

This Day in History

(November 20)

Today is Tuesday; 29th of the Iranian month of Aban 1397 solar hijri; corresponding to 12th of the Islamic month of Rabi al-Awwal 1440 lunar hijri; and November 20, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1734 solar years ago, on this day in 284 AD, Diocletian was proclaimed Roman Emperor by his soldiers in Asia Minor on the sudden and suspicious death of Numerian, the son and successor of Emperor Carus, who days earlier had died of wounds in Mesopotamia during the war against Emperor Bahram of the Sassanid Persian Empire.

1493 lunar year ago, on this day in the year 53 prior to the Hijra, (570 AD, the year Abraha, the Abyssinian governor of Yemen, was struck by divine wrath, along with his elephant-led hordes while trying to attack the holy Ka'ba), according to some accounts Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) was born in Mecca. As per the narrations of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, he was born on the 17th of this same month. Thus, in order to bridge this 5-day gap, the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), initiated the Islamic Unity Week, which over the past three decades has fostered solidarity between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

1440 lunar years ago, a few days after hijrah, the first mosque in Islam was built on the instructions of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) at a village called Qoba near Yathreb (Medina), following his migration from Mecca on God's commandments on the 1st of Rabi al-Awwal. He stayed here for several days, awaiting the arrival of his dear cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), who had agreed to sleep on his bed the night of Hijra so that he could migrate undetected from the assassins hovering around the abode of divine revelation. The Prophet had also instructed the Imam to return to the Meccans the things they used to keep as safe-custody with him as "Amin" (Trustworthy). After three days the Imam, for whose selfless risking of life on the night of Hijra God revealed to the Prophet ayah 207 of Surah Baqarah, left Mecca and a few days later arrived in Qoba, along with the ladies of the Bani Hashem clan, including his mother, Fatema bint Asad (SA), and his future wife, the Prophet's Immaculate daughter, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA). The mosque of Qoba is thus a sanctified place where it is highly recommended to perform prayers. The first public Friday Prayer was held at this place by the Prophet before he entered Medina.

1356 solar years ago, on this day in 762 AD, Khaqan Bogu Khan of the Uyghur Turks, conquered Lo-Yang, capital of the Chinese Empire. During his reign the Uyghur Khaqanate reached the height of its power.

1213 lunar years ago, on this day in 227 AH, Mu'tasim-Billah, the 8th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died at the age of 49 after a reign of nine years, and was succeeded by his son, Watheq-Billah – born to Greek concubine Qaratis. Mu'tasim, son of the tyrant Haroun Rashid's Turkic concubine – a singing-dancing slave-girl named Marida – had taken over the caliphate on the death of his step-brother, Mamoun. He favoured the Turks and gave them all authority, to the resentment of the Iranian and Arab Muslims. He opposed the Mu'tazilite doctrine of his predecessor. It was on his orders that "Ijtihad" was forbidden, and of the several jurisprudential schools of the newly designated sect called "Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'ah", only four, i.e. Hanafi, Maleki, Shafei, and Hanbali, were decreed as official. Mu'tasim earned lasting damnation for martyring through poison, Imam Mohammad at-Taqi (AS), the 9th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1199 lunar years ago, on this day in 241 AH, the jurist Ahmad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Hanbal ash-Shaybani, passed away in his hometown Baghdad at the age of 79. His principal work is a collection of hadith, known as "al-Musnad", in which he has also included hadith on the unrivalled merits of Imam Ali (AS) and the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1051 solar years ago, on this day in 967 AD, Abu'l-Faraj Isfahani, the famous master of Arabic prose, historian, sociologist, poet, and musicologist, passed away in Baghdad at the age of 71. He wrote the valuable work "Maqalat al-Talbiyeen", comprising short biographies of the descendants of Imam Ali (AS) martyred by the Omayyad and Abbasid caliphs till the year 313 AH.

323 solar years ago, on this day in 1695 AD, Zumbi dos Palmares, the last of the kings of Angola Janga (Little Angola), a state established in Brazil by African people who had liberated themselves from enslavement, was killed and decapitated by the Portuguese at the age of 40, thus ending the 90-year long independence of the African kingdom in what is now Brazil's Alagoas state. Of royal central African descent, his mother was granddaughter of the King of Kongo.

268 solar years ago, on this day in 1750 AD, the Muslim king of Mysore, Fath Ali Khan, known as Tipu Sultan, was born in Devanahili, near Bangalore in southern India.

174 lunar years ago, on this day in 1266 AH, the prominent jurisprudence Fathollah bin Mohammad Namazi Gharawi, popular as Shaikh osh-Shari'ah Isfahani, was born in Isfahan in a family of scholars from Shiraz. He passed away at the age of 73 and was laid to rest in the courtyard of the holy shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

140 lunar years ago, on this day in 1300 AH, the prominent Iranian mujtahed, Seyyed Mahdi Qazvini, passed away in Hillah, in Iraq. A product of the famous seminary of holy Najaf, he was an expert in jurisprudence, theology, exegesis of the holy Qur'an, and the "Nahj al-Balagha" – collection of the sermons, letters, and maxims of Imam Ali (AS). He wrote several books including "Wada'eh" and "Mazamir". Under his influence, over 100,000 people in and around Hillah became followers of the school of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt.

110 solar years ago, on this day in 1908 AD, the prominent religious scholar, Seyyed Jamal od-din Isfahani, was martyred at the age of 46 on the orders of the Qajarid king, Mohammad Ali Shah. He wrote for the reformist newspapers, especially for "al-Jamal". He wrote mostly about the economy and the financial autonomy of Persia, which he compared it to jihad.

108 solar years ago, on this day in 1910 AD, Russian Author, Leo Tolstoy, died at the age of 82. He lost both his parents while still a boy and was brought up by his elder siblings. His trips to Europe and his keen observations of the social injustices, made him loathe the West's materialistic culture. Tolstoy attached paramount importance to educating children, and actively assisted the underprivileged and vulnerable sections of the society. He has left behind numerous books, including the two famous masterpieces, titled "War and Peace"; and "Anna Karenina".

98 solar years ago, on this day in 1920 AD, the uprising of Iraq's long-oppressed Shi'a Muslim majority was crushed, and this time by the new colonial rulers, the British, who had replaced the Ottoman Turks in Mesopotamia, following the end of World War I.

83 solar years ago, on this day in 1935 AD, prominent Iranian politician and prime minister of the Qajar era, Hassan Pirmia, died at the age of 63 in Tehran. Following the seizure of power by Reza Khan Pahlavi, he retired from public life and published a three-volume history of pre-Islamic Iran, entitled "Tarikh-e Iran-e Bastan". An abridged version of the same titled "Tarikh-e Mukhtasar Iran-e Qadeem", published in 1928, became a standard textbook for students.

83 solar years ago, on this day in 1935 AD, the Muslim revolutionary, Sheikh Mohammad Izz od-Din al-Qassam, attained martyrdom near Haifa in Palestine at the age of 53.

68 solar years ago, on this day in 1950 AD, the US and China almost went to direct war with each other in the Korean Peninsula, because of their support for the southern and northern parts of that divided land respectively. UN mediation averted the war, but due to American intransigence, Korea remains divided at the 38th Parallel.

58 solar years ago, on this day in 1960 AD, the plan for establishment of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was ratified in Stockholm, Sweden. The members of this Association were Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden which despite being geographically located in west Europe, did not want to join the European common market.

34 solar years ago, on this day in 1984 AD, the famous Urdu poet of the subcontinent, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, passed away in Lahore, Pakistan, at the age of 73. Among his important works are "Naqsh-e Faryadi", "Dast-e Saba", and "Zindan-Namah".

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, stone relief, dating back 5,000 years, was discovered in the vicinity of the western Iranian city of Hamedan. Ruins of town along with skeletons, and primitive tools of the 2nd and 3rd millennium BC were unearthed. The region was called Hegmataneh in ancient times, which the Greek invaders corrupted to Ekbatan.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1989 AD, on the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Children's Rights, the UN General Assembly passed the Convention on Rights of the Child, signed by 140 countries.

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

'Yeva' Wins Best Film at Armenia Festival



A still from 'Yeva'.

TEHRAN (FNA) - "Yeva" an Iranian feature film directed Anahid Abad claimed the Best Film award at the 14th Rolan International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Armenia.

"Yeva" managed to snatch the Best Film award at the 14th Rolan - International Film Festival for Children and Youth, held on 6-10 November 2018 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Written and directed by Iranian-Armenian Anahid Abad, 'Yeva' is the story of a young woman who is forced to flee Yerevan with her daughter Nareh. She would have to stand trial there because she allegedly killed her husband Uncle Ruben and the remote village in Nagorno-Karabakh are her last chance to go into hiding. But the villagers recognize her from the days of war when she had cared for the wounded as a doctor at the front.

"Yeva" has recently received three nominations (best feature, best script and best director award) at the 21st Arpa International Film Festival (AIFF) in the United States. The festival will announce winners after it wraps up on November 21.

Iranian cinema has made great progress in the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of 1979, to that extent that many Iranian films bring home numerous international awards every year and Iranian directors and their films are well known in all cultural venues across the globe.

'Alphabet' Awarded Best Animation in Spain

TEHRAN (IFILM) - Iranian animation "Alphabet" has succeeded to win Best Animation Award from the 8th edition of International Educative and Spiritual Film Festival in Spain.

Directed by Kianoush Abedi,

"Alphabet" took part at the competition section of the Spanish film event and succeeded to win Best Animation Award of the event.

The flick is a 3D animated production of Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center in

late 2017.

The 6-minute animated piece depicts a nation that has forgotten the alphabet of living. They cannot see, hear, or speak, but the words are waiting for them eagerly.

International Educative and

Spiritual Film Festival of Spain aims to broadcast artistic category movies with educational, spiritual and value messages.

The 2018 edition of the event was held on November 9-17, in Barcelona, Spain.

Kermanshah Hosts Doll Carnival on Quake Anniversary

TEHRAN (IFP) - Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults recently held a carnival of huge dolls in two cities in the western

province of Kermanshah, which was hit by a devastating quake last year.

The carnival marking the first anniversary of the quake was held in the cities of Sarpol-e Zahab and Salas-e Babajani.

Various performances were held by at least 120 dolls in 13 categories for the children of Sarpol-e Zahab and Salas-e Babajani.

Iran's Book House also distributed about one thousands books among the children and young adults of the cities on the occasion of National Book Week.

Last year the deadly quake which jolted Kermanshah province left over 600 hundred people dead and thousands of others injured.



Head Injuries Lead to Serious Brain Diseases

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Biologists reveal the hidden molecular basis of brain disorders and provide the first cell atlas of the hippocampus -- the part of the brain that helps regulate learning and memory -- as it is affected by traumatic brain injury. The researchers propose gene candidates for treating brain diseases associated with traumatic brain injury such as Alzheimer's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The researchers of the University of California studied more than 6,000 cells in 15 hippocampal cell types -- the first study of individual cell types subject to brain trauma. Each cell has the same DNA, but which genes are activated varies among different cell types. Among the 15 cell types are two that were previously unknown, each with a unique set of active genes.

They found that hundreds of genes are adversely affected by mild traumatic brain injury, such as a concussion. These altered genes can later lead to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other diseases.

The researchers reproduced a concussion-like brain injury in mice, and studied other mice that did not receive a brain injury. The researchers analyzed thousands of cells in the hippocampus of both groups of mice.

Picture of the Day



Officials, artists and fans celebrated one hundred years of children and young adults theater in Iran. The event was held at the grave of Jabbar Baghtcheban, who opened the first kindergarten and the first school for deaf children in the country.

Courtesy: Honaronline