

This Day in History

(March 11)

Today is Wednesday; 21st of the Iranian month of Esfand 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 16th of the Islamic month of Rajab 1441 lunar hijri; and March 11, 2020, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

3445 solar years ago, on this day in 1425 BC, Thutmose III, 6th Pharaoh of Egypt's 18th Dynasty, died at the age of 56 after a reign of 54 years – 32 years as absolute ruler – and was succeeded by his son, Amenhotep II. He created the largest empire Egypt had ever seen – from Niya in North Syria to the Fourth Cataract of the River Nile in Nubia.

1915 solar years ago, on this day in 105 AD, China's Tsai Lun invented paper from the pulp of bamboo, mulberry and other fibers. In China the oldest known archaeological fragments of the precursor to modern paper date to 2nd century BC, but Tsai's invention was a scientific move at a time when Europeans were living in the dark ages. Paper spread from China to the Islamic world and thence to medieval Europe in the 13th century.

1464 lunar years ago, on this day, 23 years before hijra, three days after the birth of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) inside the holy Ka'ba, the miracle of the parting and closing of a section of the wall of the symbolic House of God again occurred to the bewilderment of the pagan Arabs of Mecca, as the monotheist lady of the Hashemite Clan, Fatema bint Asad, emerged with the radiant infant in her arms, while her husband Abu Taleb and his nephew Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) eagerly waited outside in anticipation. As the 30-year old Prophet smilingly stepped forward to take his first cousin in his arms, the newborn opened his eyes for the first time since birth and with a smile on his tender lips saw the radiant visage of the Seal of Messengers. This occasion is celebrated all over the Muslim world with festivities.

1116 solar years ago, on this day in 904 AD, the island of Malta in the Mediterranean became part of the Islamic World after a series of struggles with Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire, starting in the year 870. The conquest of Malta is closely linked with that of Sicily and involved a Muslim army of Arabs, Berbers, and Iranians. Muslims built irrigation systems and introduced new fruits and cotton as well as the Sicilo-Arabic language that has evolved into present day Maltese. 1091, Malta became a vassal of the Christian Normans, and were gradually expelled to North Africa. Of Malta's half a million population, only 3,000 are Muslims today.

902 lunar years ago, on this day in 539 AH, the hadith scholar of Spanish Muslim origin, Mohammad ibn Abdul-Malik ibn Khayroun, passed away. Among his extant works is the book "al-Miftah".

518 solar years ago, on this day in 1502, Shah Ismail I was crowned the First Safavid Emperor of Iran, after defeating the Aq Qoyunlu army in western Iran. To Ismail and the Safavids go the credit of giving Iran its present political, cultural, religious, and national identity, although in terms of geography many of the areas of the Safavid Empire were lost to the aggressors and colonialists by the later dynasties. Ismail I was devoted to the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

424 solar years ago, on this day in 1596 AD, Ahmadnagar, the capital of the Persianate Nizam-Shahi Dynasty of the Deccan (southern India) was attacked by forces of Akbar Shah, the Mughal Emperor of Hindustan (northern Subcontinent), and was bravely defended by Princess Chand Sultana, who was regent of her minor grand-nephew, Bahadur Nizam Shah. The attackers led by Prince Murad were forced to enter into peace negotiations and withdrew on the ceding of Berar to them. Chand Sultana, the widow of Ali Adel Shah I of the neighbouring Persianate Dynasty of Bijapur was regent as well to her minor stepson, Ibrahim. She is famous for resisting Mughal expansionism by mobilizing the rulers of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkandah-Haiderabad. Well-versed in Arabic, Persian, Marathi and Kanarese, she maintained relations with the Safavid Emperors of Iran. The Nizam-Shahis had become staunch followers of the School of Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) under influence of the migrant Iranian scholar, Seyyed Taher Hussaini Qazvini, and attracted Iranians of all walks of life to their court, where Persian language flourished and important books were written.

236 solar years ago, on this day in 1784 AD, the Treaty of Mangalore ended the 2nd Anglo-Mysore War between Fath Ali Khan Tipu Sultan of Mysore in south India and the British colonialists. The 5-year war started in 1779 when Tipu Sultan's father, Hyder Ali Khan, was the ruler, and had received a contingent of 1000 troops from Karim Khan Zand of Iran. It involved a seesaw struggle and saw a series of defeat for the British. In 1782 Hyder died and Tipu Sultan became king, and in 1784 he retook Mangalore from the British. With neither side in a position to win, the war ended in stalemate with the signing of the Treaty of Mangalore. The treacherous British twice broke the terms of the treaties and finally in 1799, they attacked Mysore and martyred Tipu Sultan. The language of the Mysore court was Persian, and among the famous history books of this period are those written by the migrant Iranian scholar, Mir Hussain Ali Khan Kirmani, titled "Nishan-e Haideri", and "Tadhkirat-al-Belaad wa'l-Hukkaam".

103 solar years ago, on this day in 1917 AD, Baghdad's Ottoman governor, Khalil Pasha was defeated and fled as the Iraqi capital was captured by General Stanley Maude, commander of the Anglo-Indian forces. The people welcomed the British and Indian troops as liberators from Ottoman rule.

70 solar years ago, on this day in 1950 AD, British engineer Ralph Freeman, who designed the world's largest and longest bridge, Sydney Harbour Bridge, died at the age of 70. His masterpiece, the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Sydney Australia which was completed in 1932 with a main steel arch span of 500 meters (1,650 feet), and a deck 160 feet wide, carries eight lanes of highway traffic, two train lines, a footway and a cycleway. He also designed the Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, England, and the Victoria Falls Bridge over Zambezi River in Africa.

65 solar years ago, on this day in 1955 AD, Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist who discovered penicillin, died at the age of 73. In 1928, while working on influenza virus, he observed that mould had developed accidentally on a staphylococcus culture plate and it had created a bacteria-free circle around itself. His further experiments found that a mould culture prevented growth of staphylococci, even if diluted 800 times. The substance, which he named penicillin, initiated the highly effective practice of antibiotic therapy for infectious diseases.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, following the death of Konstantin Chernenko, the youngest member of the Communist Party Politburo, Mikhail Gorbachev, succeeded him and brought about basic changes, which after six years led to collapse of the Soviet Union and the independence of countries that Czarist Russia had occupied over the past century-and-a-half. In 1989, he was the recipient of the famous epistle of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), who had advised him to return to God and spirituality, predicting that communism is already dead and would henceforth seen in world political history museums.

35 solar years ago, on this day in 1985 AD, Ayatollah Mahmoud Ansari Qomi passed away at the age of 63. Born in holy Qom, he completed his higher religious studies at the famous seminary of holy Najaf in Iraq, and on return to Iran, was active in the 5 June 1963 uprising launched by the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (God bless him). He strove to resolve people's problems, both before the revolution and after the overthrow of the Shah. He wrote several books.

16 solar years ago, on this day in 2004 AD, a string of five bomb blasts at several metro stations in the Spanish Capital, Madrid, reportedly killed 220 people and injured 1,000 others.

14 solar years ago, on this day in 2006 AD, former Serbian dictator, Slobodan Milosevic, died in the Hague prison. In 2001, nine months after the collapse of his regime, he was detained and handed over to the criminal court for trial for the genocide of Bosnian Muslims. He became president of Serbia in 1991 and the next year when war broke out between the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims, he intervened on the side of the Serbs and for the next three-and-a-half years, he was involved in the massacre of over 200,000 Bosnian Muslims and the displacement of two million others. Following Milosevic's defeat in the 2000 elections and a surge in domestic protests, his fate was sealed by the warrant of the Hague Tribunal. The prosecution of Balkan's criminals started in 2002, but with Milosevic's death, his trial remained unfinished.

9 solar years ago, on this day in the 2011 AD, an earthquake measuring 9 degree struck 130 km east of Sendai, Japan, triggering a tsunami and killing at least 15,856 people, while 2,643 went missing.

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

Iran's Animation Goes to U.S. Kids Festival



A still from Iranian short animated piece 'The Cycling Wind'.

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short animated piece 'The Cycling Wind', directed by Nazanin Sobhani

Sarbandi, will be screened at the 9th edition of Tumbleweeds Film Festival for Kids in the U.S.

The 6-minute animation is about a young wind that comes into possession of a bike, which helps the wind to blow even faster without spending much energy, and to truly enjoy its time. The freedom and the strength that bike give the wind allows it to embark on new adventures.

The Iranian animation, together with 11 other titles from France, the U.S., and Denmark, is set to go on screen at The City Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 15.

Tumbleweeds, the Mountain West's longest-running international film festival for families, features stories from around the world and provides culturally-enriching, curated

film, media arts workshops, and clubhouse activities, all for ages 4 and up, according to the event's organizers.

Utah Film Center's 9th annual Tumbleweeds Film Festival for Kids kicked off on March 6 and will wrap up on March 15, 2020.

'The Cycling Wind' had previously taken part at the 29th International Animated Film Festival 'Les Nuits Magiques' in France, the 9th Annual Bike Shorts Film Festival in the U.S., and 34th Clermont-Ferrand film market in France.

It is currently taking part at the 23rd Animac International Animation Film Festival in the Catalonia region, in northeastern Spain.

'Greyish' Takes Part at European Independent Festival

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- 'Greyish' short animation has been selected to compete at the 15th edition of the European Independent Film Festival (ÉCU) in Paris, France.

Written and directed by Eqbal Shirzai, the animation depicts the various stages in the life of an old man as a metaphor for other's lives.

'Greyish' has been a frequent participant at several international film festivals including Italy's Cartoon Club International Festival



A scene from Iranian short animation 'Greyish'.

of Animation Cinema, Comics and Games, Canada's Edmonton International Film Festival, and the St. Louis International Film Festival in the U.S.

ÉCU is dedicated to the best filmmakers from around the world.

The event provides the storytellers with a broad audience and showcases films that display quality, innovation, and creativity in form and content.

This edition of the fest is scheduled for April 24-26, 2020.

Researchers Say Coronavirus Medicine at Clinical Trial

TEHRAN (FNA) -- Chairman of the Biotechnology Development Council of Iran Mostafa Qaneye announced start of clinical tests on a medicine developed and produced by the country's researchers to treat patients infected with COVID-19 virus.

"2 companies have started production of two herbal medicines to treat the coronavirus-infected people and they have received the

license from the health ministry's ethics committee and the clinical tests have started," Qaneye said.

He added that the clinical tests continue for the next two weeks and if they produce the desired results, the companies will mass-produce them.

Globally, more than 110,000 people have been diagnosed with COVID-19 with over 3,800 deaths so far, the vast majority of them in

China where the virus originated late last year.

The coronavirus is spreading in the Middle East, Europe, U.S and other parts of the world, while parts of China begin to lower their emergency response level as the number of new cases reported there continues to slow.

As of Sunday, the death toll from the coronavirus outbreak in Iran rose to 194 with 6,566 confirmed

Iran Produces Nano-Enhanced First Aid Kits

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council announced that domestically produced nano-enhanced first aid kits have become available in the market.

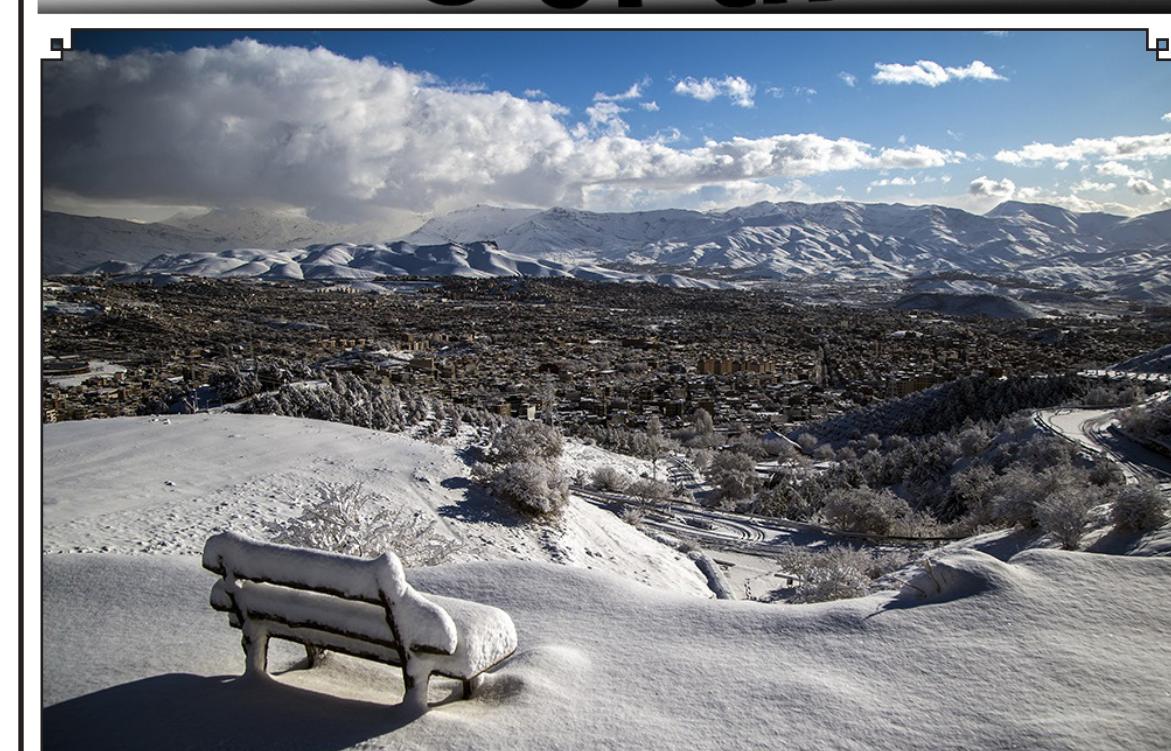
The kits, as reported, include antibacterial sterile gauze dressings, plasters, disinfectant spray, blood absorbent pads and etc.

All the components of the kits have also been produced by Iranian knowledge-based companies.

A first aid kit is a collection of supplies and equipment that is used to give medical treatment. There is a wide variation in the contents of first aid kits based on the knowledge and experience of those putting it together, the differing first aid requirements of the area where it may be used and variations in legislation or regulation in a given area.

Iran has managed to improve its nanotechnology publications ranking in the world to the fourth place in the last 15 years. The United States, China and India are ranked first to third in scientific publications in the nanotechnology field.

Picture of the Day



Snowy days in the Iranian Kurdish city of Sanandaj. Courtesy of Fars News Agency