

This Day in History

(July 28)

Today is Saturday, 6th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 14th of the Islamic month of Zil-Qa'dah 1439 lunar hijri; and July 28, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1568 solar years ago, on this day in 450 AD, Eastern Roman Emperor, Theodosius II, died at the age of 49 in a riding accident, after a 42-year reign – having succeeded his father as a 7-year-old. He presided over the outbreak of two christological controversies, Nestorianism and Eutychianism, and fought an almost two-year inconclusive war with the Sassanid Empire of Iran.

1052 lunar years ago, on this day in 387 AH, the Hanbali hadith scholar and prominent orator, Abu'l-Hussain Mohammad bin Ahmad, popular as Ibn Sam'oun, died in his hometown Baghdad at the age of 87. Having married a slave-girl of the harem of the Abbasid caliph, at-Ta'ey, he lived a luxurious life, wearing expensive clothes and eating rich food, in contrary to what he preached to the masses, and tried to justify his practice by saying that these luxuries increase his attachment to God. He was involved in the sectarian conflicts plaguing Baghdad of those days, and despite the ban placed on public oratory by Adhud od-Dowlah Daylami, the Iranian ruler of the Buwayhid dynasty of Iraq-Iran in order to stop sectarian riots, he continued to ascend the pulpit on Fridays and indulge in inflammatory speech – probably because of support from the Abbasid regime.

672 lunar years ago, on this day in 767 AH, Mohammad Shah Bahmani defeated Krishna Raja of Vijaynagar, following the latter's invasion of the Muslim kingdom of the Deccan in south-central India, and chased him right till the gates of his capital, agreeing to lift the siege when the Raja pleaded for peace with promises not to attack again.

507 lunar years ago, on this day in 932 AH, Bahadur Shah ascended the throne of Gujarat in western India, succeeding his brother Mahmoud Shah II. During his 11-year reign he had to face the menace of the Portuguese who raided the seaports of his realm and seized several islands including Mumbai. He made the fatal mistake of seeking assistance from the Portuguese against the expansion of the Mughals of north India. While on board a Portuguese ship to sign a treaty, he was treacherously killed by the Portuguese admiral and his body dumped into the sea.

268 solar years ago, on this day in 1750 AD, the German musician and composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, died at the age of 65. Many of his songs are religious, and he also played a pivotal role in the progress and perfection of German music. Later in life he went blind. He composed numerous works, including a number of carols.

224 solar years ago, on this day in 1794 AD, with the execution of Maximilien Robespierre and a group of his supporters, the year long Reign of Terror in France ended. It had started when on the orders of the parliament following victory of the French Revolution a court was formed to counter the anti-revolutionaries.

197 solar years ago, on this day in 1821 AD, Peru gained independence from Spain. Home to the Inca Empire and Civilization that dominated northwest South America from the 12th to the 16th centuries, Peru and its rich culture were destroyed by the Spanish invaders, who ruthlessly massacred the indigenous people. Finally, thanks to the struggles of South American revolutionaries, such as Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar, Peru was liberated. The country covers an area of 1,285,216 sq km, with a long coastline on the Pacific Ocean, and shares borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, and Bolivia.

160 solar years ago, on this day in 1858, fingerprints were used as a means of identification for the first time.

155 solar years ago, on this day in 1863 AD, Tsarist Russia's senior-most Muslim general, Husain Khan Nakhchivanski, was born in Nakhchivan City to Major-General Kalb-e Ali Khan – son of Ehsan Khan Kangarlu, the last ruler of the Nakhchivan Khanate, which the Russians seized from Qajarid Iran through the Khan's treachery during the 1828 war. His mother was Khurshid Qajar-Iravani, member of the ruling family of the Erivan Khanate – also abolished by Russia in 1828 on its seizure from Iran. He was the only Muslim to serve as General-Adjutant of the Tsar's retinue. He distinguished himself in the Russo-Japanese War and received 7 medals for his bravery.

145 lunar years ago, on this day in 1294 AH, Ayatollah Mirza Radhi od-Din Zon-Nouri, was born in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz. After completing preliminary Islamic studies he left for the famous seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, where he attained the status of Ijtihad. He returned to Iran and taught at seminaries for many years. He also wrote several books and groomed numerous students, many of which achieved the status of Ijtihad. One of his books is titled "Qaza wa Shahadat".

140 solar years ago, on this day in 1878 AD, the Treaty of Berlin was signed by representatives of Russia, France, Britain, and Austria as well as other German speaking states, at the end of the Berlin Congress called by German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, to determine the national identity of Germany.

104 solar years ago, on this day in 1914 AD, the Austria-Hungary Empire declared war on Serbia on rejection of conditions of an ultimatum of July 23 following assassination of crown prince, Archduke Francis Ferdinand. World War I thus began with the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires on one side, and the Russian and British Empires on the other side in alliance with Serbia and France.

75 solar years ago, on this day in 1943 AD during World War II, the savage Operation Gomorrah launched by the British air force on Hamburg caused a firestorm that killed 42,000 German civilians.

42 solar years ago, on this day in 1976 AD, a major earthquake shook the East Chinese city of Tangshan, killing 242,769 people and injuring 164,851 others. Over a million people were made homeless. This 7.8 degree trembler was the second major earthquake that jolted China in the 20th Century.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people, in a referendum, approved amendments to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, as per the instructions of the Late Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini (RA). The amendments included enhancement of the presidential powers and elimination of the post of prime minister.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, in an act of terrorism, Zionist commandos abducted Shi'a Muslim religious leader, Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid, from his home in the village of Jibshit, south Lebanon. Danny Abdalla, a notorious Lebanese criminal based in Denmark, who in 1984 was involved in the martyrdom of Lebanese religious leader, Sheikh Ragheb Harb, on behalf of the Israelis, was part of the 25-member Zionist commando team that kidnapped Sheikh Obeid. For several years, Sheikh Obeid was held prisoner in the Zionist occupied strip of southern Lebanon, and later transferred to the Ashmoret concentration camp, near Kfar Yona, north of Tel Aviv. He was released 15 years later in January 2004 along with twenty other Lebanese prisoners, 400 Palestinian prisoners and a number of other nationals, in exchange for Zionist soldiers and spies captured by Lebanon's legendary anti-terrorist movement, the Hezbollah.

11 solar years ago, on this day 2007 AD, Takfiri terrorists backed by the US and the Saudi regime triggered an explosion of truck bomb in Baghdad's Shi'a Muslim neighborhood of Karrada, resulting in the martyrdom of around 150 men, women and children, and injury to over two hundred others.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, over 4,000 Hazaras, a Shi'a Muslim ethnic group concentrated in Afghanistan's central highlands, was displaced from Behsood district, Wardak Province, over the last 2 months by bands of Kuchi nomads. Some 200 ethnic Pushtun and Sunni Muslims, along with their families and livestock, emptied about 65 Hazara villages and martyred a dozen people.

9 solar years ago, on this day in 2009 AD, prominent Iranian film director and producer, Saifollah Dad, passed away at the age of 52. He turned out some of the outstanding hits such as "From Karkheh to Rhine", "The Satan", "Children of Divorcee," and "The Survivor". The last named is a historical film on the brutal expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians by Zionist terrorists at the illegal birth of Israel in 1948.

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

Health Film Festival Screens Submissions



TEHRAN (IFILM)-The third edition of Health Film Festival selection committee has started choosing received works.

The selection committee of the event is to select among 809 works received by the secretariat.

This year's festival has various sections such as feature films, short films, documentaries, television works and student films.

The Health Film Festival aims to showcase films with important

subjects, such as those sharing information, providing direct and indirect training, promoting healthy lifestyles and retraining social harm.

The Health Film Festival is the outcome of collective efforts of artists, members of the policymaking council, organizers and administrators of the health sector.

This year's gala is slated for August 23-27, 2018 in Tehran.

Iran Joins Venice Film Festival With 5 Titles

TEHRAN (MNA) – Venice Film Festival has announced this year's lineup at a news conference in Rome on Wednesday, with five titles from Iranian filmmakers.

Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi's latest film "Magic

Lantern", and "Blood Kin" by Iranian-American director Ramin Bahrani are taking part in the out-of-competition Sconfini section.

"Brick and Mirror" by Ebrahim Golestan will be screened in the Venice Classics Restored Films section.

Mostafa Sayyari's debut feature "As I Lay Dying" is Iran's sole representative at the competition section of Horizons, which also includes 18 other titles from Italy, U.S., Thailand, India, Kazakhstan, Uruguay, Brazil, Turkey, France,

Russia and Indonesia.

"As I Lay Dying" is loosely based on a novel with the same name penned by American author William Faulkner. It narrates the story of a broken-apart family that take a trip to the south of Iran upon their father's advice.

Iranian short "Staircase" by Mohsen Banihashemi is one of the 13 titles accepted into the Horizons short films section of the festival.

Iranian actress Fatemeh Motamed-Aria and Iranian-

American cineaste Ramin Bahrani will serve on the panels of jury for the Horizons and First Films sections, respectively.

In 2017, Iranian feature film "No Date, No Signature" by Vahid Jalilvand received Horizons Awards for the best director and Navid Mohammadzadeh for the best actor.

The 75th Venice Film Festival takes place August 29 to September 8. Damien Chazelle will open the festival with the world premiere of "First Man."

Alzheimer's Research Links Gut-Liver-Brain Axis

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- Research shows the liver could contribute to Alzheimer's risk by failing to supply key lipids to the brain

Plasmalogens are created in the liver and are dispersed through the blood stream in the form of lipoproteins, which also transport cholesterol and other lipids to and from cells and tissues throughout the body, including the brain. Kling, and the multi-institutional Alzheimer's Disease Metabolomics Consortium led by Rima F. Kaddurah-Daouk, PhD, at Duke University School of Medicine, developed three indices for measuring the amount of these lipids related to cognition, in order to identify whether reduced levels in the bloodstream are associated with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), overall cognitive function, and/or other biomarkers of neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease. The three indices measured: the ratios of plasmalogens to each other; the ratios of plasmalogens to their closely-related, more conventional lipid counterparts; and a combination of these two quantities.

The team observed that lower values of these indices were associated with a higher likelihood of Alzheimer's disease. A similar pattern was seen with MCI and CN associations. Additionally, some of the decreased plasmalogen levels were correlated with increased levels of the tau protein in the brain, a marker of Alzheimer's disease.

"This research shows that an age-related deficiency of plasmalogens could lead to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, because the liver cannot make enough of them," said Kling, who is also a fellow of the Institute on Aging. "This research has a variety of interesting implications. For example, it highlights a potential relationship between conditions such as obesity and diabetes and Alzheimer's -- as the liver has to work harder to break down fatty acids over time. This could lead to the eventual destruction of the peroxisomes that create plasmalogens which thus, increases the risk of Alzheimer's."

Rare Species Found in Kerman Qanat

TEHRAN (IFP)-A rare species of freshwater crab has been found at the depths of a qanat – the ancient underground irrigation canals – in the city of Mahan in Kerman province.

Head of the Cultural Heritage, Handcraft and Tourism Department of Mahan, Amin Mahani, said these two freshwater crabs were photographed while documenting the qanats in the city of Mahan.

According to Mahani, this type of crab is inside the qanat and lives at a depth of 60 metres in absolute darkness and has not yet been seen outside its habitat.

The crab had earlier been spotted only in the rivers and wetlands, and this is the first time that the creature is found to be living in the depths of a qanat, he noted.

"There were also two species of



fish, worms and spiders inside the water canal, showing a diverse animal life in the depths of the Mahan qanats," he said, adding that experts and researchers must do more research in this area.

Crabs are the most advanced species of the arthropods, and freshwater crab (Potamidae) is

one of them. Potamidae are awesome creatures, and their main habitat is fresh water. They mostly live in the water and in their shelters.

The historical and recreational region of Mahan is 25 km south-east of Kerman in south-east of Iran.

Picture of the Day



Younger generation of Iranian archeologists and researchers conducting their third season of excavations at the Iron Age site of Seh Tappeh near Neyshabur city in northeast Iran.

Courtesy: IRNA