

This Day in History

(January 27)

Today is Monday; 7th of the Iranian month of Bahman 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 1st of the Islamic month of Jamadi as-Sani 1441 lunar hijri; and January 27, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1921 solar years ago, on this day in 98 AD, Trajan succeeded his adoptive father Nerva as Roman emperor; and under his rule the Roman Empire reached its maximum extent. Born in an Italian family in Spain in what was then the city of Italica (now on the outskirts of Seville), he died in 117 at the age of 64 in Selinus in Cilicia in what is now the southeastern coastal region of Turkey, after a reign of 19 years, while fleeing from the counterattacks of Iran’s Parthian Empire, following his invasion of Mesopotamia (Iraq) and retreat. He pursued an aggressive military policy to expand the Roman Empire, including breaking of 50 years of peace with the Parthian Empire in 110 by attacking Armenia which was a province of the Iranian Empire. After two years, the Iranians liberated Armenia and drove out the Romans.

1062 lunar years ago, on this day in 379 AH, noted linguist of Islamic Spain, Abu Bakr Mohammad ibn Hassan az-Zubaidi, passed away. He authored the books “*Lahn al-Aamma*” (Errors of Language of Common People), and “*Tabaqaat an-Nahwiyeen wa’l-Loghawiyeeen*” (Who is Who of Arabic Grammar and Linguistics). In the latter work, compiled in Spain, he has hailed the sermons of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), as unrivalled masterpieces of eloquence, decades before the compilation of “*Nahj al-Balagha*” by Seyyed Razi in Baghdad.

782 lunar years ago, on this day in 659 AH, the biographer and poet, Mohammad bin Abi Bakr al-Ishbili al-Andalusi, popularly known as Ibn Saiyid an-Naas, was born in the Egyptian capital Cairo. He was a member of a distinguished Spanish Muslim scholarly family of Seville, which was forced to leave its homeland for Tunis because of the city’s occupation by the Christians. He studied in Cairo and in Damascus, under such prominent ulema as the historian-theologian, Ibn Asaker (author of the voluminous History of Damascus), before becoming a teacher of hadith at the Zaheriyya School of the Egyptian capital. He composed a biography of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) entitled “*Uyoun al-Asar fi Fonoun al-Maghazi, ash-Shama’el wa’s-Siyar*”. He also wrote a number of Qasidas or panegyrics in praise of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

448 solar years ago, on this day in 1571 AD, Shah Abbas I, the 5th and greatest ruler of the Safavid dynasty of Iran, was born in Khorasan’s capital Herat (currently in Afghanistan) during the era of his grandfather, Shah Tahmasb I.

426 solar years ago, on this day in 1593 AD, The Vatican started the seven-year unjust trial of the Italian scholar Giordano Bruno for his confirming of the discoveries of Islamic scientists and saying that it is the earth that revolves around the sun, which in turn is just another star moving in space. The Catholic Church finally burned him at the stake for his refusal to retract his statements and writings.

263 solar years ago, on this day in 1756 AD, the Austrian musician, Wolfgang Mozart, was born in Salzburg. He composed several masterpieces. His famous operas include: “*The Marriage of Figaro*”, and “*The Magic Flute*”.

205 solar years ago, on this day in 1814 AD, German philosopher, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, died at the age of 52. Born in a poor family, he was one of the forerunners of the School of Idealism and was highly influenced by his contemporary, Immanuel Kant.

193 solar years ago, on this day in 1825 AD, the US Congress imposed a law for relocation of the Eastern Amerindians, as part of the policy of “*Native American Genocide*”. The term “*Trail of Tears*” is also used for the ethnic cleansing and forced relocation of the so-called Red Indians from southeastern parts of the United States following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

169 solar years ago, on this day in 1850 AD, the prominent jurisprudent Fathollah bin Mohammad Namazi Gharawi, popular as Shaikh osh-Shari’ah Isfahani, was born in Isfahan in a family of scholars from Shiraz. Sheikh osh-Shari’ah Isfahani was also politically active against the colonialists, issuing fatwas on Italy’s aggression on Libya, the Russian attack on Khorasan and shelling of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, the invasion of the Ottoman state by the allied European powers during World War 1, and the landing of British troops in Basra and their occupation of Iraq. He rejected any political, military, economic and cultural domination of Islamic lands by the colonialists. 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).

187 solar years ago, on this day in 1832 AD, English author, Lewis Carroll was born. Named Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, he was a mathematician and photographer, but is mainly remembered for the children’s book “*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*” and its sequel. He taught mathematics at Christ Church College, Oxford from 1854 to 1881. He wrote mathematics books, including “*Euclid and his Modern Rivals*”, which is of historical interest.

139 solar years ago, on this day in 1880 AD, Thomas Edison received a patent for the electric incandescent lamp he had invented on 21 November 1879. His invention of the light bulb had a major impact on the electronics industries.

128 solar years ago, on this day in 1891 AD, Russian author, Ilya Ehrenburg, was born. For a while, he worked as a reporter in Spain and started his literary works by writing poems. His books include “*The Storm*” and “*The Fall of Paris*”. He died in 1967.

119 solar years ago, on this day in 1900 AD, the first sedative was manufactured by German Chemist, Felix Hoffmann, and was later named “*Aspirin*”. Aspirin also dilutes blood and prevents heart attacks.

93 solar years ago, on this day in 1926 AD, John Logie Baird, a Scottish inventor, gave the first public demonstration of a true television system in London, launching a revolution in communication and entertainment.

92 solar years ago, on this day in 1927 AD, Britain’s Bedouin agent, the Wahhabi chieftain, Abdul-Aziz ibn Saud, who two years earlier had seized Najd from the Aal-e Rasheed dynasty, declared it as ‘kingdom’. A year earlier on 8th January 1926, he had desecrated the Grand Mosque of Mecca (Masjid al-Haraam) by installing himself as king in its sacred precincts, after the bloodbath he unleashed in occupying the Hijaz, where he slaughtered tens of thousands of Muslims in Mecca, Medina, Ta’ef, Jeddah, etc, in addition to destroying the holy cemeteries and shrines of Jannat al-Baqie and Jannat al-Mo’alla.

46 solar years ago, on this day in 1973 AD, the Paris Peace Accord was inked between the US and North Vietnam, for withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam. Although the US continued to bomb the northern parts of Vietnam, in 1975, due to mounting US fatalities, it was forced to withdraw its forces after eleven years of occupation. On April 29, 1975, Vietnam was reunited.

42 solar years ago, on this day in 1977 AD, the acclaimed Iranian literary researcher, Mojtaba Minavi, passed away at the age of 76. Born in Tehran, he started life as a teacher and became a university lecturer. Among his works is “Panzdah Goftaar” (Fifteen Discourses) – a collection of his research articles. He researched and published many Arabic and Persian manuscripts.

40 solar years ago, on this day in 1979 AD, several ulema held a sit-in at Tehran University Mosque in protest to obstructions placed by the Shah’s premier, Shapour Bakhtiar, on the return home from exile of the Father of Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA). This sit-in was a decisive measure and foiled the Pahlavi plots.

13 lunar years ago, on this day in 1428 AH, the Source of Emulation, Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Fazel Lankarani, passed away in his hometown Qom at the age of 78. He was fluent in Arabic, Azerbaijani, Persian, and Russian languages.

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

‘The Kites’ Makes It to Berlin Festival



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short ‘The Kites’, directed by Seyed Payam Hosseini, has been accepted into the Generation section of the 70th edition of the Berlin International Film Festival in Germany.

The program of the 43rd Generation includes 59 competition entries, including 29 world premieres and eleven debut films from 34 countries and a share of female directors reaching 58%, according to the event’s organizers.

The Iranian short film ‘The Kites’, directed by Seyed Payam Hosseini, will have its world premiere at the Generation section (Kplus) of the festival. This section is a competitive program dedicated to young audiences. Headed by Maryanne Redpath since 2008, the selection in Berlinale Generation focuses on films that, in their narratives and cinematic

languages, take young people seriously.

‘The Kites’ is the story of a young girl whose kite flies away on the slope of a river valley along the Iraqi-Iranian border of Kurdistan. She calls three boys for help. However, the children are not only separated by the river valley, but also by the explosive legacies of past wars.

“A keen and open eye, the questioning of conventions and the often dramatic transgressions of borders make the films in the Generation programme particularly powerful: in their stories and topics, but also in their film language,” says head of Generation Maryanne Redpath.

Other Iranian films accepted into the Generation this year are ‘White Winged Horse’ by Mahyar Mandegar, and ‘Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness’ by Masoud Bakhshi.

Finland Enjoys Mehrdad Oskouee’s Master Class

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskouee has been invited to hold a master class at DocPoint Helsinki Documentary Film Festival in Finland.

While Oskouee’s doc ‘Sunless Shadows’ will compete at the 19th edition of the Finnish film event, he will also hold an open master class in which he will talk about ‘his working methods

and filmmaking philosophy’, according to the event’s official website.

Some clips of four of the director’s documentaries which are ‘My Mother’s Home Lagoon’, ‘Nose, Iranian Style’, ‘The Other Side of Burka’ and ‘The Last Days of Winter’ will be presented in the class as well.

Born in 1969, Oskouee is a

photographer, researcher and presenter as well as a filmmaker. His filmmaking career is a big success as his works have attended over 500 film events, the result of which has been more than 120 international awards.

His most acclaimed flick ‘Starless Dreams’, for example, has attended a big number of events and won a plethora of awards, including the

best doc at the Budapest Int’l Doc Fest in Hungary, the best film at the Traces De Vies Filmfest in France and the best doc at the ZagrebDox Doc Filmfest in Croatia.

The latest edition of the fest, which aims to present newly-released works which have not been screened in Finland, is slated for January 27- February 2, 2020.

Lithium May Halt Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease

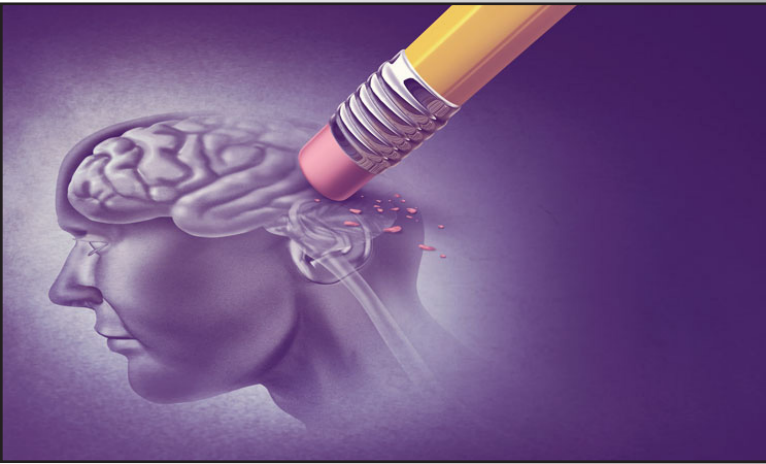
NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- In a new study, a team of researchers at McGill University has shown that, when given in a formulation that facilitates passage to the brain, lithium in doses up to 400 times lower than what is currently being prescribed for mood disorders is capable of both halting signs of advanced Alzheimer’s pathology and of recovering lost cognitive abilities.

“The recruitment of Edward Wilson, a graduate student with a solid background in psychology, made all the difference,” explains Dr. Cuello, the study’s senior author, reflecting on the origins of this work. With Wilson, they first investigated the conventional lithium formulation and applied it initially in rats at a dosage similar to that used in clinical practice for mood disorders. The results of the initial tentative studies with conventional lithium formulations and dosage were disappointing however, as the rats rapidly displayed a number of adverse effects. The research avenue was interrupted but renewed when an encapsulated lithium formulation was identified that was reported to have some beneficial effects in a Huntington disease mouse model.

The new lithium formulation was then applied to a rat transgenic model expressing human mutated proteins causative of Alzheimer’s, an animal model they had created and characterized. This rat develops features of the human Alzheimer’s disease, including a progressive accumulation of amyloid plaques in the brain and concurrent cognitive deficits.

Encouraged by these earlier results, the researchers set

out to apply the same lithium formulation at later stages of the disease to their transgenic rat modelling neuropathological aspects of Alzheimer’s disease. This study found that beneficial outcomes in diminishing pathology and improving cognition can also be achieved at more advanced stages, akin to late preclinical stages of the disease, when amyloid plaques are already present in the brain and when cognition starts to decline.



Picture of the Day



A selection of artworks by Ahmad Ariamanesh is on view in an exhibition in Tehran’s Mojdeh Gallery. Titled Passage, the program will continue until January 31. Courtesy of Honaronline