

This Day in History

(March 3)

Today is Monday; 13th of the Iranian month of Esfand 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 8th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1441 lunar hijri; and March 3, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1942 solar years ago, on this day in 78 AD, Emperor Kanishka Kadphises, of the Kushan Empire that covered parts of northern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and eastern China, on his accession to the throne initiated the Saka Calendar for his entire realm, beginning from March 22 – a day after Nowruz or the Vernal Equinox that marks the New Year in Iran and among the Iranian peoples.

445 solar years ago, on this day in 1575 AD, the Battle of Tukaroi was fought in Bengal between the army of the Mughal Emperor, Jalal od-Din Akbar and Sultan Daud Khan. After a seesaw struggle, the Mughals won and Daud Khan was forced to sign a treaty ceding to Akbar Bihar and Bengal as well as what is now Bangladesh, while retaining only the state of Orissa.

408 lunar years ago, on this day in 1033 AH, the renowned theologian and hadith scholar, Shaikh Abu Ja'far Mohammad ibn al-Hassan ibn Ali ibn al-Hussain al-Ameli al-Mashghari, popularly known as al-Horr al-Ameli, was born in the village of Mashghara in the Jabal Amel region of southern Lebanon. He eventually journeyed to Mashhad, Iran, and settled there for the rest of his life as Shaikh al-Islam at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the 8th Infallible Successor of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). Before arriving in Mashhad he stayed for a while in the Safavid capital, Isfahan, where he became acquainted with the famous Allamah Mohammad Baqer Majlisi. The meeting between these two scholars left an impression on both of them and Majlisi introduced Horr al-Ameli to the Safavid Emperor, Shah Sulaiman. He passed away in Mashhad at the age of 81 and was laid to rest in one of the portals of the holy shrine, where his grave is still the site of pilgrimage. He wrote numerous books including "Wasa'el ash-Shia", which is a vast but concise compilation and classification of Hadith that took him 18 years to complete. Among his other famous works is "al-Jawaher as-saniyafi'l-Ahadith al-Qudsiya", and "Amal al-Ameli fi UlamaJabal al-Amel", which is a biographical dictionary of Shi'ite Muslim scholars who originated from the Jabal Amel region.

330 solar years ago, on this day in 1690 AD, the Maratha ruler, Sambhaji, and his minister, Kavi Kalash, were executed for insulting the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, who had overlooked the personal insults heaped against him by the two captives when questioned about their rebellious behaviour, massacre of innocent people (both Hindus and Muslims), burning of cities (e.g. Burhanpur), and looting of public properties. Sambhaji, who unlike his father, Sivaji, was a man of cruel disposition given to sensuous pleasures and was imprisoned by the latter for his dissolute traits, escaped from prison on his father's death in 1680 to seize power of the Maratha realm by imprisoning his stepbrother, Rajaram – Sivaji's designated successor. For the next 8 years he ravaged and plundered towns and cities, tortured civilians, cruelly killed both Hindus and Muslims, to the extent that the Brahmins in his own service betrayed him to the Mughals. He was captured on December 28, 1688 by the brave former general of the kingdom of Golkandah, Shaikh Nizam Haiderabadi titled Muqarrab Khan, at his pleasure-house at Sangameshwar in the hills. Aurangzeb restored Rajaram as the Maratha ruler.

317 solar years ago, on this day in 1703 AD, the English scientist, architect, and philosopher, Robert Hooke, died at the age of 68. He was well versed in physics and biology, and invented numerous tools. In 1665 he wrote his major work "Micrographia", in which he drew pictures of minute creatures he saw through microscope. His inventions include the anemometer, aerometer, urometer, and hygrometer. He also made precise wrist watches.

313 solar years ago, on this day in 1707 AD, Aurangzeb Alamgir, the 6th and last of the Grand Mughal Emperors, died in his capital Aurangabad at the age of 89 and was buried in nearby Kholdabad, after a reign of 50 years, during which he expanded the rule of his house to its zenith by conquering the whole of south India. He thus ruled over an empire that today includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the eastern half of Afghanistan. Son of Shah Jahan and the Iranian lady, Arjmand Banu, he was a scholar of Arabic, Persian, and Chaghtai Turkic. He had seized the throne by imprisoning his father and killing his brothers. He also made the fatal mistake of overthrowing the Shi'a Muslim sultanates of Bijapur and Golkandah-Haiderabad in the Deccan, because of his rivalry with the Safavid emperors of Iran, whose names were recited in the Friday Prayer sermons in south India. The vacuum led to the rise of the Maratha, who were to ravage and pillage the tottering Mughal Empire.

250 lunar years ago, on this day in 1191 AH, the prominent Islamic scholar, Seyyed Hussain son of Seyyed Ja'far Khwansari, passed away.

181 solar years ago, on this day in 1839 AD, the prominent Indian industrialist of Iranian Zoroastrian origin, Jamshedji Tata was born in Nasvari, Gujarat in western India. He founded the Tata Group, India's biggest conglomerate company, and is known as the Father of Indian Industry. The Tata Group of companies is among the world's largest private sector firms. Jamshedpur in Jharkhand is named after him.

173 solar years ago, on this day 1847 AD, Scottish-American inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, was born.

163 solar years ago, on this day in 1857 AD, the Second Opium War was launched by France and Britain on China. The objectives of the British were legalising the opium trade, expanding coolie trade, opening all of China to British merchants, and exempting foreign imports from internal transit duties.

161 solar years ago, on this day in 1859 AD, one of the most blatant violations of human rights in history occurred in the US, when 436 black men, women, and children were auctioned on a plantation in the state of Georgia to pay the debts incurred in gambling by Pierce Butler during the financial crash of 1857-58. The grim sale of human beings, which took place over two rainy days, is referred to as "The Weeping Time."

141 solar years ago, on this day in 1879 AD, American biochemist, Elmer McCollum, who originated the letter system of naming vitamins, was born. He discovered vitamins A, B and worked with others on vitamin D.

113 lunar years ago, on this day in 1328 AH, Ayatollah Seyyed Abdullah Behbahani, who was a leading religious figure of the Constitutional Movement, was martyred by terrorists at the age of 68.

96 solar years ago, on this day in 1924 AD, the pro-western laic ruler of Turkey, Mustafa Kamal Ataturk, dissolved the dubious institution of the Caliphate, transferring its powers to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. He thus expelled from Turkey Abdul Majid II, who was made caliph in November 1922 following the deposition of his cousin, Sultan Mohammad VI.

29 solar years ago, on this day in 1991 AD, in Los Angeles white police officers pounced upon Afro-American Rodney King and mercilessly beat him. A local witness, George Holliday, videotaped much of it from his balcony, and sent the footage to news station KTLA. The footage showed five officers surrounding King, several of them striking him repeatedly, while other officers stood by. Part of the footage was aired around the world, inflaming outrage in cities, and raising public concern about police treatment of minorities. The acquittal of the officers sparked a violent riot in several US cities.

27 solar years ago, on this day in 1992 AD, following referendum, Muslim majority Bosnia-Herzegovina, gained independence from the rump state of Yugoslavia, following the declaration of independence earlier by Slovenia and Croatia. Immediately, the local Serbs with the support of Serbia and the tacit backing of western regimes unleashed genocide and ethnic cleansing, resulting in the massacre of over 250,000 European Muslims and homelessness of a million-and-a-half others. When Bosnian Muslims fought back and were about to decisively defeat the Serb aggressors, the US interfered and imposed the Dayton Accord.

17 solar years ago, on this day in 2002 AD, in Ahmadabad, India, the death toll climbed to 538 as Hindu mobs continued attacks on Muslims.

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

Iran's Documentary Showcased at UN World Wildlife Day



A still from the Iranian documentary 'The Extinction Vortex'.

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian documentary 'The Extinction Vortex', directed by Fathollah Amiri about the endangered Asiatic cheetahs, has been named as one of the finalists for World Wildlife Day Film Showcase at the United Nations.

Jackson Hole Wild, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced the finalists of the World Wildlife Day 2020 Showcase, ahead of the World Wildlife Day on March 3.

Among the titles chosen to celebrate the occasion is an Iranian documentary 'The Extinction Vortex', directed by Fathollah

Amiri, which will be competing with other productions from notable channels such as National Geographic, Arte France, NDR Netherlands, SVT Sweden, BBC, Nat Geo Wild, ORF, and France 3.

Final winners will be announced at UN Headquarters in New York at a high-level event on March 3 to celebrate World Wildlife Day 2020.

'The Extinction Vortex' is an attempt to estimate the real number of Asiatic cheetahs in Iran. Amiri, as a wildlife documentary filmmaker and Dr. Bagher Nezami, as a researcher, divide the 10 habitats of cheetahs into 2 major territories and commence their quest by planting trap cameras in most cheetah populated areas.

'The Kites' Wins Big at Berlin Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian short flick 'The Kites' has been crowned at the Generation section of the Berlin International Film Festival in Germany.

Directed by Seyed Payam Hosseini, 'The Kites' received a Special Mention at the Generation Kplus section of the 70th edition of Berlinale.

The Generation section of Berlinale is a competitive program dedicated to young audiences with films focusing, in their narratives and cinematic languages, on young people.

According to the festival's jury, 'The Kites' "tells us about borders, how they can be dizzying, terrifying and arbitrary. And



A scene from the Iranian short film 'The Kites'.

because it's a poetic tale that shows us that language can go beyond words and that empathy can be felt from afar."

'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.

'White Winged Horse' by Mahyar Mandegar, and 'Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness' by Masoud Bakhshi were other Iranian films accepted into the Generation section of this year's edition of the festival with the former also winning a special mention at the event.

The program of the Generation included 59 competition entries, including 29 world premieres and eleven debut films from 34 countries.

The 70th Berlin Film Festival was held on February 20 - March 01, 2020.

Daytime Sleepiness Linked to Cancer Risk in Elderly

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Older people who experience daytime sleepiness may be at risk of developing new medical conditions, including diabetes, cancer and high blood pressure, according to a preliminary study by the American Academy of Neurology.

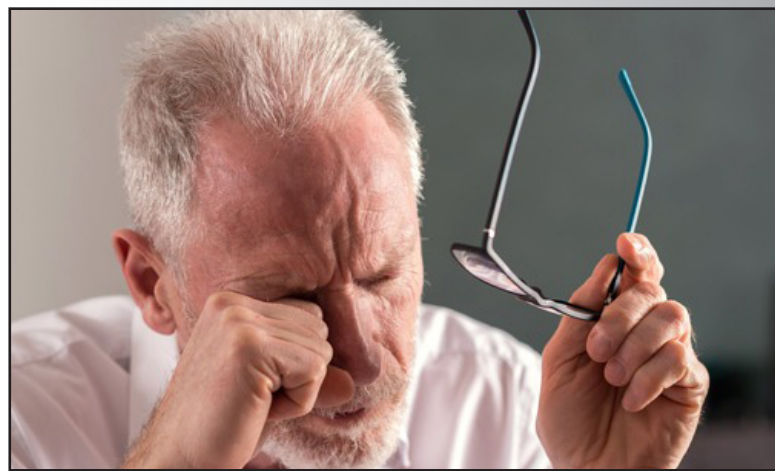
The condition called hypersomnolence is defined as excessive daytime sleepiness even after having seven or more hours of sleep. It can be debilitating for some people, affecting the way that they perform at work and in other daily activities.

"Paying attention to sleepiness in older adults could help doctors predict and prevent future medical conditions," said study author Maurice M. Ohayon, M.D., Ph.D., DSc, of Stanford University in Stanford, Calif., and a member of the American Academy of Neurology. "Older adults and their family members may want to take a closer look at sleeping habits to understand the potential risk for developing a more serious medical condition."

The study involved 10,930 people; 34% of participants were 65 years or older.

The study found that people who reported sleepiness in the first phone interview had a 2.3 times greater risk of developing diabetes or high blood pressure three years later than those who did not experience sleepiness. They were also twice as likely to develop cancer. Of the 840

people who reported sleepiness at the first interview, 52 people, or 6.2%, developed diabetes compared to 74 people, or 2.9% of those who were never sleepy during the day. Also, of the 840 people who reported sleepiness, 20 people, or 2.4%, developed cancer compared to 21 people, or 0.8% of those who were never sleepy during the day.



Picture of the Day



MEHR NEWSAGENCY
No: Rahbar Emamdadi

Firefighters in Bandar Abbas disinfect public places late at midnight amid an outbreak of coronavirus. (Courtesy of Mehr News Agency)