

This Day in History

(January 25)

Today is Saturday; 5th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 29th of the Islamic month of Jamadi al-Awwal 1441 lunar hijri; and January 25, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1270 solar years ago, on this day in 750 AD, the 13th and last self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, Marwan II, known as *"al-Hemaar"* or the Donkey, was decisively defeated by the rising power of the Abbasids on the banks of the Great Zab River in Iraq that led to the overthrow of the dynasty established by Mu'awiyah in 661 on seizing rule of the Islamic realm through a dubious treaty from Imam Mojtaba (AS), the elder grandson of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

1136 lunar years ago, on this day in 305 AH, the great scholar, Abu Ja'far Mohammad ibn Othman al-Amri, passed away in Baghdad, after serving for 40 years as *"Nawwab"* (Deputy) of the Lord of the Age, Imam Mahdi (AS), the Prophet of Islam's 12th and Last Infallible Heir, during his 69-year period of *"Ghaybat as-Soghra"* (Minor Occultation). He was second of the four deputies, known as *Nawwab al-Arba'*. He had been confirmed as Deputy by the Imam himself in 265 AH on the death of his father, the celebrated Uthman ibn Sa'eed al-Asadi, who as a 11-year old had the honour of the company of the Prophet's 9th Infallible Heir, Imam Mohammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), and thereafter was a close confidante of Imam Ali an-Naqi al-Hadi (AS) and Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) – the 10th and 11th Infallible Heirs of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Mohammad al-Amri wrote several books including *"al-Ashrabah"* on jurisprudence. The 12th Imam, who as prophesied by the Prophet, will establish the global government of peace, prosperity and justice by ending oppression and corruption on Planet Earth, was five years old when his father was martyred by Mu'tamid the 15th self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. By the Will of God he went into Minor Occultation to be safe from the manhunt launched by the caliph. During this period some selected figures from among the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt knew of his whereabouts and could meet him, while the rest were in contact with him through the Special Deputy, in order to avoid any suspicion by the regime. Thanks to the foolproof system of *"wikala"* (or representation) set up half-a-century earlier by the 9th Imam, a network of dedicated persons had emerged throughout the Islamic lands during the crucial period of the 10th and 11th Imams – who were either under virtual house arrest or imprisonment in Samarra by the Abbasid caliphs. Thus, during the Minor Occultation, whenever the believers faced a problem, they would write their concern and send them to the Special Deputy, who would present it to the Imam, ascertain his verdict, endorse it with his seal and signature, and return it to the relevant parties. With the start of the *"Ghaybat al-Kubra"* (Major Occultation) in 329 AH, there was no need for any Special Deputy, until by the Will of God, the 12th Imam reappears in the end times as the Saviour of Humanity.

564 solar years ago, on this day in 1456 AD, the print industry emerged, and the first book was printed with the usage of movable letters, which the German inventor, Johannes Gutenberg, had made. The first printed book was a combination of the Jewish Torah and the Christian Bible. Today, a few pages of this book remain in museums.

393 solar years ago, on this day in 1627 AD, English-Irish physicist and chemist, Robert Boyle, was born. He studied under his father, Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, who was a famous English physicist, and soon honed his skills in physics. He is best known for Boyle's Law, which describes the inversely proportional relationship between the absolute pressure and volume of a gas, if the temperature is kept constant within a closed system. He died at the age of 64.

316 solar years ago, on this day in 1704 AD, ex-English governor of Carolina, James Moore in his invasion of Spanish-controlled Florida, indiscriminately killed hundreds of Spanish men, women, and children, along with the Apalachee Indians, in the Battle of Ayubale. After the battle, Moore and his Anglo-Saxons cold-bloodedly slaughtered all the Spaniards and natives who had surrendered and put themselves at his mercy. In his own report of the expedition Moore sadistically claimed to have killed more than 1,100 men, women, and children. He also stated that he captured as slaves more than 4,300 people, mostly women and children.

261 solar years ago, on this day in 1759 AD, the poet, Robert Burns, was born in Ayrshire. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a light Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland.

167 lunar years ago, on this day in 1274 AH, prominent Iranian Islamic scholar and literary figure, Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammad Qasim Ordo-Abadi, was born in Tabriz. Among his works mention could be made of *"ash-Shahaab al-Mobeen fi Ejaaz al-Qur'an al-Kareem"* on the Immortal Miracle this heavenly scripture is. He passed away in 1333 AH.

162 lunar years ago, on this day in 1279 AH, Arabic literary figure and poet, Abdul-Baaqi bin Suleiman Farouqi, passed away. As a devotee of the Prophet's Infallible Household, he has written odes in praise of the Ahl al-Bayt. He has left behind several books, including *"al-Baqiyaat as-Salehaat"*.

148 solar years ago, on this day in 1871 AD, German physician and researcher, Gerhard Armauer Hansen, discovered the bacteria of leprosy. This infectious and chronic disease results in incurable wounds and wipes out vital tissues. It is more common in warm regions, although the people of other regions are not immune to it. Despite significant developments in control of leprosy, it still cannot be medically treated and many people suffer from this illness in different countries.

83 lunar years ago, on this day in 1358 AH, Ayatollah Shaikh Ali Aal-e Ishaq was born near Zanjan in a scholarly family. He wrote several books and passed away in 1422 at the age of 64 years.

41 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, more people attained martyrdom in various cities of Iran at the hands of the military forces of the Shah's despotic regime. On this day, a number of air force personnel took to the streets of Tehran, staging protests and announcing their loyalty to the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). They released a statement, strongly condemning the crimes committed by the British-installed and US-backed regime.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, prominent religious scholar of Iran's Kurdistan region, Mullah Abdullah Modarres Gorji, passed away at the age of 88. He was active in the western regions of Iran, grooming several scholars and writing many books for the guidance of the people.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, Palestine's Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in its first participation in parliamentary polls in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, won 76 of the 132 seats, and formed the government under Prime Minister Ismail Hanih.

13 solar years ago, on this day in 2007 AD, Saudi-backed terrorists triggered a bomb blast in a predominantly Shi'a Muslim neighborhood in central Baghdad through an explosive-rigged car given to an unsuspecting person to drive, resulting in the martyrdom of over a score of men, women, and children, in addition to wounding of over thirty other people.

10 solar years ago, on this day in 2010 AD, Leader of Yemen's Ansarullah Movement, Abdu-Malek al-Howthi, declared that the war imposed by Saudi Arabia on Zaydi Shi'a Muslims, was over and that he will pull his fighters out of the parts of Saudi Arabia they had captured. More than 150 Saudi invasion soldiers were killed by the Yemeni defenders in the weeks of fierce fighting in the rugged border region. Currently, fresh Saudi invasion of Yemen is nearing two years and has resulted in the martyrdom of almost 14,000 Yemeni men, women, and children. The Saudi aggressors have also lost over a thousand of their troops in addition to heavy loss in tanks, artillery pieces and other weapons. The Ansarullah have in retaliation liberated several border areas that the Saudis had occupied in 1934.

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

Fadjr Theater Festival Hosts Countries Across Globe



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- A number of 21 countries are to compete at Fadjr Theater Festival

Representatives of 21 countries are slated to participate at the Fadjr International Theater Festival.

Ebrahim Haqiqi, Arash Tanhaee, Ashkan Qazanchi, Qobad Shiva, Mazyar Tehrani and Behrad Javanbakht are members of the jury panel of the 38th edition of the event.

The annual Fadjr International

Theater Festival has been held in Iran since 1983, featuring local and international theatrical works and performers.

The festival is held during the ten-day Fajr Celebrations, which marks the anniversary of the return of Imam Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, to Iran (February 1) until the victory day of the Islamic Revolution (February 11) in 1979.

Serbia Crowns 'Rona, Azim's Mother' As Best Feature

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The 9th edition of the IRAN:CI film festival in Serbia has picked 'Rona, Azim's Mother' as Best Feature Film.

'Rona, Azim's Mother' centers around Azim (Mohsen Tanabandeh), an afghan refugee, who lives and works in Tehran along with his family. Being the head of the entire family and as the eldest brother, he arranges for his brother Farooq, and his family along with their mother to be smuggled into Germany. But at the last moments, Farooq shamefully makes his decision known to Azim that he's not going to take their mother who is very attached to her grandchildren. Azim who feels lonely and is furious, accidentally finds out that his mother is in dire need of a kidney



transplant, otherwise she'll die in 2 months. He has to choose between his own life and his mother's whom he has always claimed as the most important one in his life.

The Iranian feature had previously won the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the IFF Mannheim-Heidelberg 2019, the Cultural Diversity Award under the patronage of UNESCO at

the 13th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, as well as the Kim Jiseok Award at the 23rd Busan International Film Festival, and the best film award at the 2019 Sama Film Festival in Sweden.

'Rona, Azim's Mother' has gone on screen at some global events, including the 29th Annual Festival of Films from Iran in the U.S. and the 20th Asiatica Film Festival in Italy.

Focused on the best works of Iranian cinema, the festival's program expands in form and content to widen the grasp of different arts for the audiences.

The 9th IRAN:CI, the Festival of Iranian Films, was held on January 15-19 in Prague and on January 21-22 in Brno.

Stress Associated With Gray Hair

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Scientists have found evidence to support long-standing anecdotes that stress causes hair graying.

For a long time, anecdotes have connected stressful experiences with the phenomenon of hair graying. Now, for the first time, Harvard University scientists have discovered exactly how the process plays out: stress activates nerves that are part of the fight-or-flight response, which in turn cause permanent damage to pigment-regenerating stem cells in hair follicles.

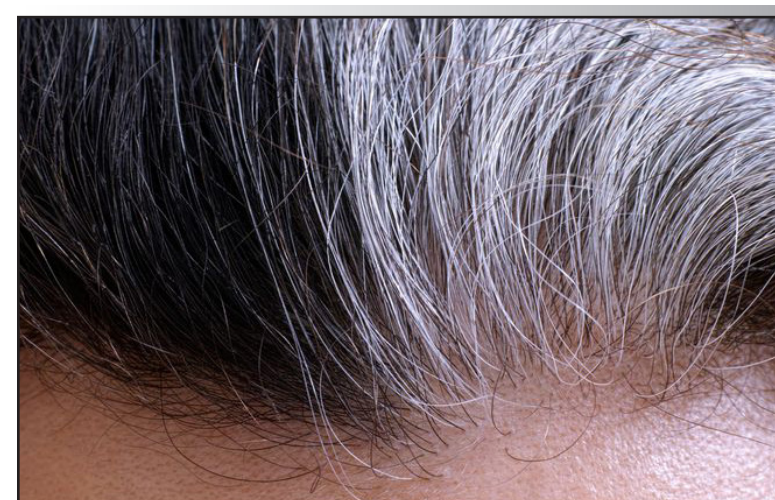
Because stress affects the whole body, researchers first had to narrow down which body system was responsible for connecting stress to hair color. The team first hypothesized that stress causes an immune attack on pigment-producing cells. However, when mice lacking immune cells still showed hair graying, researchers turned to the hormone cortisol. But once more, it was a dead end.

After systematically eliminating different possibilities, researchers honed in on the sympathetic nerve system, which is responsible for the body's fight-or-flight response.

Sympathetic nerves branch out into each hair follicle on the skin. The researchers found that stress causes these nerves to release the chemical norepinephrine, which

gets taken up by nearby pigment-regenerating stem cells.

Researchers found that the norepinephrine from sympathetic nerves causes the stem cells to activate excessively. The stem cells all convert into pigment-producing cells, prematurely depleting the reservoir.



Picture of the Day



The ritual play entitled "Khazan-e-Arghavan" has gone on stage in Tehran's Ebn-e-Sina Cultural House on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hazrat Zahra (SA), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Courtesy of Mehr News Agency