

# This Day in History

(May 25)

Today is Saturday; 4<sup>th</sup> of the Iranian month of Khordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 19<sup>th</sup> of the Islamic month of Ramadhan 1440 lunar hijri; and May 25, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

**2604 solar years ago**, on this day in 585 BC, the Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus – in Asia Minor or what is now western Turkey – made the first known prediction of a solar eclipse. A historically registered eclipse occurred during the savage war between the Lydians and the Medians. The event caused both sides to stop military action and sign for peace.

**1400 lunar years ago**, on this day in 40 AH, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), the First Infallible Successor to Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), was struck a fatal sword blow on the head by the renegade, Abdur-Rahman Ibn Muljam, while engaged in the Morning Prayer in the Grand Mosque of Kufa, and attained martyrdom two days later. As the first cousin, ward, son-in-law and divinely-decreed vicegerent of the Seal of Messengers, Imam Ali (AS) needs no introduction, the more so in view of his matchless characteristics such as faith, piety, patience, prudence, valour, magnanimity, knowledge, wisdom, ethics, eloquence, and justice. He single-handedly led Islam to victory in almost all the early battles imposed on the Prophet and the young Muslim community by the Arab infidels and the Israelite hypocrites. When usurpers seized the caliphate on the passing away of the Prophet, he patiently endured the calamity for the sake of Islamic unity, since his resorting to the sword would have made most neo-Muslim Arabs revert to paganism. When 25 years later, the caliphate came begging at his door, he reluctantly took up the reins of political rule of the Islamic state and for the next four-and-a-half years, until his untimely martyrdom, he strove to establish the model government of social justice, the like of which the world is yet to see.

**1033 solar years ago**, on this day in 986 AD, the famous Iranian Islamic astronomer and mathematician, Abu'l-Hassan Abdur-Rahman Ibn Amr as-Sufi ar-Raazi, passed away in Shiraz at the age of 83. As-Sufi was known in medieval Europe as "Azophi", and today modern scientists have named in his honour the moon crater "Azophi" and the minor planet "12621 Alsufi". He published his famous book "Kitab al-Kawakeb as-Sabeta" (Book of Fixed Stars) in 964 AD, describing much of his work, both in textual descriptions and pictures. In the same year he made the earliest recorded observation (from Yemen) of what western scientists today call the "Andromeda Galaxy"; describing it as a "small cloud". These were the first galaxies other than the Milky Way to be observed from the Earth. A related work by him is: "Kitab Suwar al-Kawakeb ath-Thamaniya al-Arba'een".

**924 solar years ago**, on this day in 1085 AD, Spanish Muslims lost to Alfonso VI of Castile and his army of Christian mercenaries from other parts of Europe, the historic city of Toledo. The Muslims had turned this central Spanish city into a glorious example of Islamic civilization during three-and-a-half centuries of rule, with colleges, mosques, baths, libraries, bazaars and palaces – some of which survive till this day.

**607 lunar years ago**, on this day in 832 AH, the eminent Iranian astronomer and mathematician, Ghiyas od-Din Jamshid Kashani, died under suspicious circumstances in Samarqand at the age of around 50 years. He was born in Kashan and went to Samarqand at the invitation of the Timurid scientist-ruler, Ologh Beg, to set up the famous observatory. He produced a Zij entitled the "Khaqani Zij", which was based on Khwaja Naseer od-Din Tusi's "Zij-e Ilkhani".

**561 solar years ago**, on this day in 1458 AD, Sultan Mahmud Shah I of Gujarat, western India, was born. Known as Mahmud Begada, he was the most prominent sultan of Gujarat, and was the great-grandson of Ahmad Shah I, the founder of the Muzaffarid dynasty, and of the city of Ahmadabad. He was known to be quite religious and ruled for 43 years. He contacted the Ottoman Empire and the Mamluk Sultan of Cairo to form a naval alliance against Portuguese in the Indian Ocean, and it was during his reign the famous Battle of Diu took place against the European marauders.

**358 solar years ago**, on this day in 1661 AD, King Charles II of England married Portuguese princess Catherina Braganza. India's city of Mumbai, made up of seven islands, was given by Portugal to Charles as dowry for his wife.

**216 solar years ago**, on this day in 1803 AD, the American author and thinker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. On his visit to Europe, Emerson studied continental literature and published his first book: "Nature". He is the first American author, who became familiar with the rich Iranian literature and managed to introduce to the Western world, Persian poetry and literary figures such as Hafez, Sa'di, Mowlavi, and Khayyam.

**173 solar years ago**, on this day in 1846 AD, Albanian Muslim poet and writer, Na'eem Frasher, was born in Frasher in Albania. Today, the government of Albania has depicted his picture on the obverses of the Albanian 500 leke banknote and the 200 leke banknote. He was survived by his only son, Mahdi Frasher, who twice served as prime minister of Albania, before and during World War 2.

**120 solar years ago**, on this day in 1899 AD, Bengali poet, musician, writer and revolutionary, Qazi Nazr ul-Islam, was born in what is now India's Bengal state. He grew resentful of British colonialism, as is reflected in his works, the most famous of which is "Bidrohi" (The Rebel) – a masterpiece of Bengali literature. His Bengali poems on Islam and social justice have been translated into modern Persian. He died at the age of 77 in 1976 and was buried on the grounds of the Central Mosque of Dhaka University.

**98 solar years ago**, on this day in 1921 AD, the 93-day "black cabinet" of Premier Seyyed Zia od-Din Tabatabaie was dissolved on the orders of the last Qajarid king of Iran, Ahmad Shah.

**78 solar years ago**, on this day in 1941 AD, some 5,000 people drowned in a storm at the delta of the Ganges River in India.

**56 solar years ago**, on this day in 1963 AD, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, thirty African states met to form the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The founders of this organization were President Jamal Abdun-Naser of Egypt, President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea. On July 2002, the Organization of African Unity was renamed The African Union. It has 53 members and is headquartered in Ethiopia.

**34 solar years ago**, on this day in 1985 AD, the Meghna River delta of Bangladesh was hit by a tropical cyclone and storm surge, which killed approximately 10,000 people and 500,000 head of cattle, while hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless.

**9 lunar years ago**, on this day in 1431 AH, prominent scholar and jurist, Ayatollah Mohammad Hussain Ahmadi Faqih Yazdi, passed away at the age of 60. Son of Ayatollah Ahmad Ahmadi Najafi Haeri Yazdi, and student of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Araki, and the famous exegete of the holy Qur'an Allamah Seyyed Mohammad Hussain Tabatabaie, he was teacher of the Islamic seminary in Qom. He was married to the Lady Mojtahed, Zohreh Sefati, who teaches higher level jurisprudence courses to female students in the Islamic seminary. He was laid to rest in the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumah (SA).

**Khordad 4**, is designated as **Day of Resistance of Dezful**, in view of the steadfastness of the people of this southwestern border city against the constant barrage of missiles and artillery shelling by the invading army of the repressive Ba'th minority regime of Saddam throughout the 8 years of the war imposed by the US. In the initial months of the Ba'thist aggression alone, the city was targeted with 200 missiles and shelled by artillery as many as 20,000 times, but the people continued their normal life, and became model of resistance for the Iranian nation.

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

# Researchers Develop New Ointment For Knee Arthritis Pains

TEHRAN (IFP) -- A group of Iranian researchers have developed an herbal medicine that helps quiet the pain caused by knees arthritis.

To produce the new solution, the researchers have used the root extract of Symphytum Officinale and Rosemary essence as well as other aromatic compounds like Lavender and Lyman Essences.

Paraben and Stearyl alcohol are some of the other ingredients.

The product is also used as an anti-inflammatory agent as well as a sedative for the pain and the swelling caused by degenerative knee arthritis.

Improving acute muscle pain around the spine is another usage of this Iranian product. This medicine is also used to help heal bruises and improve post-exercise injury and accidents. This herbal remedy is used as an ointment.

## Iran's 'Nabat' to Have First International Premiere



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian feature 'Nabat', directed by Pegah Arzi and starring Palme

d'Or winner Shahab Hosseini, will have its first international premiere in Los Angeles, U.S,

followed by other screenings in Canada.

After its screening in the Iranian film market at 37th Fajr International Film Festival, Pegah Arzi's feature 'Nabat', with the international title 'In the Mist', will take part at the Iranian independent films week in Los Angeles, U.S.

The event is scheduled for June 3rd to 7th, 2019.

Plans for the film's screening in North America and Canada are in their final stage. Lebanon will also host

an Asian premiere screening of the movie for the public.

'Nabat' is the story of Saeed (Shahab Hosseini) and his 13-year-old daughter who are living a good life. With the arrival of Saeed's ex-wife to Iran, their lives are thrown into disarray.

The film stars Nazanin Farahani and Shahab Hosseini, who won the Palme d'Or for Best Actor at Cannes Film Festival 2016 for his role in the Academy Award Winner "The Salesman" by Asghar Farhadi.

## Director Portrays Chemical Bombing of Sardasht

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iranian director Pejman Alipour is to unfold the tragedy of Sardasht chemical attack in his latest production.

Produced by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), the short animated movie titled 'Where Do the Winds Die?' portrays Iraq's chemical attack on the Iranian town of Sardasht in 1987.

"Where Do the Winds Die?" is a symbolic and formalistic animation with a poetic look at the daily life in Sardasht three months before the chemical attack, the moment when the attack happened and years after the tragedy," Alipour opened up in a press conference.

To be completed in October this year, Alipour has made an attempt to touch upon the most neglected and untouched part of the incident saying, "Filmmakers have demonstrated little regard for the chemical bombing of Sardasht and they have mostly focused on the Halabja 1988 chemical attack, therefore I have always been looking for an idea about the issue to turn it into a film."

Iraq bombarded Sardasht in West Azerbaijan Province with chemical weapons on June 28, 1987, exposing 8,000 inhabitants, many of whom developed serious long-term complications over the next few years.

## Oral Bacteria Present in Cerebral Emboli of Stroke Patients

HELSINKI (Dispatches) -- Researchers have shown for the first time that the cerebral emboli of stroke patients contain DNA from oral pathogens.

The researchers at Tampere University analyzed thrombus aspirates, which neurointerventional radiologists removed from 75 stroke patients as part of emergency treatment. The samples were studied by duplicating bacterial DNA, showing that 79 % of the aspirates contained DNA from bacteria that came from the teeth.

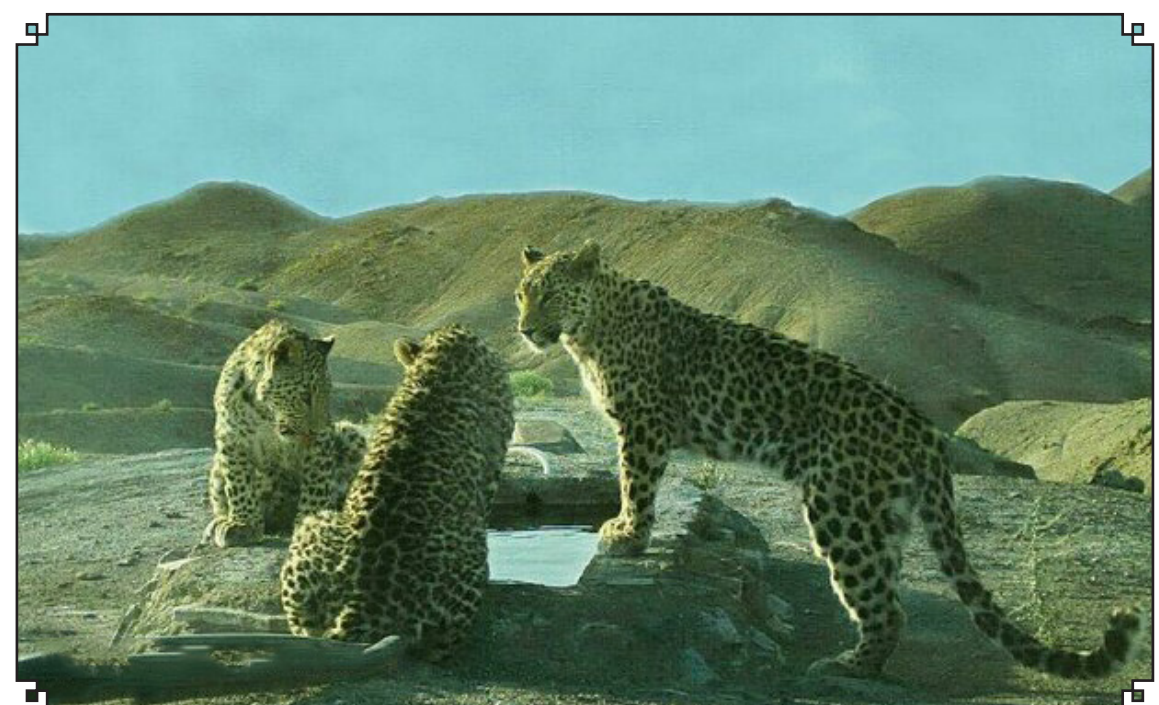
The results showed that a large amount of DNA from streptococcus viridans -- normal bacteria in the mouth -- was found in cerebral thrombi compared with normal blood samples from the same patients. In the oral cavity, streptococci are harmless, but when entering circulation,



they might cause, among other things, infections of the cardiac valves. The streptococcus bacteria can directly bind to various platelet receptors, making the patient more prone to blood clots.

The research shows that oral health and good dental hygiene are of much greater importance to health than previously known, and that untreated dental infections can cause serious health damage or even death.

## Picture of the Day



Three Persian leopards and an Asiatic cheetah have been spotted in Khar Turan National Park of Shahroud, Semnan province, according to the Department of Environment.

Courtesy: Mehr News Agency