

This Day in History

(August 18)

Today is Saturday; 27th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 6th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1439 lunar hijri; and August 18, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1334 solar years ago, on this day in 684 AD, the crucial Battle of Marj Rahit took place near Damascus for control of Syria, resulting in a surprise victory for Marwan Ibn al-Hakam of the tottering Omayyad regime, because of the support of the Banu Kalb tribesmen against the rival Banu Qays clansmen. The Banu Qays were led by the governor of Damascus, Dahhak Ibn Qays al-Fihri, a partisan of Abdullah Ibn Zubayr, who had styled himself as caliph in Hijaz on the death of the tyrant Yazid, but made the fatal mistake of allowing Marwan to leave Medina for Syria.

1291 lunar years ago, on this day in 158 AH, the tyrant Mansour ad-Dawaniqi, the second self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died of gluttony at the age of 63 after a 22-year reign. Born to a morally-lose African slave-girl of Mohammad (great-grandson of the Prophet's uncle Abbas), he was named Abdullah at birth, and the reason he was called "Dawaniqi" was because of his stinginess. His most prominent victim was Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir. He founded the city of Baghdad by using Iranian architects and Zoroastrian astrologers, and was the first person to destroy the holy shrine of the Chief of Martyrs, the Prophet's younger grandson Imam Husain (AS), in Karbala.

1181 lunar years ago, on this day in 258 AH, the prominent hadith scholar of Iranian stock, Abu Ali Mohammad bin Hammam bin Sohail al-Iskafi, was born in the town of Isfah, between Basra and Kufa in Iraq, following a request by his father to the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan Askari (AS), to pray to God for a son for him. He grew up into a devout follower of the Ahl al-Bayt or Blessed Household of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). For higher education he moved to Baghdad, where he studied under leading scholars. He was closely associated with the Nawwabs or Sole Representatives of the 12th Imam during the latter's "Ghaybat as-Soghra" (period of Minor Occultation), and through them has related several hadith, as well as "Towqee" (Signed Letters) and instructions of Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance). Mohammad bin Hammam al-Iskafi passed away in 336 AH at the age of 78.

791 solar years ago, on this day in 1227 AD, the bloodthirsty Mongolian Buddhist tyrant, Genghis Khan, died at the age of 65, after devastating centres of civilization, especially in the Muslim world, including Iran, and slaughtering some seventeen million people.

531 solar years ago, on this day in 1487 AD, the four-month siege of the strategic Spanish Muslim port of Malaga of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, ended with its occupation by the Christian forces, aided by mercenaries from other parts of Europe, who massacred the Muslims and sold the remnants into slavery. It was the first conflict in which ambulances, or special vehicles for the purpose of carrying injured persons, were used by the Muslim defenders.

370 solar years ago, on this day in 1648 AD, the 18th Ottoman Sultan, Ibrahim Deli (the Deranged), who styled himself the 10th Turkic Caliph, was strangled to death at the age 33, after 8 years in power, on the orders of his minor son and successor, Mohammad IV, as per the fatwa issued by the chief Qazi of the realm.

168 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, French novelist and playwright, Honore de Balzac, died in Paris at the age of 51. He is regarded as one of the founders of realism in European literature. The novel sequence "La Comedie Humaine" (Human Comedy), which presents a panorama of post-Napoleonic French life, is generally viewed as his magnum opus.

150 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, the English oriental scholar, Reynold Alleyne Nicholson, was born in West Riding, Yorkshire.

150 solar years ago, on this day in 1868 AD, French astronomer, Pierre Janssen, discovered a previously unknown bright yellow line in the spectrum of the chromosphere of the sun during a solar eclipse he was observing from India. This was an indication of a new element.

97 solar years ago, on this day in 1921 AD, Akhond Abdul-Karim Gazi bin Mahdi Gazi passed away at the age of 77. Born in the town of Gaz, near Isfahan, in a scholarly family, after preliminary studies in Isfahan, he left for the seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where he attained the status of Ijtihad. On return to Iran, he taught for several years at the Neem Avarad Madrasah, training a several scholars. He was a prolific writer, and among his books, mention could be made of "Tadhkirat-al-Qobour" on the prominent persons buried in Isfahan.

78 solar years ago, on this day in 1940 AD, the prominent Iranian painter, Mohammad Ghaffari, titled "Kamal ol-Molk" (Wonder of the State), passed away in exile near the northeastern Iranian city of Naishapur. He was a product of Tehran's Dar ul-Fonoun School and on joining the court of the Qajarid King, Naser od-Din Shah, created valuable works of art. He painted 170 masterpieces in this era. He later traveled to Europe to acquire further knowledge in the field of painting and upon return to Iran groomed numerous students. He was exiled to a village in the vicinity of Naishapur by the British-installed Pahlavi potentate, Reza Khan, whose portrait he refused to paint. This renowned painter was laid to rest in the garden of the mausoleum of the acclaimed Iranian poet, Faeed od-Din Attar Naishapuri.

60 solar years ago, on this day in 1958 AD, Brojen Das of East Pakistan (presently Bangladesh) swam across the English Channel in a competition, as the first Asian to ever do it. He came first among 39 competitors.

39 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, following armed sedition in the western border areas of Kurdistan Province and a bid by anti-revolutionaries to detach the strategic city of Paveh and adjoining regions from Iran, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), issued a communiqué for mass mobilization forces to liberate the areas. Paveh had been surrounded by the anti-revolutionaries, with the active backing of the US, but the timely arrival of Basiji forces thwarted the bid of the separatists, and the whole region was cleared off seditious elements.

32 lunar years ago, on this day in 1407 AH, hundreds of Hajji pilgrims from Iran and other countries, while observing the divine ritual of disavowal of disbelievers, were martyred by Saudi forces, on the orders of Interior Minister, Nayef Ibn Abdul-Aziz. The Hajji pilgrims observe this ritual every year on the basis of the opening ayahs of Surah Towbah of the Holy Qur'an, where God commands the believers to declare their disavowal of disbelievers (Bara'at min al-Mushrikin). During this ritual, Hajji pilgrims call on Muslims to close ranks and announce their resentment toward the archenemies of Islam, especially the US and the illegal Zionist entity. The inspiration behind revival of this Islamic practice was the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). The present Leader of Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, also stresses the importance of this ritual as instrumental in awakening Muslims and preserving their dignity.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, Iranian historian Seyyed Mohammad Moheet Tabatabaie passed away at the age of 89. He has left behind some 2,500 research articles, while the books written by him include, "Seyyed Jamal od-Din and the Awakening of the Orient", "Analytical History of the Iranian Media", and "Evolution of Government in Iran after the Advent of Islam."

22 solar years ago, on this day in 1996 AD, Ayatollah Qodratollah Vajdani Fakhr passed away at the age of 64. He had permission to related hadith from several Sources of Emulation, and has written a number of books, which include "Norms of Etiquette in Islam", "Ijtihad in Islam", and the 16-volume "al-Fahriyya" on jurisprudence.

10 solar years ago, on this day in 2008 AD, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan had to resign due to threat of impeachment, after nine years in power, following his bloodless coup against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 1999. He was allowed to leave the country, but is currently under house arrest with several charges against him, following his return to Pakistan last year and unsuccessful bid to contest the parliamentary elections.

3 solar years ago, on this day in 2015 AD, Khaled al-As'ad, Syrian Archaeologist and Head of antiquities at the ancient city of Tadmour or Palmyra – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – was brutally beheaded at a public square in his hometown Palmyra in front of a large crowd, by Takfiri terrorists of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. He was 81 years old and spent a lifetime in the excavations and restoration of Palmyra.

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



Late Iranian actor Ezzatollah Entezami.

Renowned Iranian Actor Passes Away at 94

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Renowned Iranian stage and screen actor, Ezzatollah Entezami, passed away on Friday morning at the age of 94, the actor's son Majid Entezami confirmed.

Entezami was born in Tehran on June 21, 1924. He graduated from a theatre and cinema school in Hanover, Germany in 1958. Entezami started his career on stage in 1941. He had been acting in movies since 1969.

His debut performance in Darius Mehrjui's film, The Cow, received the Silver Hugo in Chicago International Film Festival in 1971. He shined in the role of a naive villager who cannot endure the death of his beloved cow and starts to believe that he is the cow himself.

He was known as one of the most prominent actors in Iranian cinema and had been labeled as the greatest actor in the history of cinema in Iran.

German Ambassador Visits Iran Nomads



TEHRAN (IFILM) - German Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchold visits the Bakhtiari nomads in western Iran, enjoying warm-hearted nomadic welcome.

The German official tweeted photos of his visit to a family of Bakhtiari nomads,

saying that he is enjoying "Summer days with nomads in Iran; staying with Bakhtiari nomads in Koohrang valley, central Zagros mountains, Chelgerd, as well as their hospitality."

Nomads of Iran's Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province are always on the move, looking for new water supplies and grazing lands for their livestock and poultry.

Key Protein Involved in Development of Autism

MADRID (Dispatches) - The protein CPEB4, which coordinates the expression of hundreds of genes required for neuronal activity, is altered in the brains of individuals with autism, according to new research.

An international team headed by José Lucas, researcher at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Network Center for Biomedical Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases (CIBERNED), and by Raúl Méndez, researcher at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona), has discovered that CPEB4, a molecule that regulates protein synthesis, is impaired in most cases of autism. The scientists observed that the defects in CPEB4 lead to the dysregulation in the expression of most of these 200 genes. The study has been published in the journal Nature.

Raúl Méndez, ICREA researcher and head of the Translational Control of Cell Cycle and Differentiation Lab at IRB Barcelona and co-leader of the study, explains that, "this study is an example of how the expression of hundreds of genes must be perfectly coordinated to ensure the correct function of organs and the cells that make up these organs. In this case the brain and neurons."

Environmental factors that alter brain development, such as infections during pregnancy, can also contribute to the onset of autism. "Since CPEB4 is known to regulate numerous genes during embryonic development, this protein emerges as a possible link between environmental factors that alter brain development and the genes that predispose to autism," explains Alberto Parras, first author of the study and research at the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa (joint centre between CSIC and the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid).

1st Indigenized 'Laparoscopy' Device Unveiled in Shiraz



TEHRAN (MNA) – The first domestically-manufactured 'laparoscopy' equipment was unveiled in Shahid Rajaei Hospital of Shiraz today morning in the presence of Deputy Minister of Health and Medical Education for Medical Equipment Affairs Reza Masaeli.

'Laparoscopy' device is diagnostic procedure that can be used to treat laparoscopic appendicitis or remove gallbladder.

On the sidelines of the unveiling

ceremony of the first localized laparoscopic equipment in Shiraz, the deputy health minister visited the 3rd Exhibition of Capabilities and Achievements of Medical Equipment and Modern Technologies held in Shahid Rajaei Hospital of Shiraz.

For his part, Head of Shahid Rajaei Hospital of Shiraz Amir-Reza Mesbahi pointed to the unsparing support of the chancellor and officials of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in launching this project and said, "the technology of manufacturing the device, which plays a key role in accuracy of surgical operations, has been possessed by a few countries in the world."

Production of this medical equipment in Iran would prevent significant capital flight from the country annually, he emphasized.

The project of manufacturing domestic laparoscopic equipment was launched in the past five years at the initiative of university lecturers and experienced surgeons of Shiraz university of Medical Sciences in cooperation with one of the knowledge-based companies.

'Silence' Makes It to U.S. Festival Final

TEHRAN (IFILM)-Iran short film 'Silence' by Iman Davari has qualified as finalist for Marietta International Film Festival in the U.S.

The film will be screened in the city of Marietta on August 25 with the Showtime announced by the festival's official website to be 9:35 pm local time.

A brief synopsis of the flick reads, "He has been divorced for two years. Now, four phone calls work as eye-

opener to a conflict in his life."

The short film has been in a number of international film festivals, including 2017 Cefalù Film Festival in Italy.

The Marietta International Film Festival holds yearly in the city of Marietta. It is an opportunity for film makers of all levels to share their work.

The 4th edition of the event is slated for August 25-26, 2018.

Picture of the Day



Farmers are harvesting rice in the northern Province of Mazandaran.

Courtesy: IRNA