

This Day in History

This Day in History (August 3)

Today is Saturday; 12th of the Iranian month of Mordad 1398 solar hijri; corresponding to 01st of the Islamic month of Zil-Hijjah 1440 lunar hijri; and August 3, 2019, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

1438 lunar years ago, on this day in 2 AH, the blessed wedding of the noblest-ever couple, Hazrat Fatema Zahra and Imam Ali (peace upon them) took place in Medina, presided over by Prophet Mohammad (SAWA). It was a marriage-made-in-heaven, since no man was worthy of the hand of the Prophet's immaculate daughter, the noblest lady of all times. A famous hadith says: *Fatema would have remained unmarried if there was no Ali*. The Prophet used to politely turn down any proposal for marriage from wealthy and powerful suitors, saying God will decide who ought to be the groom for his noble daughter. Following their marriage, these two exemplary figures started a simple life filled with kindness and spirituality. The fruit of this blessed union that guaranteed continuation of the Prophet's progeny were two noble sons, Imam Hasan and Imam Husain, and two virtuous daughters, Hazrat Zainab and Hazrat Omm Kolsoum (peace upon them). The nuptials celebrated in the most modest manner with praises of God Almighty and without any extravagant dowry or bridal-money, serve as the all-time universal model for any Muslim couple anywhere in the world. Thus was planted the blessed tree of perpetual munificence, whose branches in the form of the Saadat or honoured descendants of Imam Ali and Hazrat Fatema (peace upon them) have spread today all over the world. This "made-for-each-other" pair, are ancestors of the Infallible Imams, the last of whom is the awaited Redeemer of Mankind, Imam Mahdi (AS) – God hasten his reappearance to cleanse the world of corruption and oppression, by establishing the global government of peace, prosperity, and justice.

1431 lunar years ago, on this day in 9 AH, shortly after Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) had dispatched to Mecca his companion Abu Bakr with the opening ayahs of Surah Towba to clarify the rules of the Hajj pilgrimage and to declare disavowal of disbelievers, Archangel Gabriel descended with the divine commandment, saying that either the Prophet should personally discharge this mission at the holy Ka'ba or depute the one who is nearest to him. The Prophet promptly sent his dear cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali (AS), to overtake Abu Bakr and assume personal charge of the mission. Abu Bakr returned to Medina, while the Imam proceeded to Mecca, where without fear of the infidels, he clarified the rules of the Hajj through practical demonstration, while performing the pilgrimage. For three days the Imam continuously recited the opening ayahs of Surah Towba concerning *bara'at min al-mushrikeen* (disavowal of disbelievers), and made it clear that neither the polytheists are allowed anymore to enter the sacred precincts of the Ka'ba, nor should anyone follow the pagan practice of circumambulating the holy edifice naked, without clothes. Thus till this day, all Muslims are indebted to the Prophet and the Imam for reviving the pure Abrahamic rituals of the Hajj pilgrimage by God's command.

1314 lunar years ago, on this in 126 AH, Yazid ibn al-Waleed or Yazid III, the 12th self-styled caliph of the Omayyad usurper regime, died of a brain tumour, less than six months after seizing the caliphate through a coup against his immoral, drunkard and debauched cousin, Waleed Ibn Yazid or Waleed II, who was killed. The mother of Yazid III was an Iranian and he was known as "*an-Naqqes*" (the Diminisher) for his austerity measures in contrast to the profligacy and sinning habits of the Omayyads. It is worth noting that in 6 years from 126 to 132 AH, six Omayyad caliphs died one after another as this tyrannical dynasty came to its end.

1016 solar years ago, on this day in 1003 AD, at-Tā'i-Billah, the 24th caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, died at the age of 71, a dozen years after he was deposed in 991 by Amir Baha od-Dowla, the ruler of the Iranian Buwayhid dynasty of Iraq. During his 17-year reign, as a weak and incapable caliph, he lost Syria and Hijaz to the Fatimid Ismaili Shi'a Muslim dynasty of Egypt-North Africa, while the Turks consolidated their positions in Anatolia (modern Turkey) and the Buwayhid dynasty was split into parties fighting among themselves. In addition, the Byzantine Emperor John Tzimisce stormed the east in a victorious campaign in 975.

936 lunar years ago, on this day 504 AH, the Iranian Shafei jurisprudent, Ali Ibn Mohammad Tabari al-Kiya-Harasi, passed away in Baghdad. He rejected the dubious views of his famous contemporary and compatriot, Abu Hamed Mohammad Ghazali, on the tyrant Yazid, and said it is permissible to curse the killer of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS).

854 lunar years ago, on this day in 586 AH, renowned Mu'tazilite Sunni scholar and literary figure, Izz od-Din Abdul-Hamid ibn Hibbatollah, known as Ibn Abi'l-Hadeed, was born in Mada'en (Ctesiphon) in Iraq. Captured by the Mongols during the sack of Baghdad, he was released upon the mediation of prominent figures. His most important book is a voluminous commentary on the "*Nahj al-Balaghah*" – the collection of sermons, letters and maxims of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), the First Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

677 solar years ago, on this day in 1342 AD, the army of Castile, assisted by Christian mercenaries from other parts of Europe started the siege of the Spanish Muslim port city of al-Jazeera al-Khazra (Algeciras in Spanish), which was part of the Marinid Empire of Morocco. The 21-month siege that starved population of 30,000 led to the surrender.

672 solar years ago, on this day in 1347 AD, Hassan Gangu Bahmani titled Zafar Khan, was elected king with the title Ala od-Din Shah, following his victory over rivals, who two years earlier had joined together to declare the Deccan or southern India independent from the tyrannical rule of Sultan Mohammad bin Tughlaq of Hindustan or northern subcontinent by placing Naseer od-Din Ismail as the Shah at Dowlatabad. Ala od-Din Shah Bahmani, who claimed descent from the legendary Iranian king, Bahman son of Isfandiyar, shifted his capital further south to Gulbarga, and expanded his kingdom in all directions during his 11-year rule.

527 solar years ago, on this day in 1492 AD, Italian Navigator, Christopher Columbus, commissioned by Spain to find a route to India through the Atlantic Ocean, commenced his journey. Columbus set sail with three ships and 120 sailors from the Spanish Port of Palos and after 33 days of voyage landed on Salvador Island in the Caribbean Sea, thinking he had reached India. He thus accidentally discovered the American continent, and is believed to have been guided to the New World by Spanish Muslim sailors.

224 solar years ago, on this day in 1795 AD, the Treaty of Greenville was signed at Fort Greenville in Ohio, following the loss of the Battle of Fallen Timbers the previous year by the Amerindians. The parties to the treaty were a coalition of Amerindian tribes, known as the Western Confederacy, and the United States. It established what became known as the Greenville Treaty Line, which for several years was a boundary between Amerindian territory and lands open to European settlers, who frequently violated the borders and continued to encroach on native lands.

175 solar years ago, on this day in 1844 AD, French archaeologist and civil engineer Marcel-Auguste Dieulafoy was born in Toulouse in France.

105 solar years ago, on this day in 1914 AD, Panama Canal was officially inaugurated. The construction was started by French engineers, from whom the Americans took over and completed the work. This 68-kilometer canal links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

59 solar years ago, on this day in 1960 AD, the West African country of Niger gained independence from French colonial rule. Predominantly Muslim Niger covers an area of 1,267,000 sq km and shares borders with Libya, Chad, Mali, and Benin.

11 solar years ago, on this day in 2008 AD Russian author and historian, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, died at the age of 90. Among his works are: "*The Gulag Archipelago*", "*The Cancer Ward*", and "*Letter to Soviet Leaders*".

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

Special Mention Goes to 'Meeting' at Serbia Ethnicity Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Iran's documentary 'Meeting' has been honored at the 28th Festival of TV Ethnological Films (FESTEF) in

Serbia's Kucevo.

Reza Majlesi's 30-minute documentary received a special recognition at the Serbian festival "for a lavish cinematography and a sublime titling with the expectations of the spectators in representing the daily routine of a hardy and diligent old lady from the Iranian countryside," the event's website wrote.

According a synopsis for the film, the documentary depicts the difficult everyday life of a rural old woman, full of hard work, and the traditions of her village on the

threshold of the holy month of Ramadan.

The documentary received the Grand Prize at the Apricot Tree Ujan International Film Festival in Armenia last year.

The FESTEF is reportedly aimed to preserve cultural tradition and identity of Serbian people, national minorities and ethnic groups from Serbia, as well as learning about and interaction with the cultures and traditions of other nations.

The 28th Festival of TV Ethnological Films was held in the town of Kucevo on July 15-19, 2019.

Iranian Scientist Devises Quantum Microphone

TEHRAN (IFP) -- An Iranian scientist has invented a quantum microphone that can track the smallest sound packets called phonons.

Amir Safavi Nayini, an assistant professor at Stanford University along with a team of researchers at the university, has devised a quantum microphone that can detect the smallest sound or vibration packets called phonons or

phonetic energy quantum. The achievement provides the background for more efficient quantum computers.

Previously it was impossible to track phonons because traditional microphones were not sensitive enough to detect them.

When a sound wave hits a membrane, the microphone detects it. But phonons are very small

and cannot be tracked alone.

Instead of relying on acoustic wave measurements, scientists have devised a device that measures the energy of phonons directly using very small resonators that act as a mirror for sound.

A resonator is a device or system that displays a resonance or resonance reaction. It can capture photons and detect the vibrations they emit.

Tehran International Paper Exhibition Hosts Countries



TEHRAN (IFP) -- An Iranian scientist has invented a quantum microphone that can track the smallest sound packets called phonons.

Amir Safavi Nayini, an assistant professor at Stanford University along with a team of researchers at the university, has devised a quantum microphone that can detect the smallest sound or vibration packets called phonons or phonetic energy quantum. The achievement provides the background for more efficient quantum computers.

Previously it was impossible to track phonons because traditional microphones were not sensitive enough to detect them.

When a sound wave hits a membrane, the microphone detects it. But phonons are very small and cannot be tracked alone.

Instead of relying on acoustic wave measurements, scientists have devised a device that measures the energy of phonons directly using very small resonators that act as a mirror for sound.

A resonator is a device or system that displays a resonance or resonance reaction. It can capture photons and detect the vibrations they emit.

Blood Test Accurate at Identifying Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine report that they can measure levels of the Alzheimer's protein amyloid beta in the blood and use such levels to predict whether the protein has accumulated in the brain.

When blood amyloid levels are combined with two other major Alzheimer's risk factors -- age and the presence of the genetic variant APOE4 -- people with early Alzheimer's brain changes can be identified with 94% accuracy, the study found.

The findings represent another step toward a blood test to identify people on track to develop Alzheimer's before symptoms arise. Surprisingly, the test may be even more sensitive than the gold standard -- a PET brain scan -- at detecting the beginnings of amyloid deposition in the brain.

Such a test may become available at doctors' offices within a few years, but its benefits will be much greater once there are treatments to halt the disease process and forestall dementia. Clinical trials of preventive drug candidates have been

hampered by the difficulty of identifying participants who have Alzheimer's brain changes but no cognitive problems. The blood test could provide a way to efficiently screen for people with early signs of disease so they can participate in clinical trials evaluating whether drugs can prevent Alzheimer's dementia



Picture of the Day



Kharanagh village is placed in Ardakan's suburb, 84km eastern of Yazd city in Iran's central province of Yazd. This village is located in the steep and the oldest houses were built into a castle. Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency