.

**1092 solar years ago**, on this day in 927 AD, Muslims from North Africa, after bringing the island of Sicily under Islamic rule, took control of the city of Taranto in Apulia, southern Italy, before evacuating it. In the preceding century also, the Muslims, after taking control of Sicily, had established a foothold in southern Italy, founding the emirate of Bari, which fell over a half-a-century earlier in 871 to the savage onslaught of the Christian forces of Holy Roman Emperor Louis II, who massacred Muslims, burned libraries, and turned mosques into churches.

**1077 lunar years ago**, on this day in 362 AH, the prominent Iranian Islamic genius, Abu Rayhan Mohammad ibn Ahmad al-Birouni, was born in Kath, the capital of Khwarezm in Central Asia.

**1036 solar years ago**, on this day in 982 AD, the Holy Roman Emperor Otto II was decisively defeated by the Muslim forces of the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim caliphate of Egypt-Syria-North Africa at the Battle of Capo Colonna, in Calabria, southern Italy.

**919 lunar years ago**, on this day in 520 AH, one of the prominent Persian poets, Khaqani Shirvani, was born in the northwestern Iranian region of Shirvan, which is now in the Republic of Azerbaijan. He is considered amongst the great classical poets of Iran and composed different styles of poems.

**507 lunar years ago**, on this day in 932 AH, Budapest the capital of Hungary surrendered to the Ottoman Turks under the leadership of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent who inflicted a crushing defeat on the Hungarians in the famous Battle of Mohacs. Till 1718 "Majaristan" as Hungary was called by the Turks was an Ottoman province. Although Islam in Hungary has a long history that dates back to at least the twelfth century, predating the Ottoman Empire, following the end of Turkish rule, Muslims were persecuted and either expelled or forced to become Christians. Today only a few thousand Muslims live in Hungary.

**249 solar years ago**, on this day in 1769 AD, French general and emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, was born in Ajaccio on the island of Corsica in a relatively modest family of Italian ancestry.

**141 solar years ago**, on this day in 1877 AD, Thomas Edison coined the telephone greeting "Hello." He suggested the use of "Hello" to the president of the Telegraph Company to answer the phone instead of "ahoy-ahoy" suggested by Alexander Bell.

**104 solar years ago**, on this in 1914 AD the Panama Canal was cut through the Isthmus of the same name at the narrowest point in Central America, to join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was opened to traffic with transit of the cargo ship "SS Ancon".

**82 solar years ago**, on this day in 1936 AD, Grand Ayatollah Allamah Mirza Mohammad Hussein Na'ini, passed away at the age of 79. Born in a religious family in Na'in, central Iran, after completion of preliminary studies, he left for higher studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where his teachers included such prominent ulema as Mirza Hassan Shirazi (of the anti-tobacco fatwa against British exploitation of the Iranian economy). Besides theology he was well versed in mathematics, philosophy, and mysticism. His most important work is "Tanbih al-Umma va Tanziha al-Milla" which outlines the duties of ulema and people and the necessity of campaign against tyrannical regimes. This was an effective step by Ayatollah Naini in awakening the Iranian people, whose struggles against despotism and foreign hegemony triumphed under the guidance of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). Among his other books, is "Wasilat an-Naja'at".

**71 solar years ago**, on this day in 1947 AD, India gained independence from British colonial rule after years of struggles. Although an ancient civilization, it was the advent of Islam that placed India firmly on the international map, especially during the era of the Great Moghuls in the 16th and 17th centuries. With the weakening of the Moghul Empire and its splintering into regional Muslim states in the mid-18th century, the British, who had entered the country as traders, played one ruler against the other, to consolidate power and seize large chunks of territory. Wars were imposed on the Indian people, both Muslim and Hindu, and the superior firepower of the British ensured their victory, whether it was against Tipu Sultan in 1799 or the 1857 uprising in the north, which were brutally crushed. In the closing years of the 19th century independence movements emerged in the form of the Indian National Congress Party and the All-India Muslim League. In the 20th century after World War I, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched his non-violent movement, saying it was the epic martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), which inspired him to struggle for liberty and independence. Among the Muslims, Mohammad Ali Jinnah – an Ismaili Shi'a who later became Ithna Ash'ari (Twelver) – emerged as a dynamic leader, but the crafty British played the communal card to pit Muslims against Hindus, as part of their divide-and-rule policy. Following the end of World War 2 and sapping of British energies, London decided to grant independence on the basis of the 'two-nation-theory'. Thus India, and a day earlier Pakistan, emerged as independent states. In 1950 India became a republic.

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1948 AD, the South Korean Republic was formed south of the 38th parallel in the American occupied southern part of the Korean Peninsula, which continues to remain divided against the will of the people, because of the unwanted presence of US troops.

**43 solar years ago**, in 1975 AD, Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman, was killed along with most members of his family during a military coup launched by his own disgruntled Awami League officers headed by Khondkar Mushtaq Ahmad. Mujib led the struggle for secession of East Pakistan from Islamabad's rule and its renaming as Bangladesh in 1971 with the support of India. The present prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, is his daughter.

**13 solar years ago**, on this day in 2005 AD, because of Palestinian resistance, the Zionist entity was forced to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, which it had occupied in 1967. Israel continues to keep the West Bank under its control despite the 1993 agreement with the PLO to evacuate it. Gaza and its 1.5 million people are under siege for the past several years, and have been subjected to periodic holocausts.

**6 solar years ago**, on this day in 2012 AD, Iranian mathematician, Prof Manuchehr Vesaal, known as Father of Analytical Mathematics, passed away in his hometown Tehran.

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

# 'Chovgan' Registered as Iran's Cultural Heritage



TEHRAN (MNA) – President of the Polo Federation Hojatollah Dehkhodaei said Chovgan, a forerunner of Polo, was named in the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as Iran's cultural heritage, contrary to the claims of some other countries, like Azerbaijan.

Chovgan is played on horseback and is recognized as a version of the modern Polo game.

On the sidelines of a ceremony to commemorate the universal registration of Chovgan, Dehkhodaei told reporters that UNESCO examined Iran's evidences regarding the possession of Chovgan as its cultural heritage, and finally voted for Iran's legitimacy, and declared that the sport definitely belongs to Iran.

He also noted that Azerbaijan does not have a claim on Chovgan and has only registered the short-legged Karabakh horse, on which the game was played.

## Tehran to Hold 21st International Storytelling Festival

TEHRAN (IBNA) - The stories of people's life in Iran and world with their sorrows and joys is the central theme of the 21st I According to IBNA correspondent, the event which has been organized by Iran's Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, has differences with the previous editions as the participants may share their storytelling experiences in three categories of a specialized, general and scientific.

As the public and international relations department of Iran's Center for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults has announced,

in the upcoming edition, participants may employ methods of traditional storytelling (classic) or creative storytelling by using audio and visual means.

The participants may tell their story individually in 15 minutes at most. It is also possible for the storyteller to perform in a long shot and be videoed. The stories should be suitable for children, young adults and families and adhere to moral standards.

The deadline for registering at the festival and uploading storytelling footages in the website [www.kanoonfest.ir](http://www.kanoonfest.ir) is September 16. International Festival of Storytelling which will be held in Tehran in December.

## Int'l Festival for Children, Youth Unveils Animation Line-Up

TEHRAN (IFILM)-Lineup of animations to compete at 2018 International Film Festival for children and Youth in Isfahan have been announced.

Two of the competing works are from Iran, with six submissions from countries around the world.

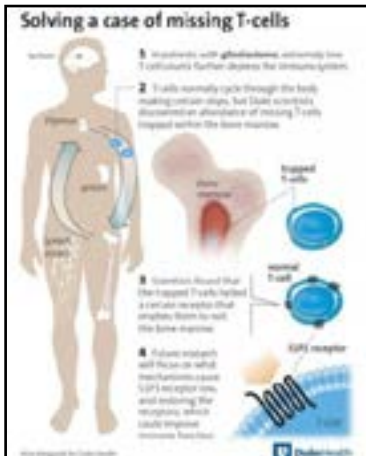
The list includes:

1. "Mullewapp 2" from Germany
2. "Harvie and the Magic Museum" a coproduction of Russia, The Czech Republic and Belgium
3. "Monster Island" from Britain
4. "Enchanted Princes" from the U.S.
5. "Mission Kathmandu" from Russia
6. "Stolen Princess" from Ukraine
7. "Pillow" from Iran
8. "The Last Fiction" from Iran



*The 31st edition of International Film Festival for children and Youth is slated for August 30 to September 5, 2018 in the Iranian city of Isfahan.*

## Missing Immune Cells Could Fight Brain Tumors



WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- Researchers have tracked the missing T-cells in glioblastoma patients. They found them in abundance in the bone marrow, locked away and unable to function because of a process the brain stimulates in response to glioblastoma, to other tumors that metastasize in the brain and even to injury.

Researchers at Duke Cancer Institute have tracked the missing T-cells in glioblastoma patients. They found them in abundance in the bone marrow, locked away and unable to function because of a process the brain stimulates in response to glioblastoma, to other tumors that metastasize in the brain and even to injury.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Medicine, open a new area of exploration for adjunct cancer drugs that could

free trapped T-cells from the bone marrow, potentially improving the effectiveness of existing and new immunotherapies.

"Part of the problem with all these immunotherapies -- particularly for glioblastoma and other tumors that have spread to the brain -- is that the immune system is

shot," said lead author Peter E. Fecci, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program in Duke's Department of Neurosurgery. "If the goal is to activate the T-cells and the T-cells aren't there, you're simply delivering therapy into a black hole."

Fecci said the research team began its search for the missing T-cells after observing that many newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients have the equivalent immune systems of people with full-blown AIDS, even before they undergo surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

## Picture of the Day



*A special carpet exhibition introducing Iranian culture and handicraft is being held at Ankara's Panora Mall, Turkey.*

*Courtesy: Mehr News Agency*