

This Day in History

(August 21)

Today is Tuesday; 30th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1397 solar hijri corresponding to 9th of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1439 lunar hijri; and August 21, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Today is the Day of Arafat, which means striving to gain proper and profound cognition of God Almighty. It is a day of great blessings for mankind. It is the day on which God the All-Merciful accepted the repentance of the Father of the human race, Adam, after he was cast out of the Garden for eating of the fruit of the tree that was forbidden to him as a divine test. It is the day when Abraham as per God's commandment, revived Adam's tradition to spend the day in supplication and prayer on the plain of Arafat around the "Jabal ar-Rahma" (Mount Mercy), southeast of Mecca. It is the day whose significance all Prophets of God had emphasized to their nations. It is the day when during his farewell pilgrimage, the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), delivered a memorable sermon from atop Mount Mercy, emphasizing on the "Hadith Thaqalayn" that as long as Muslims hold fast to the Holy Qur'an and his progeny, the Ahl al-Bayt, they will never go astray. Special prayers and supplications are recommended for the 9th of Zil-Hijjah for Hajj pilgrims who gather on the plain of Arafat, as well as for the faithful all over the world. Most Muslims recite the famous supplication taught on this plain and on this day by the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS), which is a treasure trove of enlightenment and proper cognizance of the Lord Most High and His Infinite Mercy.

Some 1433 lunar years ago, on this day, by the commandment of God, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) ordered closure of doors of the houses of those companions that opened into the Grand Mosque of Medina (Masjid an-Nabi), except that of his own house and that of Imam Ali (AS), as a measure to protect the mosque's sanctity, from possible pollution by the Sahaba who might enter in the state in which it is forbidden to enter a mosque.

1379 lunar years ago, on this day in 60 AH, Muslim Ibn Aqeel, the nephew and son-in-law of Imam Ali (AS), was martyred in the city of Kufa in Iraq. He was sent as emissary by his cousin, Imam Husain (AS), to assess the degree of devotion and loyalty of the people to the cause of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), following receipt of numerous letters from the notables who had claimed that in accordance with Islamic teachings they had refused to acknowledge the illegal rule of the tyrant and debauchee, Yazid Ibn Mu'awiyya, and needed the just and pious leader to guide them. Muslim was warmly welcomed by the people, but when Yazid sent the callous and ruthless Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad as governor of Kufa, almost all people, deserted the cause of Islam, deceived either by hollow promises of reward or threats to their life and property. As a result, Muslim, after a brave fight was betrayed, taken before Ibn Ziyad and brutally beheaded. Among the few martyred with him, was Hani Ibn Orwah, whose shrine lies opposite Muslim's golden-domed shrine, beside the Grand Mosque of Kufa.

901 lunar years ago, on this day in 538 AH, the Iranian Sunni Muslim exegete of the holy Qur'an, narrator of hadith, and linguist, Mohammad ibn Omar Zamakhshari, died at the age of 72 in the city of Gurganj in the ancient Iranian land of Khwarezm, which today is divided among the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

887 solar years ago, on this day in 1131 AD, Baldwin II the self-styled 3rd king of the illegal Latin kingdom of Jerusalem (occupied Bayt al-Moqaddas) died after a rule of 13 years during which he was constantly involved in wars and killings of Muslims.

879 solar years ago, on this day in 1139 AD, Song Dynasty general Yue Fei defeated an army led by Jin Dynasty general Wanyan Wuzhu at the Battle of Yancheng during the Jin-Song wars in China.

861 solar years ago, on this day in 1157 AD, Alfonso VII of Leon and Castile died at the age of 52. By 1125 he had inherited the formerly Muslim Kingdom of Toledo. On 10 March 1126, after the death of his mother, he was crowned in Leon and immediately began the recovery of the Kingdom of Castile. He lost the Battle of Leon to the Muslims.

791 lunar years ago, on the eve of this day in 548 AH, the prominent Iranian scholar, Amin od-Din Abu Ali Fazl bin Hassan Tabarsi, passed away in the city of Sabzevar, Khorasan, where he had settled in the last years of his life to complete his monumental exegesis of the holy Qur'an, titled "Majma' al-Bayan". His body was taken to the holy city of Mashhad for burial near the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

785 lunar years ago, on this day in 654 AH, the Muslim scientist Abu'l-Abbas Ahmad Ibn Muhammad al-Banna al-Marrakushi was born in Morocco. He was a mathematician, astronomer, Islamic scholar, Sufi, and astrologer. The crater al-Marrakushi on the Moon is named after him. He wrote some 82 books.

750 lunar years ago, on this day in 689 AH, the Imami scholar, Yahya Ibn Ahmad al-Hilli, passed away in Iraq. He was a cousin of the famous researcher, Muhaqqeq al-Hilli, who in turn was the maternal uncle of the celebrated scholar, Allamah Hilli. Among his works is "Nuzhat an-Nazzer".

442 solar years ago, on this day in 1576 AD, Ismail II ascended the Safavid throne of Iran as the 3rd king of the dynasty and launched a campaign of fratricide in his brief 15-month reign that ended with his murder at the age of 40.

397 solar years ago, on this day in 1621 AD, the well-known Islamic scholar, theologian, astronomer, and mathematician, Baha od-Din Mohammad bin Hussain Ameli, popularly known as "Sheikh Bahai", passed away in Isfahan at the age of 78.

338 solar years ago, on this day in 1680 AD, Pueblo Amerindians captured Santa Fe from the Spanish during the Pueblo Revolt in what is now New Mexico State of the US. In the fighting over 400 Spanish occupiers lost their life, while more than 2,000 others fled. Soon, as part of their genocidal policies, the Spanish occupiers retaliated and massacred thousands of native Amerindians.

248 solar years ago, on this day in 1770 AD, Captain James Cook formally claimed eastern Australia for Britain, naming it New South Wales.

187 solar years ago, on this day 1831 AD, Nat Turner led the enslaved black people as well as the free blacks in a rebellion against the white US oppressors, a week after he saw a solar eclipse and interpreted it as a sign of God to launch an uprising against the Anglo-Saxon racists. Turner, who was descended from highly civilized people of Ghana and kidnapped by Europeans and sold in the Americas, started his uprising in Southampton County, Virginia, by freeing many African people from slavery. The uprising was brutally crushed after a few days by the White racist government.

78 solar years ago, on this day in 1940 AD, Russian Marxist leader, Leon Trotsky, was assassinated in exile in Mexico by a Spanish communist agent of Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, who had expelled him from the communist party. He wrote a number of books including "History of the Russian Revolution" and "The Revolution Betrayed".

59 solar years ago, on this day in 1959 AD, the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) was set up with the signing of an accord in the Turkish capital Ankara by Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and Britain, for replacing the Bagdad Pact that had collapsed the year before with General Abdul-Karim Qassim's coup in Iraq and his decision to withdraw from the Treaty.

49 solar years ago, on this day in 1969 AD, an arson attack was launched by the Zionists on Islam's former Qibla (focal point of prayer), the al-Aqsa Mosque in Bayt al-Moqaddas.

32 solar years ago, on this day in 1986 AD, more than 1700 people died when toxic gas erupted from Lake Nyos, a volcanic lake in the West African nation of Cameroon.

8 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, Iran's President Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated the country's first domestically built unmanned bomber aircraft, as part of the Islamic Republic's efforts to reach self-sufficiency in sophisticated electronic technology despite the illegal sanctions imposed by the US and its accomplices. He called it an "ambassador of death" to Iran's enemies.

5 solar years ago, on this day in 2013 AD, terrorists, supported by the US and Arab reactionary regimes, used internationally banned chemical weapons to kill hundreds of men, women, and children in the Ghouta region of Syria near the capital Damascus.

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

Iran-Afghan 'Parting' Offers Home Release



IERAN (IFILM) - Iran-Afghan joint production "Parting" has entered home market.

Produced and directed by Mahmoudi brothers, the film that was screened in Art and Experience group, has arrived at Iranian home entertainment market.

"Parting" chronicles the story of two young Afghans in love, Fereshteh and Nabi. Fereshteh has to follow her parents and leave Afghanistan to find refuge in Iran.

In pursuit of a better life, Nabi decides to cross the border illegally, find Fereshteh and take her through Turkey towards

Europe.

The flick has been screened in several international festivals such as the Portland International Film Festival (PIFF) in the U.S. and the 20th edition of the Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) in China.

It won the Best Feature Film award at the 6th Persian International Film Festival in Australia.

It has also taken home the best film award of the Tripoli Film Festival in Lebanon.

Reza Ahmadi, Fereshteh Hosseini, Behrang Alavi, Nazanin Bayati have starred in the movie.

'Pet Man' Competes at Horrible Imaginings Film Festival

TEHRAN.(MNA) - Iranian short animated piece "Pet Man" by Marzieh Abrar-Paydar has made it into the screening program of 2018 Horrible Imaginings Film Festival in San Diego of U.S.A.

"Pet Man" tells the story of an animal dealer who falls asleep in his shop and has a nightmare where he is trapped inside an animal cage. In his attempt to escape from the animals, he encounters various obstacles.

In its previous screenings, "Pet Man" has won some international awards including award for best animated film at NEZ International Film Festival in India, best characterization award in Kent's Canterbury Festival, Best animation award at the Largo



International Film Festival in Switzerland, the award for best animated eco film at International

Animation Film Festival Golden Kuker in the Bulgarian capital Sofia and Best Animation Short Film award at the 2nd

Sao Paulo Times Film Festival.

The Iranian animated short was among the top ten animated short films at Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (INFF) held in Austria and was nominated at International Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival in Malaysia. Pet man also went on screen in SICAF animated film festival in South Korea.

The mission of Horrible Imaginings Film Festival is to amplify voices that express those emotions that make life a little more challenging. Fear, anxiety, despair, desperation, dark fantasy, unhealthy longing, terror--those parts of the human condition all of us recognize, but few of us enjoy talking about.

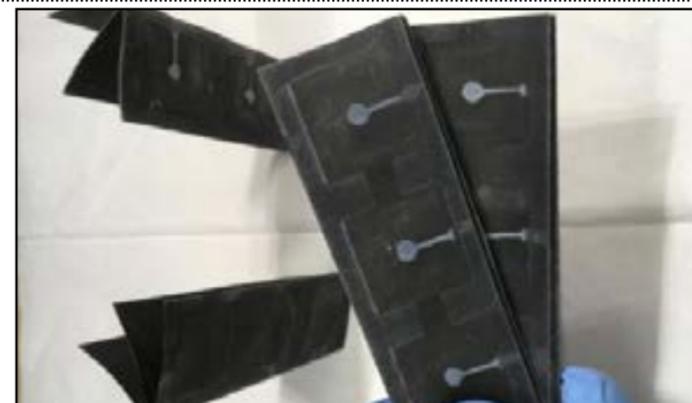
Paper Battery Powered by Bacteria

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- Researchers report a new type of battery -- made of paper and fueled by bacteria -- that could overcome these challenges.

Researchers have previously developed disposable paper-based biosensors for cheap and convenient diagnosis of diseases and health conditions, as well as for detecting contaminants in the environment. Many such devices rely on color changes to report a result, but they often aren't very sensitive. To boost sensitivity, the biosensors need a power supply. Seokheun (Sean) Choi, Ph.D., who is presenting the work, wanted to develop an inexpensive paper battery powered by bacteria that could be easily incorporated into these single-use devices.

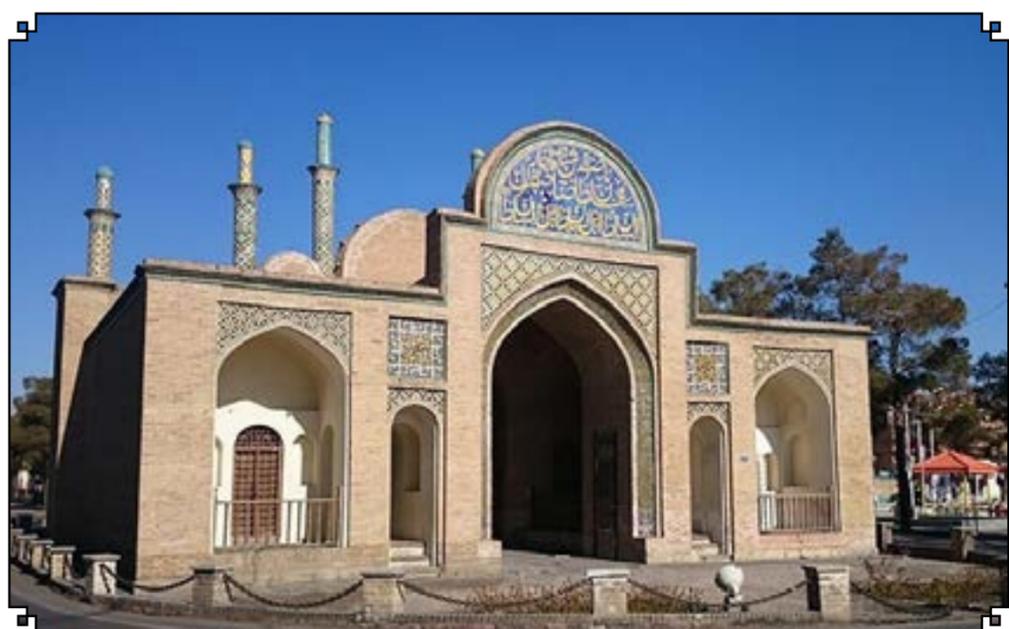
So Choi and his colleagues at the State University of New York, Binghamton made a paper battery by printing thin layers of metals and other materials onto a paper surface. Then, they placed freeze-dried "exoelectrogens" on the paper. Exoelectrogens are a special type of bacteria that can transfer electrons outside of their cells. The electrons, which are generated when the bacteria make energy for themselves, pass through the cell membrane. They can then make contact with external electrodes and power the battery. To activate the battery, the researchers added water or saliva. Within a couple of minutes, the liquid revived the bacteria, which produced enough electrons to power a light-emitting diode and a calculator.

investigated how oxygen affects the performance of their device. Oxygen, which passes easily through paper, could soak up electrons produced by the bacteria before they reach the electrode. The team found that although oxygen slightly decreased power generation, the effect was minimal. This is because the bacterial cells were tightly attached to the paper fibers, which rapidly whisked the electrons away to the anode before oxygen could intervene.



Researchers harnessed bacteria to power these paper batteries.

Picture of the Day



The Arg gate-way is located at the cross-roads of Ayatollah Taleqani Ave. and Sheikh Fazlollah Noori Ave., of Semnan. It was constructed during the reign of Naseredin Shah, in the years 1300-1305 AH.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency